

11th SESSION OF OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION (OIC-StatCom)

18-19 October 2022, Ankara-Republic of Türkiye

Opening Speech of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR Director General of SESRIC

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

- Mr. Chairman,
- Distinguished Delegates of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries,
- Distinguished Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, IsDB, Regional and International Institutions,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته
Very good day to all of you

- It is a great pleasure for me to address your august Commission today at its 11th Session, in my capacity as the Director General of SESRIC, the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), the only OIC cooperation forum in the field of statistics.
- At the outset, I would like to welcome you all at our HQs and thank you for accepting our invitation and allocating part of your valuable time to attend and participate in this Session.
- I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to our strategic partner in organizing the annual Sessions of the OIC-StatCom, the IsDB Group, for their continuous support to this important forum.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **Unlike previous global crises, it seems that the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic will continue to shape our economic and social life and eventually the policy-making processes.**
- **At the time when we held the 10th Session virtually in October last year, efforts and policy measures at both the national and international levels were still focusing on containing the spread of the pandemic and addressing its immediate impacts on human life and socio-economic activities.**
- **However, according to the WHO, there are still almost one billion unvaccinated people in lower-income countries. As of June this year, only 58 countries (8 of them are OIC MCs) have fully vaccinated 70% of their population, which is the target set by the WHO last year to be covered in mid of this year.**
- **Due to the prolongation of the pandemic and the recently emerged interlinked crises, such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the increases in global energy and food prices, governments have shifted their attention from short-term emergency response measures to investing in long-term risk reduction and management capacities and strengthening their resilience to future shocks.**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- During such crises, the importance and the need for reliable and timely statistics become critical and indispensable. The accurate analysis and diagnosis of the situation and the formulation of prompt and prudential policies based on timely and reliable statistics have been rarely as evident as in the course of such crises.
- In such state of affairs, the ‘official statistics’ are required to respond quickly to the ever-changing circumstances. The NSOs are expected and requested to go beyond the traditional methodologies and approaches for the production of national statistics. New methodologies and instruments are needed to collect and manipulate new statistics even from non-traditional data sources.
- In response to this extraordinary situation, and in line with the recommendations of the 9th and 10th Sessions of your august Commission, we, at SESRIC, continued with the virtual modality for the implementation of our various statistical capacity-building activities within the framework of SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.
- In particular, we continued to organise the training courses virtually, and made them open to all our MCs. Here, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSOs in our MCs and the international

organizations for their collaboration, support, contribution, and participation in the implementation of these virtual training activities.

- I am pleased to inform you that, since the last Session of OIC-Stat-Com in October last year, we have conducted 31 statistical activities, 23 of them were statistical training courses, 4 webinars, 3 international workshops and one study visit. Around 2,000 participants from 51 OIC countries took part in these statistical activities.**
- As you know, we plan our training activities based on the responses provided by your esteemed institutions to our questionnaire while considering as much as possible the equitable geographical distribution among the MCs.**
- Currently, we are working on our statistical capacity building activities, which are planned for the next year based on the responses received so far and we plan to continue with the virtual training courses modality.**
- Therefore, I would like to call upon the NSOs to respond to our Stat-CaB Program Questionnaire in a timely manner to help us better planning for our future training activities.**

- On the other hand, we, as the Secretariat of your esteemed Commission, continued to monitor and follow up the implementation of the key actions specified under the Programme of Action (PoA) for the period 2021-2025 of the Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030.
- In this regard, so far, 25 of our MCs have submitted their responses to the questionnaire circulated on 18th March this year. The details of these responses will be presented to you under the relevant agenda during the working sessions.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- As you may recall, during the Follow-Up Meeting of the Commission, which we have organized virtually on 17th February this year, the Members of the Commission have been briefed on the progress of the resolutions of the 10th Session.
- During the Meeting, we have also received the feedback of the Members of the Commission on the composition of the new bureau members, the draft agenda items, and the date and venue of this 11th Session.
- In this connection, I would like to congratulate once again the agreed on elected members of the Bureau of the 11th Session of OIC-

StatCom, Pakistan as the Chair from the Asian Group, Qatar and Cameroon as Vice-Chairs from OIC Arab and Africa groups, respectively, and, in line with the Rules of Procedure, Palestine as a permanent Vice Chair. In its capacity as the Secretariat, SESRIC assumes as usual the role of the Rapporteur.

- **Based on the feedback that we have received from the NSOs and the outcome of the virtual Follow-Up Meeting of the Commission in February this year, this Session of the OIC Stat-Com (the 11th Session) will cover the following technical topics:**
 - ⇒ **Transforming Population and Housing Censuses to Mitigate the Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic.**
 - ⇒ **Monitoring and Reporting SDG 9 Indicators Related to Industry, Manufacturing, and Infrastructure.**
 - ⇒ **Monitoring and Reporting SDG 9 Indicators Related to Research, Scientific Development, and Innovation.**
 - ⇒ **Introduction of the MEDSTAT-5 Programme.**
- **The Session will also review and discuss the Report of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the 10th Session, as well as the Implementation and Follow-up Mechanism of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030 and the Programme of Action 2021-2025.**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you all the success in your deliberations. I am confident that the deliberations and recommendations that you will make during this Session will be instrumental in improving our work and better targeting our activities and programs for more benefit to the NSOs of our MCs.**

Thank you all. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.