

**Training Course on “Disaster Risk Identification and Risk  
Assessment”**

28 March 2022, 01:30 PM Ankara Time, Virtual

**Opening Statement by**

**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 very pleased to welcome you all to this training course on “Disaster Risk Identification and Risk Assessment”, which we organize in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT) and the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development of the Republic of Tunisia within the framework of SESRIC’s Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB).**

**Thank you for accepting our invitation and designating your valuable time to participate in this important training course.**

**Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Mr. El Borni SALHI, Director General of the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), and his team, for accepting our invitation and facilitating the nomination of an experienced trainer from the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development of the Republic of Tunisia to deliver this training course.**

**My sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to Mr. Nejib BEN CHIKHA, Director of the Directorate of Urban Hydraulics (DHU), and his team for their cooperation with SESRIC through nominating a competent trainer to deliver the training and sharing the knowledge and expertise of Tunisia with the relevant national institution in charge of disaster risk management in the French-speaking Member States of the OIC.**

**We are delighted to organise this training course, which carries great importance at the individual and national levels due to the multidimensional adverse effects of this issue, which include the environmental and health impacts as well as the consequences on the economy as a whole.**

**Dear Participants,**

**Countries across the globe have witnessed a considerable increase in the frequency of natural disasters over the last four decades. Natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, and droughts are a common occurrence today, causing widespread destruction, deaths and displacement across the world, and the OIC MCs were no exception.**

**According to SESRIC’s OIC Statistical Outlook Report on “Cost of Natural Disasters in OIC MCs” published in October last year (2021), the number of natural disasters in the group of OIC MCs has increased from 573 in the period 1991-2000 to 785 in the period 2011-2020. The Report indicated that floods constituted the top natural disaster with the largest number occurrences recorded in the group of OIC MCs, with an increase from 257 in the first period to 470 in the second period.**



**Dear Participants,**

**The importance of the environment for sustainable social and economic development is well stipulated in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, which calls upon the MCs to “protect and preserve the environment, promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and enhance capacities for disaster risk reduction as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation”.**

**In fact, several global initiatives like Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, New Urban Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda provide opportunities and resources to enhance urban resilience by adopting sustainable urban development practices.**

**In this context, the latest data on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 reveals that only 23 OIC MCs have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with this Framework. On the other hand, only 11 OIC MCs have reported no policy development in line with the Sendai Framework whereas; there is no sufficient information available for the rest of the MCs.**

**Given the fact that climate change is expected to intensify disaster risks significantly in many OIC MCs, there is an urgent need for adopting prudent environmental management practices to reduce disaster risks and the adverse effects of climate change. This involves the following key dimensions: sustainable water resources management, sustainable land-use management, and integrated coastal zone management.**

**Another important determinant of success in disaster risk management is the level of awareness and participation. A lack of awareness of hazards and vulnerability can build complacency, which may lead to ignorance for risk reduction.**

**In this context, we organise this training course with the aim of developing and enhancing the technical capacities of the participants, who work in this field as experts, through familiarizing them and enriching their knowledge with the most recent global standards, practices and trends in disaster risk identification and risk assessment.**

**Dear Participants,**

**Within the scope of its mandated areas of statistics, research and training, our Centre (SESRIC) has, over the years, initiated and implemented various statistical, research and training activities in the field of disaster risk reduction and management.**

**In the area of training, and within the framework of our Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB), we organise capacity building activities through different modalities such as training courses (like this one), training workshops, and study visits on various technical aspects such as disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management.**



**In the mandated area of research, SESRIC has prepared a joint study with the IsDB titled “Managing Disasters and Conflicts in OIC Countries” in 2014. This study provides an overview of disasters and conflicts in OIC countries during the last four decades and discusses the risks and vulnerabilities to natural hazards and conflicts and offers strategic approaches for preventing and mitigating the impacts of potential disasters and strengthening peace and stability. We are planning in the near future to update this study and come up with new enriched version.**

**In the light of the results of this report, we have actively participated in the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in 2015, by organizing a side event, in collaboration with IsDB. The event brought together relevant stakeholders from multiple national and international organizations to discuss the challenges associated with disaster risk management in OIC MCS.**

**In 2017, we have prepared and published a country report on Afghanistan titled “Managing Natural Disasters in Afghanistan: Risks, Vulnerabilities and General Guidelines”.**

**Additionally, we have continued publishing a series of our regular “OIC Environment Report”, a detailed report on environmental issues in OIC countries to support the technical discussions and policy debates during the Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.**

**In the area of statistics, we continued to make serious endeavours towards ensuring the availability of the necessary statistical data and information on our MCs that would make them better informed of each other's potentials, needs and capacities in order to facilitate their elaboration on cooperation projects in various disaster risks-related subjects.**

**In this context, our main statistical database, the OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database, currently contains data on 1,512 socio-economic indicators classified under 27 categories for the 57 member countries dating back to 1970. Out of these indicators, 48 indicators are disasters-related indicators under the Disasters and Emergency Events category.**

**Meanwhile, we continued to contribute to enhancing the technical capacities of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the member countries through SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB). Within the framework of this training programme, so far, we have organized 4 environmental-related statistical training activities on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators”.**

**Besides, we plan to organise a webinar on “Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster-Related Statistics” in June 2022 in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).**

**In terms of statistical publications, we published an OIC Statistical Outlook on “Cost of Natural Disasters in OIC Member Countries” in October 2021. Using the most recent available relevant data, this report statistically sheds light on the broad human and economic cost of natural disasters in the OIC MCs.**



**Dear Participants,**

**I am confident that this training course will contribute to our efforts towards transferring knowledge and expertise among our MCs in this important domain. The course will add value to the participants' capacities as well as promoting their continuous learning in this domain.**

**We are very glad to collaborate with the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development of the Republic of Tunisia through our long-standing partner, the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT). We trust their wide experience, and we look forward to furthering our collaboration with them in the near future.**

**At the end, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you 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.**