

**Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH)  
during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response”**

6 May 2021, 12:30 PM Turkey Time

**Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR**

**Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

**Excellences, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السّلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

**I wish you all a very Good Day and a blessed month of Ramadan**

**It is a great pleasure for me to address this Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH) during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response”, which we organize within the framework of SESRIC Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the Work Plan of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) for the two-year 2021-2022.**

**We are delighted today to bring together five distinguished senior-level representatives of the National OSH Authorities from different regions of the OIC Member States. On behalf of SESRIC, I would like to welcome you all and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for accepting our invitation to contribute to this Webinar.**

**Dear Participants,**

**The world has been fighting against the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic since March last year. In fact, this pandemic is not just a health crisis, but a humanitarian calamity that has led to alterations and transformations in all the aspects of our life and affected all the segments of our societies. The pandemic has negatively affected almost all socio-economic sectors, including but not limited to industry, trade, tourism, education, etc.**

**Labour markets, particularly workplaces, including the health and safety of workers, were no exception from the negative impact of this unprecedented health crisis. Indeed, the labour market and related sectors have been dramatically affected by the pandemic.**

**While creating high levels of unemployment, the pandemic has led to significant changes in the organisation and management of the workplaces, including the health and safety of the workers and the employees.**

**To cope with the crisis, governments have taken various measures with a view to reducing the pandemic impact on the jobs and work environment. They developed multiple measures along various axes by stimulating the economy, supporting businesses, employment, and incomes, and of course, protecting the workers in their workplaces.**



**In this context, the OSH Authorities are assumed to play an essential role by developing and implementing new measures, procedures, and rules to provide directions and specific guidelines for safer working environments.**

**The pandemic has proven that the OSH Authorities need to develop new strategies and mechanisms to create more robust and resilient OSH systems, which are capable of withstanding future emergencies and similar crisis.**

**Distinguished Participants,**

**SESRIC initiated its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) in 2011 with the aim of supporting the efforts of the member countries towards strengthening the human and institutional capacities of their national OSH institutions.**

**Also, the establishment of the OIC-OSHNET almost a decade ago is a clear indicator of our recognition of the importance of developing effective OSH systems in our member countries. AS you know, the OIC-OSHNET is an official OIC platform for closer cooperation and sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and good practices among the national OSH institutions of the OIC member countries.**

**The activities of this important Network are jointly organized by SESRIC and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of the Republic of Turkey in their capacities as the OIC Technical Coordinator institution and the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, respectively.**

**As you may recall, together, we have virtually organised the 4th Meeting of this important Network in October last year. National focal points and delegates from OSH Authorities of 37 OIC member countries attended the meeting and adopt two main documents of the Network: the Rules of Procedures and the Work Plan for the two-year 2021-2022.**

**In this respect, nine activities have been planned to organise during this year within the framework of the said Work Plan. During the last month, SESRIC successfully organised a virtual training course on “International OSH Regulations” in collaboration with the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) and the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) of the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia.**

**In addition, SESRIC will organise in the coming months a Training Workshop on “Improving and Fostering OSH Culture in Workplaces” in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of the Republic of Turkey.**



**And, today, we are also pleased to conduct this Webinar to provide insights on how the national OSH Authorities in our member countries can play a more significant role in supporting the national emergency response policies against COVID-19 pandemic by setting standards and regulations that help all stakeholders in different fields.**

**Dear Participants,**

**In fact, the exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences and best practices among our member countries during these difficult times is needed more than ever. Therefore, I am confident that this Webinar would also offer further collaboration opportunities among the members of the OIC-OSHNET and the various stakeholders in this important field.**

**Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and productive discussions that can hopefully inspire other OSH Authorities in the OIC member countries working on improving their regulations and guidelines to better respond to the adverse impact of the pandemic at the national level.**

**Thank you all for your kind attention. Ramadan Kareem**

**والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته**