



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
Statistical, Economic and Social Research
and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
(SESRIC)



Third Extraordinary Session of the Ministerial Council of the Women Development Organization (WDO)

16 February 2022, Virtual

Statement by

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address your august Ministerial Council at its Third Extraordinary Session.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Women Development Organization for holding this important Session virtually during these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. I thank them also for inviting SESRIC to participate in this extraordinary session.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a subsidiary organ of the OIC, and within the framework of its three mandated areas of statistics, research and training, SESRIC continued to implement various activities and programmes in the domain of gender and women development in line with the objectives of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and the resolutions of relevant Ministerial Conferences.

In the domain of statistics, SESRIC regularly collects and reports data for 61 indicators under the Gender & Family and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5) categories in its OIC-Stat Database, which is the only and largest statistical data repository on OIC countries with over 1,512 socio-economic indicators under 27 categories dating back to 1970.

Besides, SESRIC has increased the cooperation links with the UN Women in the area of gender statistics through its membership in the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST) coordinated by the UN Women and UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific since 2018.

Also, within the framework of SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized an Online Training Course on ‘Gender and Special Population Groups Statistics’ in collaboration with the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan and UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for the benefit of experts from the NSOs of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan on 18-19 March 2021.

This year also, SESRIC plans to organise a Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 5 (Gender Equality) Indicators’ to be provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute on 7-8 June 2022.

In the research domain, our Centre regularly prepares analytical research reports, concept notes and policy documents on the state of gender and the role of women in the OIC MCs. In particular, the flagship report of SESRIC titled “OIC Women and Development Report” serves as one of the main technical background document for the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women. This report assesses the current state of women and reveals key challenges faced by them in OIC MCs.

The Centre also regularly prepares the report on “Safeguarding Family Values and the Institution of Marriage in OIC Countries” for submission to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development. This report examines the status of the marital and family institution and maps ongoing and emerging trends that affect familial and marital values and demographics in OIC MCs.

Lately, SESRIC also contributed to the preparation of “OIC Gender Policy Document”, which aims to enhance and spearhead the intra-OIC cooperation for the welfare, equality and empowerment of women in OIC MCs.

Moreover, the Centre regularly contributes to the regional and global policy discourse in the domain of gender and women development by actively participating in various national, regional and international conferences, workshops and expert group meetings.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

SESRIC also pays utmost attention to the development of capacities of national institutions in OIC countries that are working towards the advancement of women by organizing various **training and capacity-building activities.**

In this regard, in 2021, SESRIC conducted two online training courses on women entrepreneurship titled “Advancement and Empowerment of Women’s Entrepreneurial Skills” and “Designing Revenue-Generating Projects for Entrepreneurs” for the benefit of experts from six OIC MCs in sub-Saharan Africa, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, and Senegal.

To give more focus and impetus to our efforts to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among the national institutions in our MCs, the Centre has also developed and launched a new “Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB)” in 2021.

Within the framework of this capacity building programme, SESRIC will organise a Webinar on “Best Practices in Promoting Women’s Equality in Family Laws and Practices” in August 2022 with the aim of raising awareness and facilitating the transfer of knowledge and sharing of best practices among the relevant national institutions in the OIC MCs.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to express our readiness at SESRIC to strengthen cooperation with the Women Development Organization in line with the mandate of SESRIC to initiate and implement joint programmes and activities for the welfare and advancement of women in our MCs.

Thank you for your kind attention.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته