

**Training Workshop on “Protecting and Advancing Children's Rights  
Including the Ones with Disabilities”**

22 February 2022, 01:30 PM Türkiye Time

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

**Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

**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 virtual Training Workshop on “Protecting and Advancing Children's Rights Including the Ones with Disabilities”, which we organise in collaboration with the General Directorate of Child Services at the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, within the framework of SESRIC's Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, held in Istanbul in 2019.**

**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 Member Countries.**

**I would also like to thank the team of Her Excellency at the Ministry, particularly Dr. Musa ŞAHİN, Director General of Child Services at the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, 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 Member Countries.**

**My sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to the valuable representatives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of child services in Guinea, Indonesia, Morocco and Pakistan for contributing to this important training workshop through sharing their respective countries' experience, as well as to the UNICEF for sharing their valuable efforts in this field.**

## **Dear Participants,**

**Children's rights are human rights that necessitate being treated with equality, respect and dignity. It is of great importance that all children should have access to quality health care, good nutrition, education, and protection from harm, abuse, and discrimination. Children are the most vulnerable beings in this world. It is, therefore, the shared responsibility of parents and family members, governments , and civil societies to ensure that their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.**

**Over the recent decades, the world has paid particular attention to the protection and welfare of children. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which came to force in 1989, is one of the most important landmarks achieved in this regard.**



**In fact, this Convention is the first international human rights treaty, which brings together the universal set of standards concerning children rights to ensure that every child enjoys a safe and nurturing childhood. These noble efforts paid off and, today, children are healthier and safer from social, economic and cultural exploitations than 30 years ago.**

**In this context, it is worth mentioning that, as a group, OIC MCs are characterized by young demographic distribution, with over one-third of the population below age 15. This underlines the massive demand for health care, schooling, food, recreation, and social protection and welfare services for infants and young children in these countries.**

**Over the years, many OIC MCs, in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions and international partners, have made extensive efforts to promote child welfare, child well-being, and protect children's rights in the Muslim world. However, despite all positive developments, the global community has fallen short in fulfilling its promise and commitment to ensure all aspects of children's rights, including those with disabilities.**

**There are still considerable barriers to health care, schooling, food, recreation, and children's social protection and welfare services. Unfortunately, millions of children worldwide, mostly from developing countries, including the OIC MCs, are still dying due to preventable diseases and complications and those who manage to survive their lives are full of misery, ignorance, deprivation and abuse.**

**This state of affairs requires more commitment and efforts by the governments and other stakeholders to address this important issue at a higher level on their national development agendas. There is also an urgent need for strengthening and enhancing cooperation and collaboration on various child welfare issues both at national, intra-OIC and international cooperation level to improve the state of children in the OIC MCs.**

## **Dear Participants,**

**Children's rights is an important topic at the agenda of the OIC. On children's protection and advancement, the OIC has two key strategic documents. The first one is the “Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam”, which was adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in 2005. This Covenant provides a legal framework, based on the Islamic principles and ethos, to define the claims, rights, and obligations of the child, family, society, and the State.**

**Upon the request of the 45<sup>th</sup> CFM in 2019, the Covenant is currently in the process of being revised and updated by the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with the OIC GS and other relevant OIC institutions. In this regard, an Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts Meeting was organized on the 6th of this month to discuss the revised and updated draft before submitting to the upcoming 48<sup>th</sup> CFM next month.**

**The second key document is the draft “OIC Strategy for the Well-being of Children in the Islamic World”, which is to be finalized and submitted to the upcoming 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development. SESRIC contributed to this draft Strategy by preparing a chapter on “Social, Health, and Psychological Rights”.**

**In this context, SESRIC also regularly prepares various technical background reports and research studies to protect and advance children’s rights in OIC MCs.**



**For example, the report on the “State of Children in OIC MCs” provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of children in the OIC MCs by investigating the latest data and trends on children’s well-being, health, nutrition, education, food security and social protection.**

**We also published an outlook report on “Situational Analysis of Street Living and Street Working Children in OIC Countries”. This report highlights the overall situation of children living and working in the streets in the OIC MCs.**

**SESRIC also published a report on “People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC MCs”, which discusses various challenges that exacerbate the vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and special needs in OIC MCs.**

**Also, within the framework of the OIC participation in Expo-Dubai 2020, we organized, in November last year, a Seminar on the “Situation of Street Working and Street Living Children in OIC MCs”. The Seminar brought together experts from OIC MCs, relevant OIC institutions and international organizations to discuss the multidimensional challenges faced by street working and street living children and elaborate on various socio-economic policy measures and programmes and initiatives to enhance the welfare of this vulnerable group in our MCs.**

**In the area of statistics, our Centre hosts the OIC Statistics Database (OIC-Stat), 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.**

**SESRIC OIC-Stat database includes 181 children-related indicators and 32 disability-related indicators. These indicators are available under the categories of Crime and Justice, Demography, Education, Gender and Family, Health, Social Development, and Sustainable Development Goals.**

**Dear Participants,**

**Today, we are organising our second training workshop within the framework of our newly initiated “Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB)”. We developed this programme last year, with the aim of 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 workshops (like this one), training courses, webinars, and technical study visits.**

**In this context, I believe that this training workshop will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants through strengthening their technical capacities on policies and strategies for protecting and advancing the rights of children, including those with special needs, as well as sharing knowledge, experience and best practices among the participated institutions.**

**Before concluding, I welcome you once again to this training workshop and wish you all a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful training throughout the upcoming days.**

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