

**Training Course on “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in  
Sub-Saharan Africa”**

6 December 2021, 12:00 PM Turkey Time

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

**Director General of SESRIC**

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**

**Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته**

**Very Good Day to all of you**

**I am pleased to welcome you all to the training course on “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa”, which we organise within the framework of SESRIC’s IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB) and in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Kingdom of Morocco.**

**Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Abdelhakim YAHYANE, Director of the Population Department at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Kingdom of Morocco, 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 the participants from the Ministries of Health of the OIC MCs in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

**My sincere thanks are also extended to H.E. Amb. Askar MUSSINOV, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Science & Technology, for allocating part of his valuable time to deliver his message on behalf of the General Secretariat of OIC at the opening session of this important training course.**

**I would also like to thank all the participants from the Ministries of Health of the OIC MCs in Sub-Saharan Africa for their commitment and dedication towards enriching their knowledge and expertise in the domain of this training course.**

## **Dear Participants,**

**A significant progress has been recorded at the global level during the last two decades in reducing newborn and maternal mortality. The OIC MCs also witnessed a remarkable improvement in maternal and new born health. However, despite this improvement, maternal and new born health remained one of the major concerns in many OIC MCs, particularly for those in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.**

**I would like, here, to share with you some key statistics to further highlight the importance of this area. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global neonatal mortality rate; which the rate of newborns who died in the first month of their life per 1,000 live births was 18 in 2019. However, this rate was recorded at 24 for the group of OIC MCs in the same year.**



**On the other hand, in 2017, globally, 211 mothers per 100,000 live births died during pregnancy or following childbirth. This rate was higher for the OIC MCs group with an average of 254 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. These figures can be further increased with less promising indicators since the situation is particularly critical in some MCs.**

**The reasons for such an unsatisfactory situation, particularly in the least developed countries in Sub-saharan Africa, include, but not limited to poor quality of health services and lack of proper health care, limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure and number of health professionals, and slow progress in health sector reforms.**

**This situation strongly signals an urgent need for these countries to undertake the necessary needed actions and enhancing their national efforts towards strengthening their health systems and infrastructures, particularly through investing in the quality health infrastructure and services, training more health professionals, and improving the access to health services.**

**In fact, the well-established public-private health system is a crucial and vital pre-request for any country in order to be able to predict, respond, prevent and recover from any health crises. This will also help saving the lives of women and newborns during and after childbirth.**

**Dear Participants,**

**We, at SESRIC, have initiated the IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB) in 2010 with the aim of supporting the efforts of our MCs towards improving their health systems and health services delivery practices.**

**Within the framework of this programme, we have, over the years, organized 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 try to contribute to the efforts of our MCs towards enhancing the human and institutional capacities of their national health institutions through facilitating the exchange and sharing of knowledge, experience, and best practices in the domain of health.**

**SESRIC also prepared the “OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA)” in accordance with a resolution adopted by the 2nd Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) held in Tehran in 2009. It is worth mentioning here that this document identifies “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition” as one of the key thematic areas of cooperation among the OIC MCs in the domain of health.**



**Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like also to inform you that SESRIC hosts 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 provides a unique opportunity for health professionals and researchers to reach relevant statistical data and research reports and publications on health sector in our MCs.**

**Your support and cooperation towards enriching this Portal are 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 MCs 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. We hope that this will contribute to the reduction in maternal, newborn and child mortality in the OIC MCs in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

**Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and 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**