# 15TH SESSION OF THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION

## 29–30 September 2026 | Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## FINAL REPORT

**1.** The 15th Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) was convened by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, and hosted by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 29–30 September 2026, in a hybrid format, in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**2.** A total of 89 representatives from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 39 OIC Member Countries participated in the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom. In addition, representatives from the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, and 13 international and regional organisations and other institutions, namely the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), COMCEC Coordination Office, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT), UN-Water, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), also attended the Session.

**3.** The work programme of the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom was as follows:

- Opening Session
- Reports of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat
    - Report of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat on the Implementation of the Resolution of the 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom
    - Report of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026–2030
- From SDG Interlinkages to OIC Strategic Priorities: Shaping the Monitoring Future for OIC Programme of Action (PoA) 2026–2035
- Modernising Population and Housing Statistics through Digital and Interoperable Data Systems
- Implementing the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA): Measuring the Digital Economy, Globalisation, Informality and Islamic Finance
- Sustainable Development Goals: Monitoring and Reporting SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) Indicators
- Consideration of the Draft Resolution, and Closing Session.

**4.** The 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom featured a side event that complemented the main proceedings of the Session. SESRIC and GASTAT co-organised a panel discussion on “Fostering Partnerships within Statistical Ecosystems”. The event took place on 30 September 2026 in a hybrid format. The panellists shared national and institutional experiences on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and on connecting statistical institutions with international organisations, the private sector, academia and civil

society, with a view to overcoming data-sharing barriers and advancing innovative governance models. The panel discussion formed part of the Road to Riyadh series leading to the 6th United Nations World Data Forum, held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 9–12 November 2026, and addressed the thematic area of the Forum, "Effective partnerships for better data and a more equitable data ecosystem".

**5.** All documents related to the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom, including presentations, statements, and the list of participants, are available on the official event webpage at https://www.oicstatcom.org/event-detail.php?id=3853.

## Tuesday, 29 September 2026

### Opening Session

**6.** The 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom commenced with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

#### Opening Addresses

**7.** The Opening Session featured statements by H.E. Dr. Fahad ALDOSSARI, President of the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; H.E. Mr. Mehmet ARABACI, President of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and Chair of the 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom; H.E. Dr. Ahmad K. SENGENDO, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, representing the OIC General Secretariat and delivering the message of H.E. Mr. Ismail OULD CHEIKH AHMED, Secretary General of the OIC; Dr. Areef SULEMAN, Group Chief Economist of the IsDB; and H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC.

**8.** In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. ALDOSSARI welcomed the delegations to Jeddah and expressed the great pleasure of GASTAT in hosting the OIC-StatCom in Jeddah for the second time, following the 12th Session held in October 2023. He expressed his appreciation to SESRIC for the excellent technical preparations for the Session, as well as to the IsDB Group for its valuable support, and underlined the importance that GASTAT attaches to contributing to the global statistical agenda and to the statistical agenda of the OIC. He noted that GASTAT hosted three statistical meetings back to back within four days in Jeddah, namely the 51st Board of Trustees Meeting of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) on 27 September, the 44th Meeting of the Permanent Technical Committee for Statistics of the League of Arab States (LAS) on 28 September, and the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom on 29–30 September 2026. Referring to the Road to Riyadh initiative, he invited all participants to take part in the 6th United Nations World Data Forum, to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 9–12 November 2026.

**9.** Addressing the Session in his capacity as Chair of the 14th Session, H.E. Mr. ARABACI expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and GASTAT for hosting the Session, and to SESRIC for its close cooperation during the chairmanship of Türkiye. He noted that, throughout this period, TurkStat

shared its experience with OIC Member Countries under the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme of SESRIC in areas such as social protection statistics, transport statistics and the use of geographic information systems in population and housing censuses, and that Türkiye chaired the Follow-up Meeting of the 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom, held on the margins of the 57th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York in March 2026. Handing over the chairmanship from the OIC Asia Group to the OIC Africa Group, he reaffirmed the continued commitment of TurkStat to the work of the Commission, expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and extended his best wishes to the incoming Chair.

**10.** Delivering the message of H.E. Mr. Ismail OULD CHEIKH AHMED, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Dr. SENGENDO noted that the 15th Session was the first gathering of its kind since the assumption of office of the Secretary General and coincided with the 15th anniversary of the OIC-StatCom. He underlined that the rapid transformation of the data ecosystem, including through artificial intelligence and big data, makes the work of the Commission more essential than ever, particularly for OIC countries facing financial and technical resource constraints, especially the Least Developed Countries. He called upon the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to support the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026–2030 and to align its goals with their national statistical priorities, and encouraged further work on Islamic finance indicators, intra-OIC trade statistics and the measurement of the informal economy. He also reaffirmed the commitment of the OIC General Secretariat to working closely with the Commission to strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in statistics.

**11.** In his remarks, Dr. SULEMAN, Group Chief Economist of the IsDB, expressed appreciation to GASTAT for hosting the OIC-StatCom for the second time in three years and to SESRIC for its work as the Secretariat. He stressed that reliable statistics are essential for a development institution to understand the needs of Member Countries, direct resources effectively and assess the impact of its interventions, noting that cumulative IsDB Group financing had reached US$222.5 billion, benefiting 134 countries, as of end-June 2026. Referring to the latest IsDB study, which shows an overall SDG score of 62.6 per cent for IsDB Member Countries, he emphasised that national statistical systems should move beyond reporting progress to informing policies and strategies as the OIC Programme of Action 2026–2035 takes shape, and encouraged the Session to agree on a focused set of follow-up activities, each with a clear expected outcome, institutional lead, realistic timetable and monitoring mechanism. He reaffirmed the commitment of the IsDB to deepening its collaboration with SESRIC, NSOs and development partners.

**12.** H.E. SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to GASTAT for hosting the Session for the second time, following the 12th Session held in Jeddah in October 2023, and to the IsDB Group for its continued partnership. She underlined the role of the Commission as the main platform for statistical cooperation among OIC Member Countries since its

inception in 2011 and stressed that, as artificial intelligence and new data technologies transform official statistics, trust is becoming a strategic asset of national statistical systems. She drew attention to the under-representation of women at the highest levels of statistical decision-making, noting that the NSOs of 11 of the 57 OIC Member Countries, approximately 19 per cent, are headed by women, compared with a global average of some 27 per cent, and recalled the High-Level Virtual Meeting with Women Heads of National Statistical Offices of OIC Member Countries convened by SESRIC on 17 August 2026. She reported that, since the 14th Session, SESRIC has conducted 38 statistical activities with the participation of all 57 OIC Member Countries and more than 1,500 participants, bringing the total under the StatCaB Programme since its launch in 2007 to around 600 activities and nearly 16,000 participants, and that 23 Member Countries have so far responded to the questionnaire on the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026–2030. She further noted that the NSOs of OIC Member Countries are implementing notable good practices and innovations, which are not always sufficiently documented and communicated. In this regard, she informed participants that SESRIC has undertaken a dedicated study to systematically document the success stories and new initiatives of national statistical systems, and invited all NSOs to contribute actively to this endeavour.

*Announcement of the Bureau Members of the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom*

**13.** Following the Opening Session, and in line with the established rotation system among the OIC's official geographical groups, H.E. SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, announced the elected Bureau Members of the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom as follows:

- **Chair:** Senegal (OIC Africa Group)
- **Vice-Chair:** Mauritania (OIC Arab Group)
- **Vice-Chair:** Kazakhstan (OIC Asia Group)
- **Vice-Chair: State of** Palestine (permanent)
- **Rapporteur:** SESRIC (permanent)
- **Permanent Ex-Officio Members:** IsDB Group and SESRIC

*Hand-Over of the Chairmanship from the OIC Asia Group to the OIC Africa Group*

**14.** Upon the hand-over of the Chairmanship from the OIC Asia Group to the OIC Africa Group, H.E. Dr. Abdou DIOUF, Director General of the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal and Chair of the 15th Session, delivered his opening address on behalf of the OIC Africa Group, expressing appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and GASTAT for the hosting arrangements, to TurkStat for its outgoing chairmanship and to SESRIC for its commitment as the Secretariat. He stated that Senegal would exercise its chairmanship in a spirit of continuity, consultation and commitment, at a time marked by the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026–2030 and the need to support the monitoring of the new OIC Programme of Action 2026–2035 with sound statistics.

He underlined the importance of a harmonised monitoring framework linking the SDGs with OIC strategic priorities, the careful modernisation of population and housing statistics, the implementation of the 2025 SNA with due attention to the informal economy and Islamic finance, and reliable and disaggregated SDG 6 statistics.

*Adoption of the Work Programme*

**15.** The Chair, H.E. Dr. Abdou DIOUF, invited comments on the Draft Work Programme of the Session. As no objections were raised, the Work Programme was unanimously adopted as presented.

## Session on "Reports of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat on the Implementation of the Resolution of the 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom and the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026–2030"

**16.** Under this agenda item, Mr. Onur ÇAĞLAR, Director of the Statistics and Information Department at SESRIC, delivered presentations on the implementation of the Resolution of the 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom and on the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action (2026–2030). He highlighted the main activities undertaken since the last session and outlined progress achieved in statistical cooperation, data dissemination, and capacity-building initiatives.

**17.** Following the presentations, the Chair encouraged all National Statistical Offices to complete and submit the relevant surveys circulated by the OIC-StatCom Secretariat. The Secretariat noted that 23 Member Countries had submitted responses to the PoA monitoring questionnaire, corresponding to a response rate of 40%, and underscored that a higher response rate is essential for ensuring comprehensive coverage and representativeness in the preparation of analytical and monitoring reports.

### *From SDG Interlinkages to OIC Strategic Priorities: Shaping the Monitoring Future for OIC Programme of Action (PoA) 2026–2035*

**18.** Introducing the next agenda item, Mr. Onur ÇAĞLAR presented on monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. He highlighted that while some progress was made in areas like health, education, and trade, many strategic targets remain unmet, and structural challenges persist across OIC countries. Based on these experiences, SESRIC proposed a more integrated approach for monitoring the new OIC Programme of Action 2026–2035, suggesting a single integrated progress report that combines OIC-level and country-level assessments, with statistical indicators and qualitative information on best practices and policy initiatives.

**19.** The Chair opened the floor for discussions and invited delegates to share their observations and suggestions on the presentations.

**20.** Mr. Jakhongir KHASANOV, Professional Officer at the OIC General Secretariat, provided a comprehensive summary of the objectives and achievements of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, and underlined that SESRIC had prepared the draft Final Report on the OIC-2025 Programme of Action and shared it with the OIC Member Countries for their review. Against this backdrop, Mr. KHASANOV

noted that the involvement of NSOs is crucial to develop relevant indicators and monitor the progress in achieving the objectives set under the new OIC Programme of Action 2026–2035, for which the Intergovernmental Expert Group has so far identified 20 priority areas and is considering 167 strategic goals. The Intergovernmental Expert Group is expected to complete the elaboration of the strategic goals by the end of 2026, and the final draft will be submitted to the next Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Azerbaijan in 2027.

### *Modernising Population and Housing Statistics through Digital and Interoperable Data Systems*

**21.** Presentations in this session were delivered by Mr. Andres VIKAT, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); Mr. Ismail LUBBAD, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA); Mr. Seiffe TADESSE, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD); Dr. Willis ODEK, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); H.E. Gen. Akram Ahmed ELSAYED ELGOUHARY, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt; Mr. Sonny HARRY BUDIUTOMO HARMADI, BPS-Statistics Indonesia; Mr. Timur MAMBETALIEV, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC); Ms. Nurul Aini BINTI ABDUL WAHAB, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), Malaysia; Ms. Aishath SHAHUDA, Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS), Maldives; Ms. Halima YOUSUF ALWAHAIBI, National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Oman; Mr. Muhammad Tahir NOOR, Ministry of Planning, Pakistan; Mr. Sufyan SALEH ABUHARB, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Palestine; and Mr. Alper ACAR, Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), Türkiye.

**22.** The Chair opened the floor for discussions and invited delegates to share their observations and suggestions on the presentations.

### *Implementing the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA): Measuring the Digital Economy, Globalisation, Informality and Islamic Finance*

**23.** During this session, presentations were delivered by Dr. Bukhari SILLAH, Lead Economist, IsDB; Mr. Massimiliano IOMMI, Real Sector Statistics Advisor, International Monetary Fund (IMF); Mr. Benson SIM, SNA Division, UNSD; Ms. Samira KHERMIMOUN, Director General of National Accounts, National Statistics Office (ONS), Algeria; Mr. Sonny HARRY BUDIUTOMO HARMADI, Vice Chief Statistician, BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Indonesia; Ms. Siti Asiah BINTI AHMAD, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), Malaysia; Ms. Intisar AHMED ALSALMI, Statistician, National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Oman; and Mr. Hazem ALZAHRANI, General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), Saudi Arabia.

**24.** The Chair opened the floor for discussions and invited delegates to share their observations and suggestions on the presentations.

### *Sustainable Development Goals: Monitoring and Reporting SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) Indicators*

**25.** During the session on SDG 6 Indicators, presentations were delivered by Ms. Mine DEMİR, COMCEC Coordination Office; Ms. Maggie KOSSIDA, UN-Water; Ms. Duaa Sultan Mohammed SALMAN, Deputy Chief Executive, Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA), Bahrain; Mr. Modou SANDA, National Institute of Statistics (INS), Cameroon; Mr. Sonny HARRY BUDIUTOMO HARMADI, Vice Chief Statistician, BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Indonesia; Mr. Karim SALAH, National Institute of Statistics (INS), Tunisia; and Dr. Victor OHURUOGU, Africa Regional Lead, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), who presented the experiences of Sierra Leone and Somalia.

**26.** The Chair opened the floor for discussions and invited delegates to share their observations and suggestions on the presentations.

### Consideration of the Resolution and Closing Session

**27.** During the Session, H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, introduced two new SESRIC initiatives: the online portal bringing together the profiles of the Heads of NSOs of the 57 OIC Member Countries (https://oicnso.sesric.org/heads-of-nsos) and the online portal on the success stories of OIC NSOs (https://successatstatistics.sesric.org/). She invited NSOs to provide updated information on their Heads and to share their success stories with the Secretariat, with a view to their inclusion in the portal and in the forthcoming publication on the success stories and new initiatives of OIC NSOs.

**28.** The Statement of the Women Heads of NSOs of OIC Member Countries who took part in the High-Level Meeting convened by SESRIC on 17 August 2026 under the theme “Women’s Leadership in Statistical Decision-Making” was presented to the Session on behalf of its participants by Ms. Duaa Sultan Mohammed SALMAN, Deputy Chief Executive, Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Statement noted that women head the NSOs of 11 of the 57 OIC Member Countries, approximately 19 per cent, and that the main obstacle lies not at entry into the profession but in progression within it. With a view to the fair representation of women at all levels of statistical offices, it proposed, inter alia, that SESRIC share the findings of its questionnaire on the subject and keep the Commission informed at its regular sessions; develop, within the StatCaB Programme, a professional development track and a mentoring scheme for women in official statistics; and convene the High-Level Meeting before each Session of the Commission. It also invited Member Countries, in accordance with their national legal frameworks, to include qualified women in succession plans for key positions, and requested that its proposals be reflected in the Resolution of the Session.

**29.** No issues were raised under the agenda item on Any Other Business.

**30.** On 30 September 2026, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat (SESRIC) circulated the Draft Resolution of the 15th Session to all delegates in attendance. The document was made available in the three official languages of the OIC, Arabic, English, and French, for review and comments.

**31.** Delegates provided their preliminary observations during the Session, which were duly noted by the Secretariat for incorporation into the revised draft. The Chair encouraged Member Countries to provide any additional written feedback within the timeframe to be communicated by the Secretariat.

**32.** The Closing Session featured statements by H.E. Dr. Abdou DIOUF, Director General of the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal and Chair of the 15th Session; Dr. Areef SULEMAN, Group Chief Economist of the IsDB; H.E. Dr. Fahad ALDOSSARI, President of the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and H.E. Mrs. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC. The speakers expressed appreciation to all delegates, GASTAT of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the host country, and the Secretariat for their contributions to the success of the 15th Session and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening statistical cooperation across OIC Member Countries.

**33.** The 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom concluded with the side event co-organised by GASTAT and SESRIC, namely the Panel Discussion on "Fostering Partnerships within Statistical Ecosystems", held on 30 September 2026 with the participation of the delegates of the Session. Following the opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Fahad ALDOSSARI, President of GASTAT, and H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, the panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Ibrahim ALALI, Advisor, GASTAT, featured contributions by Ms. Siti Asiah BINTI AHMAD, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM); Mr. Nyakassi M. B. SANYANG, Statistician General, Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS); Dr. Willis ODEK, Regional Population and Development Advisor for the Arab States, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and Dr. Areef SULEMAN, Group Chief Economist, IsDB Group. The panel discussion formed part of the Road to Riyadh series leading to the 6th United Nations World Data Forum.

**34.** Following the Session, and in accordance with the guidance of the Chair, the Secretariat shared the revised draft of the Resolution with all participants on 5 October 2026, setting 9 October 2026 as the deadline for further inputs. The final version of the Resolution, incorporating all comments received, has been made available on the official event webpage at https://www.oicstatcom.org/event-detail.php?id=3853, together with all other session-related documents.

**[*End of the report*]**