

**Training Course on “Epidemiology of Communicable
Diseases and the Management of Epidemics”**

4 October 2021, 12:00 PM Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

H.E. Amb. Askar MUSSINOV, Assistant Secretary General for
Science & Technology of the OIC

H.E. Dr. Selami KILIÇ, Director General of EU and Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Health of the Republic Turkey

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Very Good Day to all of you

I am pleased to welcome you all to the training course on “Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases and the Management of Epidemics”, which we are organizing within the framework of SESRIC’s IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB) and in partnership with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey.

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Amb. Askar MUSSINOV, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Science & Technology, for allocating part of his valuable time from his busy schedule to be with us today at the opening session of this important training course.

My sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to H.E. Dr. Selami KILIÇ, Director General of EU and Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Health of the Republic Turkey, for accepting our invitation to collaborate with SESRIC and nominating competent experts to deliver this important training course and share their vast expertise in this domain as well as briefing the participants on Turkey's experience on this important topic.

I would like also to thank all the participants from the Ministries of Health of the OIC Member States for their commitment and dedication towards enriching their knowledge and expertise in the domain of this training course.

Dear Participants,

We are witnessing an unprecedented global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic with startling implications for our health systems and societies. The pandemic is far from over yet, the human toll is still rising worldwide, but thankfully, we now have multiple vaccines available that can help us reduce the risk and severity of infection, easing the lockdowns and restarting the economic and social activities to pave the way for a robust recovery.

However, the emergence of more infectious strains of the virus, such as the Delta variant, is threatening the outlook for recovery across the world and brings further pressures, particularly for the developing countries, including our member countries where healthcare systems are most vulnerable.

In fact, the breakout of COVID-19 pandemic has been a tough exam for the resilience of health systems and countries' emergency preparedness and response mechanisms worldwide. The pandemic disrupted the provision and utilization of routine healthcare services where a large portion of health resources has been shifted to address the outbreak of the pandemic, which, in turn, caused a disruption of medical supply chains and curb on mobility and transportation.

The unprecedented crisis of COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted the importance of cooperation at the national, regional and global levels. In this context, and as mentioned in the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted at the 2nd OIC Summit on Science and Technology, the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic by the OIC member countries must be shared for cooperation between research, development, and innovation institutions at the national, regional, and international level in the areas of common interest for any future global pandemics.

Dear Participants,

Given this state of affairs, today we are organise this training course, which carries great importance at both the national and OIC regional cooperation levels not only due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response but also for the preparedness of health systems in our member countries against future outbreaks of similar infectious diseases and pandemics.

This training course is, therefore, designed to strengthen the technical capacities of the participants by providing insights into the pandemics management strategies, health policies and practices during the pandemic, and the global trends on the treatment of COVID-19 and vaccine applications.

In fact, within the framework of our IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB), we have been, over the years, organising capacity building activities through different modalities such as training courses (like this one), training workshops, and study visits on various technical aspects in the domain of health.

In so doing, we are committed to support and contribute to the efforts of our member countries towards enhancing the human and institutional capacities of their national institutions working in the domain of health through facilitating the exchange and sharing of knowledge, experience, and best practices among these institutions.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to draw your attention to the OIC Health Portal, which was launched during the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in December 2017 in Jeddah. This Portal, which has been since then hosted by SESRIC in our website, provides a unique opportunity for health professionals and researchers to reach relevant and reliable statistical data and research reports and publications on the health sector in our member countries.

Your support and cooperation towards enriching this Portal is highly appreciated in order to keep this important Portal active and leverage it effectively as an OIC hub for facilitating the transfer and exchange of knowledge, know-how and experience among the OIC Member States and OIC institutions in the health domain.

Dear Participants,

I believe that this training course will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants through sharing of information and best practices on the epidemiology of communicable diseases and the management of epidemics.

Before concluding, I would like to state that, as SESRIC, we are very glad to collaborate with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey. We value their vast experience in this field, and we look forward to furthering our collaboration with them towards covering other important topics in the domain of health.

Thanking you all once again, I wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful training throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you all for your kind attention. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته