

**Seventh Session of OIC Statistical Commission
2-3 May 2018, Ankara – Turkey**

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1. The Seventh Session of the Statistical Commission of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) was organised by Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on 2-3 May 2018 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.
2. A total of 69 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 31 OIC countries, including Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, Uganda and Uzbekistan and regional and international organizations including SESRIC, IDB, Sub-Saharan African Organisation for the Development of Economic Studies and Statistics Systems (AFRISTAT), Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
3. The agenda of the Seventh Session of OIC-StatCom was as follows:
 - Opening Session
 - Implemented and Planned Activities of OIC-StatCom
 - Improvement of Census Conduct and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
 - Enhancing the Production, Dissemination, and Use of Migration Statistics; and
 - Prioritisation and Measurement of SDG Indicators and Their Reconciliation and Ownership at the National Level
 - Open Discussions and Closing Session
4. All documents of the Seventh Session of OIC-StatCom, including all presentations and statements together with participants list, are available online at <http://www.oicstatcom.org/event-detail.php?id=1898> and shall be consulted for more detailed information.

2 May 2018, Wednesday

Opening Session

Welcoming Speeches

5. Following the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the Opening Session started with the welcome addresses by Dr. Suhariyanto, Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Chair of the Bureau of the OIC-StatCom for its Fifth and Sixth Sessions, HE Ambassador Musa KULAKLIKAYA, Director

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General of SESRIC; Mr. Nabil DABOUR, Assistant Director General of SESRIC, on behalf of HE Dr Yousef A. AL-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of the OIC; and Mr. Ousmane SECK, Manager at Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

6. In his speech, **Dr. Suhariyanto, Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Chair of the Bureau of the OIC StatCom for its Fifth and Sixth Sessions**, underlined that the sessions of OIC-StatCom are of strategic importance to evaluate the activities and to address the challenges of member countries in statistical areas. He stated that NSOs have a demanding agenda to improve data quality, publish the data on time, increase coverage and accessibility of the information. Dr. Suhariyanto went on to say that NSOs must adopt new approaches for evidence-based policy making and maintain effective systems. On its part, BPS-Statistics Indonesia currently tries to implement quality assurance framework and modernise its statistical systems by using new technologies on areas such as sampling, customisation on user demands, social media and mobile apps. According to him, the sessions of OIC-StatCom acts as a strategic forum for developing statistical cooperation and partnership among OIC countries and exchange experiences to modernise official statistics systems. At the end of his speech, Dr. Suhariyanto thanked the OIC-StatCom Bureau Members of the Fifth and Sixth Sessions for their support.
7. Reminding that the Seventh Session of OIC-StatCom coincides with the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of SESRIC, **HE Amb. Musa KULAKLIKAYA, Director General of SESRIC**, stated in his welcoming remarks that the value of statistics is best understood when sound policies based on *high quality* data lead to “development outcomes” and life-saving results. National ownership and investment into the National Statistical Systems (NSSs), South-South Cooperation (SSC) principles, 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA) were the main points that were raised also in his welcoming remarks. Additionally, Amb. KULAKLIKAYA touched upon the main discussion items of the current session which are population and housing censuses, migration statistics, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators and **Strategic Vision 2030 of OIC-StatCom**. Before ending his speech, the Director General of SESRIC expressed once again his sincere thanks to the outgoing OIC-StatCom Bureau Members of the Fifth and Sixth Sessions.
8. The message of **HE Dr. Yousef A. AL-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of the OIC**, was delivered by Mr. Nabil DABOUR, Assistant Director General of SESRIC. In view of OIC-2025 Programme of Action, the message of His Excellency stressed that the OIC Statistical Commission is set to guide development policy in OIC member states for the upcoming years through developing meaningful and reliable indicators as well as providing assistance to needy countries to significantly strengthen their national statistical capacities.
9. **Mr. Ousmane SECK, Manager at Islamic Development Bank (IDB)**, delivered his opening remarks first by thanking SESRIC for the organisation of the Seventh Session and then touched upon

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several issues regarding recent global economic developments, internal reforms of the IDB Group to better serve member countries and strengthen its business model for sustainable development solutions by decentralization.

Adoption of the Agenda

10. Dr. Suhariyanto, Chair of the Fifth and Sixth Sessions, summarized the Draft Agenda and opened the floor for any comments. The Agenda is adopted as it is.

Election of the Members of the Bureau (Chair, Vice Chairs and Rapporteur(s)) for Seventh and Ninth Sessions

11. As per the new nominations received, the Bureau Members of the OIC-StatCom for its Seventh and Eighth Sessions have been composed as follows: **Chair:** Malaysia, **Vice-Chairs:** Turkey and Tunisia, **Rapporteurs:** Palestine and Uganda.

Tour de Table: Introduction of Participants

12. The delegates have briefly introduced themselves. **Dr. Mohd Uzir MAHIDIN, Chief Statistician of Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)**, thanked the delegates and stated that it was a privilege to be chosen as Chair of the OIC-StatCom for its Seventh and Eighth Sessions.

Session on “Implemented and Planned Activities of OIC-StatCom”

13. **Dr. Atilla KARAMAN, Researcher at Statistics and Information Department (SID) of SESRIC**, presented the conducted and ongoing activities of the SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, including the statistical applications developed; namely, OIC Statistics Database (OIC-Stat), OIC Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF), SESRIC mobile application, OIC Ranker, and OIC Top-Bottom Finder. Dr. KARAMAN briefed the audience on the projects including Developing Islamic Finance Industry Database; Syria Palestinians Employment and Entrepreneurship Development Program (SPEED); and Development Finance Statistics including Workshop on Development Finance Statistics, Mapping the Landscape of Development Assistance Cooperation in OIC Countries, and Membership of SESRIC in TOSSD Task Force.
14. **Ms. Nenden Octavarulia SHANTY, Researcher at SID of SESRIC**, informed the audience about the statistical outreach projects and programmes, mainly OIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme Activities; Integration of the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) into the National Surveys in OIC Member Countries; Meeting of OIC-StatCom at UN Statistical Commission; Collaboration activities with International Organisations such as FAO, ILO, OPHI among others; Peer Review for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer); Monitoring Food Security; OIC Accreditation and Certification Programme: E-Learning Platform; Statistical Outreach Toolkit; and Bilateral agreements (MOUs) and other memberships in Global Networks.

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Questions and Answers

15. **UNFPA** asked whether SESRIC anticipated developing a database on development finance statistics in part of its efforts as these are already available in the OECD.Stat database. SESRIC replied that there is no intention to duplicate efforts exerted by other international agencies and informed that the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) is being developed by the TOSSD Task Force, of which SESRIC is a member, to broaden the official development assistance (ODA) approach by also considering the beneficiary country perspective for better measurement of development finance flows. In this regard, SESRIC underlined that there is a need for advancing the cooperation among international stakeholders to transfer the necessary know-how to enable the production of the relevant statistics and close data gaps. Currently, SESRIC conducts a survey to map the development assistance and cooperation landscape in OIC countries whose results will be transformed into an online directory to disseminate the information on development assistance and cooperation institutions in OIC countries. In this regard, the collaboration of OIC-StatCom members is being sought to facilitate the communication of the relevant survey to the relevant authorities in their respective countries. HE Amb. KULAKLIKAYA took the floor and added that different development assistance providers exist in the world. OECD collects data both from its Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members and non-DAC member countries including some OIC countries such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates which provide significant support to other countries. Reminding the membership of SESRIC in the TOSSD Task Force, the Director General of SESRIC kindly called on member countries to allocate more importance for increasing their visibility among other donor countries by strengthening their statistical systems. Beside the relevant institutions in OIC countries such as Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) reporting to DAC (from 300 million USD in early 2000s to 6 billion USD recently), HE Amb. KULAKLIKAYA highlighted that NGOs also provide huge amounts of development assistance flows and need to be considered as development partners.
16. **PARIS21** requested more information about the domains covered in the OIC Roster of Experts (ROSE). SESRIC responded that ROSE has 5 main statistical domains as currently found in the Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA)-Revision I-Oct. 2009 version and 1 additional domain titled “Professional Skills for Official Statisticians” to reflect the increasing need for managerial skills in official statistics. Registrations recorded in ROSE are mostly from NSOs but registration of some freelancers was also observed. SESRIC also informed that UNSD has recently expanded the coverage of CSA to include emerging statistical trends such as “big data” and SESRIC in this regard may include these items under relevant statistical domains of ROSE in the near future.
17. **AFRISTAT** congratulated SESRIC for the realized activities and asked for more information about an overview for budgetary figures on these statistical activities. SESRIC briefed that the budget of the Centre originates from the contributions received from OIC countries for its mandated three main

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activities including statistics, research, and training. SESRIC went on to say that despite the modest level of financial resources SESRIC has, the impact brought about in OIC countries is remarkable. SESRIC also mentioned that the resources allocated to the national statistical systems are not sufficient to handle the requirements of SDG monitoring and reporting framework; governments in this regard should invest on the development of infrastructure and human resources of their statistical systems. On his part, HE Amb. KULAKLIKAYA enlightened the audience that SESRIC depends on the contributions of OIC member countries yet more than half of them do not contribute to the annual budget of the Centre. SESRIC is open to contributions from Islamic Development Bank Group for further activities and projects in the field of official statistics. SESRIC conducts its activities based on the surveys to identify the needs and capacities of member countries, these are related to statistics and other issues related to other mandates of the Centre. SESRIC tries to find out possible contributions from member countries. After receiving survey responses, the Centre matches provider and beneficiary member countries within the spirit of South-South Cooperation. The Director General of SESRIC also mentioned that there are ongoing activities between the Centre and UNFPA and several activities were organised in collaboration with UNWTO on tourism satellite accounts. HE Amb. KULAKLIKAYA stressed the usefulness of in-kind contributions in such activities. In this connection, HE Amb. KULAKLIKAYA encouraged member countries to give more importance to the surveys circulated by SESRIC and emphasised that the sense of ownership is also necessary to guide the operations of the Centre.

18. **Sudan** on the other hand noted that as a matter of comparison, a strong cooperation exists between countries in Africa and African Development Bank on statistical matters. A similar collaboration with IDB in the same manner would be useful. SESRIC thanked once again IDB for co-organising the current Session and shared that the Centre allocates daily allowances and flight tickets to facilitate the organisation of the statistical missions. From this end, **SESRIC** reiterated its readiness for broadening the cooperation with IDB and other stakeholders.
19. **Tunisia** suggested that an analysis of the challenges of the Centre could provide a basis as a result of which the member countries can provide their support to alleviate these challenges. Tunisia affirmed their support for South-South cooperation activities of the Centre. Tunisia affirmed that serving OIC countries spread over 4 continents and different regions is a difficult issue for SESRIC. On the other hands, Tunisia highlighted that SESRIC can have a leading role on statistical themes specific to OIC countries such as statistics on Islamic finance. Tunisia also commented that SESRIC's role on sustainable development goals is important as well. **SESRIC** responded that all statistical activities conducted by the Centre have a linkage to the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision 2020 Document and whenever a new topic is planned to be conducted, it is brought to the OIC-StatCom to receive the approval of the participants. Concerning the work on the Islamic finance statistics, the OIC-StatCom took it in its priority statistical areas specific to OIC countries. SESRIC reminded that the Centre has

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designed and circulated the *Survey on Islamic Finance Industry Database for OIC Member Countries* and informed that the responses to be received from Central Banks and Capital Markets Authorities are crucial as these institutions are the main agencies to collect and disseminate data on Islamic finance activities, if any, in respective OIC countries. SESRIC stated that there are currently other institutions in OIC countries working on statistical issues of Islamic finance and SESRIC has the intention not to duplicate the efforts rather to complement them. In this regard, SESRIC became a member of the Task Force on Islamic Banking under the auspices of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA). The Task Force is expected to coordinate the statistical work pertaining to the Islamic finance, further the research on the statistical implications of Islamic Banking in the national accounts and develop practical guidance on the treatment of Islamic Banking transactions. Related to the SDGs, SESRIC asked OIC-StatCom members that have not yet provided their responses to the Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries to send their completed questionnaires as inclusion of the 23 OIC countries without responses into the analysis will enable to determine a sound SDG priority list at the OIC level. SESRIC is currently planning for the inclusion of an SDG category under its OICStat Database.

20. **Maldives** appreciated the statistical capacity building activities of SESRIC and asked for a mechanism for validating the skills of the experts to increase the quality of activities. Maldives also stated that the OICStat database is very good and requested if more focus can be given to small island developing states. **SESRIC** stated that the point raised by Maldives has been noted and it would exert more efforts for matching the appropriate experts in light of the needs stated by the beneficiary countries.
21. **AITRS** inquired about the size of the StatCaB Programme of SESRIC. **SESRIC** mentioned that StatCaB is the flagship programme of the Centre, and a bigger portion of the budget allocated for activities related to statistics is for the StatCaB programme. Regarding the challenges of the Centre in organising programmes, HE Amb KULAKLIKAYA highlighted that majority of these are related to the ownership by member countries and their sustainability. If countries can be involved, good platforms for cooperation can be brought about. Secondly, OIC countries are spread over four continents which requires SESRIC to be careful in matching OIC countries based on their announced needs and capacities. Language is also another barrier which majorly results in matching the countries within the same language group. Despite all these challenges, HE Amb. Musa KULAKLIKAYA expressed that SESRIC works hard to increase the number of activities and thanked OIC countries for their support in providing experts for the statistical activities. Concerning research topics, the Director General of SESRIC mentioned that requests for research themes are received through different OIC fora and thematic ministerial meeting, and SESRIC submits the relevant research report to these fora. For instance, the Centre currently conducts a research project on global Muslim diaspora in collaboration with a prominent university in Ankara. The project aims at shedding light on conditions of Muslims living in different countries; i.e., not only from the perspective of Islamophobia concerns

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but also participation of diaspora Muslims in the decision-making mechanisms in the countries they live. On its part, Turkey congratulated SESRIC for its activities on statistical capacity building and cooperation projects. In this context, TurkStat informed that it contributed its experts for 12 activities under the StatCab umbrella in 2017 and stated their readiness to continue to provide its support in the upcoming period. Chair underlined that all member countries should reconsider the ownership and sustainability issues further. He stated that taking responsibility is also important to fully cooperate and contribute to the success of SESRIC. Support can be in the form of sharing facilities for the activities to be conducted.

Session on “Improvement of Census Conduct and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses”

22. In this session, the presentations were delivered by **Mr. Srdan MRKIC** (UNSD), **Dr. Rachel SNOW** (UNFPA), **Mr. Ibrahim Mohammad AL-HAMEIZI** (GASTAT) of Saudi Arabia, **Ms. Ledia THOMO** (INSTAT) of Albania, **Mr. Jabbar MUSAYEV** (AzStat) of Azerbaijan, **Mr. Nyakassi M.B. SANYANG** (GBOS) of Gambia, **Mr. Mohammad NOUR MOHAMMADI** (SCI) of Iran, **Dr. Taiyseer Ahmad MUGDADI** (DoS) of Jordan, **Ms. Bakytkul UTEULINA** (CoS) of Kazakhstan, and **Mr. Tieble DIARRA** (INS) of Mali.
23. Following the presentations, the Chair opened the floor for questions and answers. **Sudan** noted that registration of divorces and marriages is difficult in some countries. Sudan also commented that the undocumented migrants in Saudi Arabia may cause issues for the upcoming Census and the upcoming election in Albania may have adverse impact on the Census to be conducted.
24. **Palestine** informed that challenges exist to have proper registrations which in nature are administrative and legal problems. In this regard, coordination with Health and Justice Ministries is important.
25. **Indonesia** stated that their upcoming census is in 2020, but there are challenges in data collection as Indonesia is composed of many islands of varying sizes. Indonesia asked whether there is a method of combining the de facto population and data extracted from CRVS. UNFPA was invited to elaborate more on cross validation when the data is unmatched and basic concept of residence.
26. Expressing the extraordinary circumstances in the country, **Libya** mentioned that it may plan to conduct census in some parts of the country. In this regard, they wanted to learn the type of assistance UNFPA and UNSD could provide to them.
27. Concerning the presentation of Iran, **Côte d’Ivoire** stated that registers could be used for census conduct but a few concerns exist. In this regard, they wanted to learn how Iran takes the informal sector and migrants which are not subject to censuses into consideration. Côte d’Ivoire also commented on Iran’s having multiple registration databases and recommended usage of only one database to avoid duplications as the system needs to be holistic.

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28. Concerning the presentation of Azerbaijan, **Benin** asked how long the census conduct takes and why 3 days were needed for the training of enumerators. Regarding the presentation of Iran, Benin wanted to learn about the reconciliation of the databases to ensure consistency.
29. **Pakistan** informed the participants that its census was completed in 2017 and the experience of Azerbaijan is very relevant to their work. Pakistan found the coverage of 52 questions problematic but expressed its readiness to share its experience with Azerbaijan.
30. **Saudi Arabia** informed that they will use a hybrid system to conduct their census 2020 which will include paying visit to all households. The census registration is expected to be completed by 2030.
31. **Uganda** raised the question to countries concerning the difficulties they had in conducting their censuses. Uganda reaffirmed that many government institutions fear to provide data about citizens through the registers they possess and also have difficulties in collecting data on *street children* using CRVS since these children do not have permanent address yet capturing data on them can be possible through the local leaders and authorities. Uganda added that in the course of providing official statistics, NSOs should be committed in respecting the privacy concerns of respondents and protecting the confidentiality of the data they provide. The concerns about privacy and confidentiality are increasing.
32. **Chair** proposed to discuss the issues raised by the countries on a bilateral basis during the dinner time.
33. **UNSD** reiterated that the assistance provided by UN institutions is separated according to division of labour among various agencies, and UNSD takes the lead for developing methodologies. On the other hand, UNFPA is more on the field. UNSD said they are not using *de jure* but *residential* population. According UNSD, identifiers are needed for small area statistics. In line with the usual definition, a person who stays during one year in a country should be counted within that country. Concerning the confidentiality issue, UNSD is advocating the usage of portable devices as they provide real time information and extremely efficient data editing features. As mentioned by UNSD, the critical point is to have legal framework which was mentioned by some countries during the interventions.
34. As a response to the question of Indonesia about cross validation for 1994-2004 successive censuses, **UNFPA** expressed that international migration is a missing factor that needs to be adjusted. UNFPA said that they can share a paper on this issue. UNFPA also stated that they are receiving requests concerning the workshops in Arab States and Africa to learn more about the hybrid censuses.

Session on “Enhancing the Production, Dissemination, and Use of Migration Statistics”

35. The presentations in this session were delivered by **Ms. Esra KAYI (IOM)**, **Ms. Petra Rose NAHMIAS (UNHCR)**, **Mr. Edi SETIAWAN (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)**, **Ms. Aishath SHAHUDA (NBS) of Maldives**, **Dr. Karamallah Ali Abdelrahman SALIH (CBS) of Sudan**, and **Ms. Şerife Dilek YILMAZ (TurkStat) of Turkey**.

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36. The Chair opened the floor for discussions concerning the presentations delivered. *UNFPA* asked about the reconciliation of categories of the Syrian refugees in Turkey and furthermore inquired what *temporary protection* means. *Turkey* responded that the number of Syrians coming to Turkey was 0 in 2011. However, this number increased in subsequent years and reached to around 3.5 million people. As these people are neither accepted as refugees nor asylum seekers, Turkish government gave them temporary protection status¹.
37. *PARIS21* asked Indonesia whether they compare the data with the census of the recipient country. *PARIS21* also asked Sudan how they came to know of the 20,000 Sudanese experts who migrated abroad. Indonesia responded that they adopted UN international migration standards, some sources of data are based on their own surveys and there are very small discrepancies. Sudan made a call that countries should share migration data so that each country could know each other.
38. *Turkey* took the floor and informed that they generate statistics based only on the stock population and national address based civil registration system. Annual registers are matched to generate the statistics. Currently, TurkStat hasn't disseminated these statistics. Also, TurkStat has observed differences in definitions between theirs and some of the OECD countries.

3 May 2018, Thursday

Session on “Prioritisation and Measurement of SDG Indicators and Their Reconciliation and Ownership at the National Level”

39. *Dr. Atilla Karaman (SESRIC), Mr. Rafik MAHJOUBI (PARIS21), Mr. Nguema Meye Paul HENRI (AFRISTAT), Mr. Ambroise ABANDA (INS) of Cameroon, Mr. Suhariyanto (BPS-Statistics Indonesia), Dr. Taiyseer AHMAD MUGDADI (DOS) of Jordan, Mr. Issoufou SAIDOU (INS) of Niger, Ms. Rabia AWAN (PBS) of Pakistan, Mr. Mahmoud M. A. ABDALRAHMAN (PCBS) of Palestine, and Mr. Abdirahman Omar DAHIR (DNS) of Somalia* delivered presentations in this session.
40. Following the presentations, the Chair opened the floor for the discussions. *UNHCR* inquired whether any considerations have been made by countries for disaggregating the data by refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) status. *UNHCR* informed the participants they are ready to cooperate with countries concerning this issue.

¹ Within the European Union context, temporary protection is a procedure of exceptional character to provide, in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from third countries who are unable to return to their country of origin, immediate and temporary protection to such persons, in particular if there is also a risk that the asylum system will be unable to process this influx without adverse effects for its efficient operation, in the interests of the persons concerned and other persons requesting protection

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41. *Sudan* responded that they consider data disaggregation by refugee and IDP status but they have some challenges and they are very keen to cooperate with UNHCR in this regard. According to Sudan, countries act differently as to the data disaggregation and asked whether it is possible to adopt one methodology or one common strategy.
42. *Gambia* said they consider statistical capacity development programmes very important and asked if any international organisation could provide such trainings to GBOS.
43. *Qatar* underlined that global and national level indicators differ from each other and in this respect MDPS has separate divisions for national and global indicators.
44. *Cameroon* mentioned the current databases do not address the issues and in reference to what Sudan said, they ask for the sharing of methodologies for their adaptation and integration by the countries.
45. *Maldives* advocated that administrative data systems need to be moderated in order to generate the SDG indicators, and even for migrant population within the context of DHS Programme. Maldives tries to include migrants yet they face problems.
46. *Pakistan* stated that their main problem is the data disaggregation issue as raised previously by UNHCR. As almost 1.5 million refugees live in the country, Pakistan also considers to cover the IDPs. In this regard, Pakistan expressed its readiness to cooperate with UNHCR.
47. *UNHCR* informed that Cameroon has participated in the EGM. The recommendations are taken at very high level and their operationalisation requires engagement with the relevant stakeholders. There is of course no way to disaggregate all SDGs but first they should select most important one.
48. *UNFPA* asked about the criteria that Pakistan uses for the prioritization of the SDGs. *Pakistan* responded that they worked on each indicator for their prioritization. Due to limited time, Pakistan referred to the framework paper prepared in this regard where each and every indicator has been thoroughly analysed.
49. *Libya* informed that even though they do not have refugees, their country is used as a transit country for irregular migration which affects the destination countries, mainly the European countries.
50. *UNSD* informed that the 48th Session of the UN Statistics Commission in March 2018 adopted new recommendations on refugee statistics. A compilers manual will be launched by next year. UNSD decided to work also on IDPs in the same way.
51. The *Chair* summarized the discussions and highlighted that the delegates benefitted from the presentations and the feedback shared. The Chair also reminded the participating countries which have not yet responded to the Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries to submit the completed surveys as soon as possible to enable the Secretariat to present a more comprehensive analysis on SDG priorities of OIC countries.

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Break-Out Session on “A New Strategic Vision for the OIC-StatCom: Where We Want to be by 2030”

52. In line with the Agenda of the Seventh Session of OIC-StatCom, the participants were divided into three groups according to their languages. The Secretariat informed the participants that the questions prepared for the Break-Out Session were to facilitate the discussions among group members and if wished the groups were free to add more questions or modify the current ones. The three groups had their discussions and prepared the summaries of their outcomes to share with the other groups in the plenary session.

53. **Mr. Gürdal GEDİK**, Head of International Relations and EU Coordination Group at Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and Moderator of the English-Speaking Group, summarized the group discussions as follows:

- The group went through the questions first, and then collected the opinions of the group members. It was difficult to form a common view on each question due to the different country contexts of the group members.
- One good opinion is that opportunities and challenges can be considered as one item since something can be both an opportunity and a challenge; such as SDGs.
- Fast growing IT and communication tools can be an opportunity and 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is very important.
- The items in the new Strategic Vision of OIC-StatCom should be harmonized in a way to complement each other.
- The new Strategic Vision needs to cover the strategic partnerships as it is not easy for NSOs to accomplish some objectives. Academia, private sector and other relevant stakeholders can come together with the NSOs for a solid partnership.
- It was proposed to move from traditional methods towards more modern ways such as Big Data and Open Data principles.
- The current statistical systems of OIC countries pose serious challenges. In this regard, peer review emerges as an indispensable tool and should be encouraged among member countries to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Vision. The work of SESRIC should be developed further on this subject. SESRIC may draft the Strategic Vision related to capacity needs and challenges to be overcome.
- Modalities were discussed for having a common data dissemination platform that will disseminate also the data specifically on OIC countries, particularly in the area of SDG indicators.
- Concerning “Guiding Values and Principles”, the present three values are still relevant. Inclusivity is also relevant as well when the social and cultural differences are taken into consideration.

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- Third goal of the Strategic Vision about “*To become the apex body of the OIC to develop common standards and methodologies for the statistical indicators specific to the OIC Member States*” should be rephrased to be compliant with international standards. There may be some indicators that are not defined by international institutions that are specific for OIC countries, so SESRIC can propose possible indicators and standards in this case.
 - UNSD suggested that a draft document could be prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to countries for their contributions so that it could be submitted to the Eighth Session of OIC-StatCom. UNSD also added that UNSC has a similar position. Usually, a long period (10 years as in the case of OIC-StatCom) should not be considered for a strategic plan document rather a shorter period (such as 5 years). The OIC-StatCom Bureau together with the support of the Secretariat can prepare the Draft Strategic Vision outline and circulate to OIC countries.
- 54.** On behalf of the Arabic Speaking Group, **Dr. Karamallah Ali Abdelrahman SALIH**, Director General of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Sudan, briefed the participants about the deliberations made among the participants as follows:
- Starting from the first part of the questions, as Islamic countries, Islam should be core item which can be deemed as an opportunity as OIC countries are culturally alike and have similar and close visions.
 - The following were indicated as challenges as a result of the group discussions: Geographical distance; differences in statistics between rich and poor countries and also between regions; lack of resources to cover the statistics of OIC countries that nearly made up 25% of the global population; lack of human resources; lack of quality; inadequate level of official statistics; and low level of awareness.
 - Statistical developments can be both an opportunity and a challenge and there is a need for more increased level of experience sharing among OIC countries.
 - Against these challenges, there is a need to develop statistical partnerships. Economies are changing and 15% of the national budgets should be allocated to the constituents of NSSs to obtain official statistics.
 - Concerning values and guiding principles, there is a need to combine these values with international standards.
- 55.** **Mr. Hedi SAIDI**, Director General of National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia, summarized the discussion items on behalf of the French Speaking Countries as the moderator of the group:
- Experience sharing should be promoted and advanced among member countries so that OIC countries can act collectively to enrich their knowledge.
 - Raising awareness on statistics is an important aspect to create synergy among the member countries for effective decision making.

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- As OIC countries have different levels of economic development, discrepancies are seen as challenges.
 - Geographical distribution should not be a challenge in the 21st century since there is technology.
 - It is important to collect data from the field.
 - More innovative methodologies should be developed in the production of statistics.
 - Modernisation of statistical productions is needed. NSOs should use new technologies such as tablets and satellite images. Human resources can be developed further in this regard. Some other opportunities can be combined; New Technologies, Big Data etc.
 - Solidarity is an important pillar for achieving the development objectives of OIC countries.
 - Concerning “*Guiding Values and Principles*”, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics can be used in this regard.
 - About implementation of the OIC Strategic Vision, OIC should deal with wealth of the member countries and scientific meetings should be organised in which NSOs can provide statistics.
- 56.** After hearing the summaries of the break-out groups, **Chair** opened the floor for further feedback and opinions. **UNSD** noted that the points raised by the groups are pertinent. Decisive steps should be taken by NSOs on how OIC and its relevant bodies should act. Ensuring the coordination should be more effective and targeted, OIC-StatCom should make sure there is an interaction between the regional bodies and international bodies such as UNSC.
- 57.** **Indonesia** underlined that division of the roles among the OIC countries is essential since there is also different stages of development with regards to statistics. Indonesia asked Sudan about the allocation of 15% of national budgets to the NSS. **Sudan**, on behalf of the Arabic Speaking Group, replied that 15% was indicated as a proposal by some regional and international organisations such as AFRISTAT and EUROSTAT.
- 58.** **AITRS** proposed having distance learning programmes as a capacity building modality so as to have a cost-efficient system. Some universities can be contacted to develop a common statistical e-learning programme for the OIC countries. AITRS has worked on a proposal concerning this modality and can share it with the interested parties. This will alleviate the burden on the short-term training courses. **SESRIC** informed the participants that it exerts efforts to transform the OIC Certification Programme for Official Statisticians (CPOS) project into a statistical e-learning platform for OIC countries.
- 59.** **SESRIC** reminded that Strategic Vision 2020 of the OIC-StatCom was prepared after the consultations taken place within the established Working Group to draft the Strategic Vision document and proposed to the participants that the same approach could be employed for the new Strategic Vision document. This group may further consider the appropriate period of the Strategic Vision. **SESRIC** invited the participating countries to either lead the Working Group or become its member. The **Chair** opened the floor for volunteer member countries to lead the Working Group. **Malaysia** and **Iran** were

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agreed as the Co-Chairs of the Working Group which will work to develop the new Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom with support of the Secretariat.

Session on “62nd ISI World Statistics Congress”

60. **Dr. Mohd Uzir MAHIDIN**, Chief Statistician of Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), briefed the participants about the International Statistical Institute’s (ISI) 62nd World Statistics Congress (WSC) which will be held on 18-23 August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and how the OIC-StatCom members may contribute to and benefit from the WSC 2019. The ISI WSC and their associated events are the apex activities of the ISI and take place once every 2 years in different countries.
61. At the end of the presentation, the participants were invited for the questions and answers session. The **IDB** indicated that they are in the process of deciding the scope of the support for the ISI WSC 2019. As one of the member countries providing support to the WSC, **Qatar** briefed the delegates that they will organise a Special Topic Session on Modernisation of Statistics during the event. Malaysia invited also other member countries to organise similar events in the margins of the ISI WSC 2019.

Adoption of Resolutions, Any Other Business and Closing Remarks

62. The OIC-StatCom Secretariat shared the Draft Resolutions (in three official languages of the OIC) with the participants. The Draft Resolutions were prepared in light with the discussions taken place during the two days of the Commission. After the deliberations, the Draft Resolutions were adopted by the participants.
63. After the adoption of the Draft Resolutions, **Dr. Mohd Uzir MAHIDIN**, Chief Statistician of Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and the Chair of OIC-StatCom for Seventh and Eighth Sessions and **HE Amb. Musa KULAKLIKAYA**, Director General of SESRIC, delivered their Closing Remarks at the end of the Session.