

**Training Workshop on “Health and Social Care Policies towards  
Supporting Independent Living for People with Disabilities”**

08 February 2022, 12:00 PM Türkiye Time

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

**Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

**H.E. Ms. Derya YANIK, Minister of Family and Social Services  
of the Republic of Türkiye,**

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

**Very Good Day to all of you**

**I am pleased to welcome you all to this Training Workshop on “Health and Social Care Policies towards Supporting Independent Living for People with Disabilities”, which we organise within the framework of SESRIC Social Development Capacity Building Programme and in collaboration with the Directorate General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly at the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye.**

**At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to H.E. Ms. Derya YANIK, Minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye for accepting our invitation to collaborate with SESRIC in organizing this training workshop for the benefit of relevant Ministries in the OIC MCs.**

**I also would like to thank H.E. for designating a part of here valuable time to be with us today at the opening of this Workshop and honouring us at this important event. I would also like to thank the team of H.E at the Ministry, particularly, Dr. Orhan KOÇ, Director General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly, and his team for their cooperation with SESRIC through nominating competent experts to deliver the training and share the expertise of Türkiye in this important domain with their counterparts from the relevant Ministries in the OIC MCs.**

**My thanks and appreciation are also extended to the representatives of the relevant national institutions in charge of services for persons with disabilities and social assistance in Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Morocco and Uganda for their valuable contribution to this important training workshop through sharing their respective countries' experience, as well as to the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AODP) and the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) for highlighting their valuable regional efforts in the field.**

**Dear Participants,**

**Disability is an integral part of human nature, and most people often experience a disability at some point in their lives. On the other hand, independent living is a right that people without disabilities take for granted. However, it is very unfortunate that this right is still a major concern for those with disabilities in many OIC MCs.**

**Relevant national institutions should, therefore, play a crucial role in addressing this issue through setting pertinent policies and awareness raising mechanisms at the national level towards creating a positive impact on the livelihood of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.**

**According to the most recent available statistical data, around 281 million persons with disabilities are residing in the OIC MCs, accounting for 28% of the world's total people with disabilities.**



**Considering the different and various levels of disabilities of those people, a wide range of health and social assistance services are needed to ensure more inclusive and accommodating environment for them. These services would help setting the basis for independent living for disabled people who have the right of living independently as part of their communities, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).**

**It is, therefore, essential for the OIC MCs to review and assess their existing policies and services towards the persons with disabilities with a view to ensuring more inclusive and equitable environment for them through improving their social, economic, cultural, and political participation in the society. The affordable decent health and social services would contribute towards gaining the people with disabilities as active and productive members of their societies while ensuring their rights.**

**Dear Participants,**

**The 1st Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, which was organized and hosted by the Republic of Türkiye in Istanbul in December 2019, is a clear indicator on the efforts of the OIC and its MCs towards addressing the challenges that face the vulnerable groups, including the persons with disabilities.**

**The Conference highlighted the importance of the Islamic solidarity and cooperation in achieving higher and sustainable social development levels in our MCs, including the improving of the livelihood of the vulnerable groups.**

**Consequently, and with a view to contributing to the ongoing endeavours of the OIC and its MCs in the domain of social development, and in line with the goals and objectives of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action on the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, SESRIC developed the Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB) last year.**

**The Programme aims at supporting and contributing to the efforts of the OIC MCs towards enhancing the technical capacities of their national institutions working in the fields of social development. In particular, the programme will contribute to facilitating the transferring, sharing and exchanging of knowledge, experiences and best practices among the MCs in several social development related domains through various modalities such as training courses, webinars, training workshops, like this one, and technical study visits.**

**In addition, SESRIC regularly prepares various technical background reports and research studies to analyse the current situation of people with disabilities and special needs at the OIC MCs' level and suggests appropriate policy actions that need to be taken to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-OIC cooperation in this domain.**

**In this regard, our Centre prepared and submitted the Framework of the Draft OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities to the 1st OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development that was held in 2019 in Istanbul. The draft Plan of Action provides an intra-OIC cooperation plan and roadmap under six main areas of action for addressing socio-economic challenges faced by this vulnerable segment of the society.**



**In addition, in the area of statistics, our Centre hosts 32 indicators related to disability under the newly created “Social Development” category in our OIC Statistics Database (OICStat), which is the only comprehensive statistical database on the 57 OIC member countries with a total of 1,512 socio-economic indicators classified under 27 categories dating back to 1970.**

**Dear Participants,**

**Before concluding, I am delighted to welcome you once again to this training workshop, which is the first activity that we organise within the framework of our newly initiated “Social Development capacity building programme”, and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 1st Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development. We are glad to kick off the first activity today to be followed with many more impactful activities and promising collaborations in the near future insha'allah.**

**I believe that this training workshop will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants. We hope that this will contribute to improving health and social care policies towards supporting independent living for people with disabilities in our MCs.**

**I wish you all a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful training throughout the upcoming days.**

**Thank you all for your kind attention. و السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته**