

**Online Experience Sharing Programme on Vocational
Qualifications System in NSOs**

12-13 October 2021, Virtual, Ankara-Republic of Turkey

Opening Remarks of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- **H.E. Mr. Adem CEYLAN**, President, Vocational Qualifications Authority, Republic of Turkey
- **H.E. Mr. Naif Ablawi**, General Manager, International Relations Administration, General Authority of Statistics, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I wish you all a very Good Day

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the Online Experience Sharing Programme on Vocational Qualifications System in National Statistical Offices, which we are organising within the framework of our Centre's Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme as well as the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET).

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Vocational Qualifications Authority (MYK) of the Republic of Turkey for accepting our invitation and nominating competent experts to share the valuable experience and best practices on the Vocational Qualification System for the benefit of participants from the General Authority of Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Distinguished participants,

We are witnessing an unprecedented global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic with startling implications for our societies and economies. 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 strong recovery soon Insha'Allah.

While many NSOs around the world have adjusted their operations in the face of the lockdowns and other mitigation policies, statistical capacity development during this period was no exception where the relevant programmes and activities were aligned to adopt to the current circumstances of the pandemic. Accordingly, capacity development efforts refocus on developing coordination, governance and quality management capabilities.

In response to this exceptional situation, at its 10th Session held virtually last week, the OIC Statistical Commission, the only OIC cooperation forum in the field of statistics, recommended SESRIC to continue with the virtual modality for the implementation of its statistical capacity building activities within the framework of SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

SESRIC StatCaB Programme was initiated by the Centre in 2007. Within the framework of this Programme, we regularly collect information on the technical needs and capacities of the NSOs of OIC member countries through the biennial questionnaires of the Programme. We, then, assess and match their needs and capacities through different modalities of capacity development activities, including training courses, training workshop, study visits, and experience sharing programmes (like this one).

In this context and since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March last year, we have conducted 44 statistical capacity building activities, 22 of them were statistical training courses, 18 webinars, and 4 international meetings/workshops. More than 2,000 participants from 51 OIC countries took part in these activities.

Dear Participants,

Vocational qualifications systems and the related training standards and assessments are becoming more and more important for human capital development in many socio-economic fields. These systems and standards can make a major contribution to the work of professionals by ensuring that they are directly in compliance with the requirements of the national regulations, and also linked to the needs of the workplace and overall economy.

However, many OIC member countries are still facing some technical challenges in designing and implementing national systems for vocational qualifications and related training and standards assessment systems.

In this context, I would like to mention here that the OIC Technical and Vocational Education and Training (OIC-TVET) Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, which was prepared by SESRIC in close collaboration with the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme, aims at improving the quality of TVET systems in our member countries based on best practices that have been proven globally.

In particular, Cooperation Areas #3 and #4 of the Strategic Roadmap focus on how to bring about cooperation linkages among the member countries concerning Occupational Standards, Qualification Systems, and National Certification Schemes.

Therefore, I believe that this experience-sharing programme is a timely and important programme, which aims at providing insights into the concepts and practices of developing occupational standards and vocational qualifications. The Programme will also highlight the utilisation of these standards in designing skills assessment materials and performing testing and licensing activities. This two-days programme will, no doubt make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants.

Before concluding, I would like to state that, as SESRIC, we are very glad to collaborate with the Vocational Qualifications Authority (MYK) of the Republic of Turkey (the host country of our Centre). We trust their wide experience and look forward to furthering our collaboration with them in the near future.

Thanking you once again, I wish you fruitful discussions and productive exchange of experiences throughout these two days.

Thank you all. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته