

**TRAINING COURSE ON “HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY”  
FOR THE OIC JUNIOR DIPLOMATS**

Virtual, 24-27 October 2022 Türkiye Time

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

**بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ**

**H. E. Amb. Tariq Ali Bakheet,  
Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social  
Affairs and Special Envoy of the Secretary General to Afghanistan**

**H. E. Prof. Mesut ÖZCAN,  
Director of the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
the Republic of Türkiye**

**H.E. Mr. Taha Ayhan,  
President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)**

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

**Very Good day to all of you**

**Welcome to SESRIC's Training Course on "Humanitarian Diplomacy for the OIC Junior Diplomats".**

**This is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of SESRIC's annual Diplomacy Capacity Building Program, which was launched in 2017.**

**Once again, I celebrate the continued and fruitful partnership with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye (the host country of our Centre) in organizing this training program for junior diplomats from OIC Member States.**

**My deep thanks and appreciation are extended to H.E. Prof. Mesut Özcan and his team at the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye for their invaluable technical support in organizing this Training Course.**

**I also celebrate our partnership with our sister institution within the OIC family, the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF).**

**Over the years the ICYF has been our close partner in many of our activities and programs and this year they are partnering with us for the first time in organizing this training program for junior diplomats from OIC Member States.**

**In this regard, I express my deep gratitude to H.E Mr. Taha Ayhan, President of ICYF and his team for their support and collaboration.**

**We are happy today that we have been able to assemble a total of 96 junior diplomats from 31 OIC Member States to benefit from this training.**



**Today, we have also with us 7 outstanding experts in the field of humanitarian diplomacy to conduct this Training Course. I am grateful to all of them for dedicating their valuable time and energy to this Training Course.**

**Dear Participants,**

**In the year 2020, OIC countries were involved in 57.1% of the total armed conflicts around the world – a marked increase of 17% over the past 20 years. In the same year, natural disasters affected approximately 759 per 100,000 people in OIC countries.**

**As a consequence of these tragic events, OIC countries are currently home to 62% (29.8 million) of the world's total internally displaced persons and host to over 64.5% (13.3 million) of the world's total refugees.**

**This means that in OIC MCs there are tens of millions of vulnerable people in a critical need for humanitarian assistance.**

**This humanitarian landscape in OIC countries have warranted an increase in the instances and scope of humanitarian activities, with a concurrent proliferation of actors in the humanitarian sphere ranging from governments to non-governmental organizations.**

**This makes humanitarian diplomacy a powerful foreign policy tool that governments can use to further their national interests, address the needs of vulnerable civilians in need of assistance, form new partnerships or reinforce existing ones, undertake nuanced interactions with non-political actors and civil societies, mobilize public support and resources and garner regional and international support.**

**Yet, many OIC Member Countries require further knowledge on the practice of humanitarian diplomacy and how it can be utilized effectively to avail critical assistance in times of need while also advancing their national interests.**

**This is why, we chose ‘Humanitarian Diplomacy’ as the theme for this year’s Training Course.**

**The primary focus of this Training Course on Humanitarian Diplomacy aims to offer Junior Diplomats from OIC MCs an opportunity to further their knowledge of how humanitarian diplomacy is carried out in an international setting and understand the interplay between humanitarian diplomacy and foreign policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**Dear Participants,**

**I am certain that this Course will not only advance the skills and expertise of the participating junior diplomats, but also it will allow them to further the diplomatic prowess of their respective countries.**



**I wish our junior diplomats who are with us today all the success in this training course and in all their future endeavours.**

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