

Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacities of National Institutions in the Field of Social Development in the OIC Member States”

02 August 2022, 12:00 PM Türkiye Time

**Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR
Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**H.E. Ms. Derya YANIK, Minister of Family and Social Services
of the Republic of Türkiye,**

**H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim TAHA, Secretary General of the
Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),**

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Very Good Day to all of you

- **I am pleased to welcome you all to this Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacities of National Institutions in the Field of Social Development in the OIC Member States”, which we organise in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions adopted both by the 1st OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Istanbul in December 2019 and the 48th Session of the CFM held in Islamabad in March 2022.**
- **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, in her capacity as the Chair of**

the 1st OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, for accepting our invitation to address the opening session of this important workshop and honouring us at this important event.

- **My sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim TAHA, Secretary General of the OIC, for inviting SESRIC to jointly organize this workshop with the OIC General Secretariat. I would also like to thank H.E. Amb. Tarig BAKHIET, ASG for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs and his team in the Department of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, for their tireless efforts and support for the organisation of this important workshop.**
- **My deep thanks and appreciation are also extended to the representatives of the relevant national institutions in the field of social development in the OIC MCs for designating part of their valuable time to attend this virtual workshop as well as for their valuable contribution through sharing their respective countries' experience and best practices in this important domain.**
- **I would also like to thank the participated OIC organs and institutions, as well as the regional and international organisations, for accepting our invitation to contribute to this workshop by**

highlighting their valuable international and regional efforts in the field of social development.

Excellencies, Dear Participants,

- **Social Development could not be achieved without removing persistent development impediments, increasing attention to those who have been excluded from economic and social possibilities, and increasing investment in inclusive growth.**
- **This means that no one should be left behind in the course of social development, particularly those who are attributed to some groups of the society that experience certain disadvantages or face barriers in access to public and social services.**
- **A number of global development frameworks, including the Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals, recognize inclusive social development as a significant policy concern.**
- **In the same vein, the 14th Islamic Summit Session, which was held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 2019, emphasized the significance of social development for attaining sustainable development and highlighted investment in social protection as a key strategy to foster social development.**

- **The OIC-2025 Programme of Action also places a great emphasis on developing policies that support the family, social cohesion, and the delivery of social services to families, children, women, the elderly, and those with special needs.**
- **Over the last two decades, a set of multiple factors, including the recent COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated the already existing problems faced by many vulnerable individuals, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities and special needs in many parts of the world, including many of our MCs.**
- **As a result, a growing number of people are facing an increasing challenge in accessing labour markets, education institutions, housing and transportation, health and social protection systems, and cultural life, which inhibits them from reaching their full potential and making desired contribution to their respective societies. Therefore, achieving sustainable and inclusive social development has become an important goal worldwide.**

Excellencies, Dear Participants,

- **As part of the ongoing efforts of the OIC, the 1st Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development was organized and hosted by the Republic of Türkiye in Istanbul in December 2019. This conference was a clear indicator of the efforts of the OIC and**

its MCs towards addressing the challenges that face the vulnerable segments of the society, including women, children, the elderly and people with special needs.

- The Conference, among others, highlighted the importance of Islamic solidarity and cooperation in achieving higher and sustainable social development levels in the OIC MCs, including the improvement of the livelihood of vulnerable groups. It also discussed and adopted two important strategic documents; namely, the “OIC Strategy for Empowering Marriage and Family Institution” and the “OIC Strategy on the Elderly”.**
- Following this Conference and with a view to contributing to the ongoing endeavours of our MCs in the domain of social development, and also in line with the goals and objectives of the OIC-2025 PoA on the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, SESRIC has initiated last year its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB).**
- This Programme aims at supporting and contributing to the efforts of our MCs towards enhancing the technical capacities of their national institutions working in the domain 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 courses, training webinars, workshops, and technical study visits.

- **Within the framework of this Programme, we have organized in February this year two training workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, namely, the Training Workshop on “Protecting and Advancing Children's Rights Including the Ones with Disabilities” and the Training Workshop on “Health and Social Care Policies towards Supporting Independent Living for People with Disabilities”.**
- **We are grateful for the generous cooperation of the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye with our Centre through nominating competent experts to deliver these training workshops and share the expertise of Türkiye in this important domain with their counterparts from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in the OIC MCs.**
- **In addition, within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Security Institutions Capacity Building Programme (SSI-CaB) and in collaboration with the Social Security Institution (SGK) of the Republic of Türkiye, we also organised a Training Workshop on**

“Management of Social Security Systems” in October last year with the aim of strengthening the technical capacities of the professional staff at the National Social Security Institutions of the OIC MCs through the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices.

Excellencies, Dear Participants,

- Our activities, at SESRIC in the domain of social development, are not only limited to capacity building and training. We also have various research activities in the social domain.**
- In the area of research, SESRIC regularly prepares analytical research reports, concept notes and policy documents in the domain of social development to assess the performance of the OIC MCs, identify key challenges and provide policy recommendations. We submit and present our studies to the relevant OIC sectoral-ministerial conferences.**
- We prepared, for example, 3 reports and submitted them to the 1st OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Istanbul in December 2019. These reports are:**
 - 1. State of Elderly in OIC MCs: Responding to the Needs of Elderly;**

2. People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC MCs;

3. The Institution of Family and SDGs: The Key Roles Families Play in Sustainable Development;

- **More recently, we have finalized and published the 2021 edition of our regular reports in the domain of social development, namely the “State of Elderly”, “People with Disabilities and Special Needs” and “Marriage and Family Institution”. These three reports will be presented to the 2nd Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development to be held this year in Egypt.**
- **Our Centre has also contributed to the joint efforts of the OIC and its MCs in the domain of social development by preparing and contributing to the strategy documents and concept notes that aimed to spearhead the intra-OIC cooperation.**
- **Our team has been actively leading and contributing to the preparation of the following 4 strategic plans and framework documents in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat and relevant institutions in the MCs:**
 - 1. OIC Strategy on the Elderly;**
 - 2. The framework on the draft OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities;**

3. The OIC Strategy for Empowering the Marriage and Family Institution and Preserving its Values in the Muslim World;

4. The Draft OIC Strategy for the Well-being of Children in the Islamic World;

- **Our Centre also organized two international Seminars during Dubai Expo 2020 last year, the 1st on the “Situation of Street Working and Street Living Children in OIC MCs” and the 2nd on “Elderly and Persons with Disabilities in OIC MCs”.**
- **In the area of statistics, our Centre hosts the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat), which is the only comprehensive statistical database on the 57 OIC MCs, currently contains data on 1,676 socio-economic indicators classified under 27 categories for the 57 MCs dating back to 1970.**
- **Related to the subject of this workshop and under the Social Development category of, our OIC-Stat database includes 150 indicators related to social themes like marriage and family, elderly, people with disabilities, and child welfare hosted under the OICStat Database.**

Excellencies, Dear Participants,

- **Before concluding, I am delighted to welcome you once again to this important workshop. I believe that this workshop will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants.**
- **We hope that the outcome of this workshop will contribute to identifying challenges and obstacles that the national institutions face in the domain of social development as well as facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices in this important domain.**
- **I wish you all a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful workshop throughout the upcoming days.**

Thank you all for your kind attention. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.