

Workshop on “Modernising Statistical Legislation”

1-2 June 2022, 11:00 – 15:30 (Ankara time, UTC +3)

Opening Remarks by

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Distinguished Representatives of the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries,

Distinguished Representatives of the International Organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

السّلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

I wish you all a very Good Day

I am pleased to welcome you to this Virtual Workshop on “Modernising Statistical Legislation” and thank you for accepting our invitation to be with us today and participate in the work of this Workshop.

We are pleased at SESRIC, in our capacity as the Secretariat of OIC Statistical Commission, to organise this Workshop in line with the Programme of Action 2021-2025 of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision 2030.

We also have the honour to organize this Workshop in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) through technical contributions of four UN regional commissions, namely ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, and ECA; and also, the PARIS21.

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of these institutions and to all the contributors to this Workshop who have accepted our invitation to share their knowledge and experiences on the various topics related to Modernising Statistical Legislation.

My sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to HE. Mr. Adnen Lassoued, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia and the Chairman of the 10th Session of OIC-StatCom, for being with us today at the opening of this Workshop.

Distinguished Participants

We are all aware of the fact that the reliable, high quality, comparable and timely official statistics constitute the main component of the information system of any developed society. Official statistics provide data and information on a wide range of socio-economic development related areas.

Such statistics are the main important input for any analysis and decision making process that could lead to designing and implementing the appropriate policies and strategies at both the national and international levels.

To achieve that, among others, appropriate, accurate and strong statistical legislation are needed. In this context, it may be worth mentioning that Principle 7 of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) clearly states that “The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.”

The motivation behind this Principle is that transparency of legislation, rules and measures pertaining to the operation of the statistical system is a precondition for maintaining trust in the official statistics. This indicates that modernising and updating the statistical legislation is critical to the effective performance of the national statistical system.

Dear Participants

As we all aware, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda has emphasized, through the SDGs, the demand for new data, which requires the national statistical systems around the world to operate in larger data ecosystem; posing unprecedented technical and financial difficulties.

As an example on these difficulties, is that many countries, during the COVID-19 pandemic were facing the challenge of adjusting their data governance and management to a digital society, which requires strong appropriate and clear new statistical laws.

Against this background, and in line with the Programme of Action 2021-2025 of the OIC Statistical Commission Strategic Vision 2030, we, in our capacity as the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, organise this Workshop with a view to provide a platform for sharing experiences and best practices among the NSOs of the OIC countries and the relevant international organizations in the domain of modernisation of legal and institutional frameworks of official statistics.

Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you all the success in your deliberations.

Thank you all. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته