Progress Report on "Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)"

1. Background

The Fifth Session of OIC-StatCom, held on 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara-Turkey, expressed the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems to better plan and to coordinate the future strategies of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). The OIC-StatCom requested the OIC-StatCom secretariat to initiate a project entitled "Peer Review for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)." This project aims to facilitate south-south learning in statistical development through a peer review mechanism to enhance the credibility of the National Statistical Systems (NSS), to strengthen the system's capacity to produce high-quality statistics and to reassure stakeholders about the quality of statistics produced by the NSOs and the trustworthiness of the system. Sound high-quality data and statistical analysis play important role for policy-making at national and international level.

2. Some Examples of Statistical System Peer Reviews

There are some samples of Statistical System Peer Reviews in the world, namely:

a. **Peer Reviews (PR) by Eurostat**

The Peer Review is based on the structure and procedures of the ESS (European Statistical System) peer reviews and is designed for candidate countries and countries with a developed statistical system. The objectives of these reviews are, in particular, to assess compliance of the reviewed National Statistical Institute (NSI) with principles 1-6 and 15 of the European Statistics Code of Practices, to evaluate the coordination role of the NSI within the statistical system, to highlight transferable practices suitable to foster compliance with the Code of Practice and to recommend improvement actions needed in view of fully complying with the Code.

b. **Global Assessments (GA) by Eurostat together with UNECE and EFTA**

The Global Assessments are based on traditional global reviews of statistical systems suitable for countries aiming at aligning their statistical production with European/international standards. The objectives of GAs are to assess the administrative and technical capacity of the reviewed statistical systems, to assess the statistical law and other legal acts and its respect of the European and international recommendations and principles, to assess the mechanisms used by the National Statistical Institute to coordinate the statistical system, to review the medium and long-term planning

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mechanisms in place, to propose a list of actions to be undertaken in order to improve and strengthen the statistical system, and to assess the statistical production against the European/international standards in statistics.

c. **Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems implemented by PARIS21**

The African peer review of NSSs was launched by the Economic Commission for Africa's Committee on Development Information (CODI) meeting in 2003. CODI recommended that African countries, supported by PARIS21, carry out peer reviews to ensure that good practice passes from country to country, based on the firsthand experience of peers, to help accelerate the change processes in reforming statistical systems. The focus of this peer reviews is on governance of the National Statistical System (NSS), its organisation, strategic planning, service to users, funding, and sustainability. Peer review teams typically include both senior statisticians (normally the head or deputy head of the NSS) and senior policy makers from two other countries.

3. OIC Member Countries Experienced in Peer Review Mechanisms

There are 18 OIC countries which have been reviewed in coordination with international organisations such as Eurostat, PARIS21, UNECE, and EFTA. Additionally, 14 OIC countries have involved in M&E mechanisms through being in the review team. Hence, in total **24 OIC countries** have experiences in peer review processes either as the reviewed country or as the reviewer.

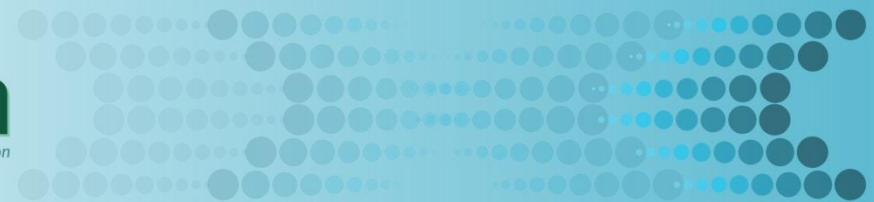*Table 1. OIC Member Countries Experienced in Peer Review Mechanisms*

No	Country	Year of Review	Peer Review Coordination	Reviewed By	Type of Review
1	*Albania*	2015, 2013, 2010	Eurostat		Limited Peer Review, Light Peer Review, Adapted Global Assessment
2	*Azerbaijan*	2010, 2016/2017	Eurostat, EFTA, UNECE		Adapted Global Assessment, Global Assessment
3	*Benin*	2010	PARIS21	Burundi and *Guinea*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
4	*Burkina Faso*	2009	PARIS21	*Cameroon* and *Niger*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
5	Cambodia	2016	PARIS21	*Indonesia*, Philippines and ASEAN Secretariat	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems

No	Country	Year of Review	Peer Review Coordination	Reviewed By	Type of Review
6	Congo	2010	PARIS21	*Benin* and Democratic Republic of the Congo	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
7	*Cameroon*	2015	PARIS21	*Chad* and *Senegal*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
8	*Cote d'Ivoire*	2017	PARIS21	*Cameroon* and *Senegal*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
9	*Egypt*	2014	Eurostat		Sector Review of the Implementation of the Labour Force Survey
10	*Jordan*	2014, 2017	Eurostat		Sector Review of the Implementation of the Labour Force Survey, Peer Review
11	*Kazakhstan*	2008, 2017	Eurostat, UNECE, UNESCAP		Adapted Global Assessment, Second Global Assessment
12	*Kyrgyzstan*	2011	Eurostat, EFTA, UNECE		Adapted Global Assessment
13	Malawi	2009	PARIS21	*Mozambique* and Tanzania	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
14	*Mauritania*	2014	PARIS21	*Djibouti* and *Mali*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
15	*Mozambique*	2009	PARIS21	Malawi and Tanzania	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
16	Myanmar	2016	PARIS21	*Malaysia*, Philippines and ASEAN Secretariat	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
17	*Niger*	2009	PARIS21	*Burkina Faso* and *Mauritania*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems

No	Country	Year of Review	Peer Review Coordination	Reviewed By	Type of Review
18	*Palestine*	2012	Eurostat		Light Peer Review
19	*Senegal*	2011	PARIS21	*Cote d'Ivoire* and *Guinea*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
20	*Tajikistan*	2013	Eurostat, EFTA, UNECE		Adapted Global Assessment
21	*Tunisia*	2014, 2015	Eurostat		Adapted Global Assessment, Sector Review of the Implementation of the Labour Force Survey
22	*Turkey*	2015, 2011, 2002	Eurostat		Peer Review, Light Peer Review, Global Assessment

4. Activities Conducted within the Project Framework

a. **Activity 1 – Organisation of Expert Group and Roundtable Meetings (EGM and RM)**. The meetings were held on 3-4 November 2016 attended by EuroStat and the delegates from 14 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC member countries, namely Azerbaijan, Albania, Benin, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uganda. PARIS21 also attended the meeting virtually. The meeting had the objectives to introduce the Peer Reviews mechanisms in the world including the methodology of different methods, to receive recommendations and inputs on the OIC-Peer project, and to discuss the way forward.

b. **Activity 2 – OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) Design and Circulation**: Questionnaire on the current situation about the implementation of Peer Reviews in the OIC Member Countries. The questionnaires were designed and circulated in three official languages of the OIC on 10 January 2017.

c. **Activity 3** – **Collection and Collation of OPRIS:** to collect and collate the questionnaire responses. As of 1 August 2017, 31 responses were received (23 of them were completed while 8 of them still have missing information in the OPRIS part).

d. **Activity 4 – Organisation of Virtual Meetings**. The meetings had been conducted since 2016 with the participation of Eurostat, PARIS21 and TurkStat. Last virtual meeting was held on 18 October 2017 with the aim to finalise the draft concept note and agenda for the OIC-Peer Workshop to be held on 19-20 December 2017.

e. **Activity 5 – Organisation of Workshop**: to provide information on the peer review mechanism and methodology including preparatory materials that need to be prepared by the countries before conducting peer review. This workshop also give a chance to the

countries to voluntary engage in the Peer Review process. Conducted on 19-20 December 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

f. **Activity 6 – Updating the Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE)**. In order to gather a pool of highly competent experts that will be candidates for the teams of OIC-Peer Programme, the Centre added additional question in the ROSE registration form (http://www.sesric.org/rose-form.php) related to whether the experts has experience in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms for NSS.

g. **Activity 7** – **Gathering Experts for OIC-Peer Programme**. The Centre circulated a Note Verbale together with the ROSE contact information form on 27 March 2018 to the NSOs of OIC countries to send their qualified candidates' contact details.

5. Workshops Conducted within the Project Framework

5.1.1. *Expert Group and Roundtable Meetings on 'Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)'*

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on 'Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)' was organised by SESRIC on 3 November 2016 in Konya, Republic of Turkey. The Meeting has the objectives to introduce the Peer Reviews mechanisms in the world including the methodology of different methods, to receive recommendations and inputs on the OIC-Peer project, and to discuss the way forward. The EGM was attended by EuroStat and the delegates from 14 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC member countries, namely Azerbaijan, Albania, Benin, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uganda. Paris21 also attended the meeting virtually.

During the EGM, the participants were briefed about the Peer Reviews for NSOs in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer) Project and Peer Review Mechanisms in the World. Countries' experiences in conducting Peer Review were also presented during the meeting.

Based on the discussions and deliberations made during the EGM, a Technical Team composing volunteering countries will be formed to share their experience with SESRIC including to ameliorate the content and structure of draft OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) and to suggest the most appropriate underlying criteria/benchmark based on which the compliance of the OIC Member Countries will be assessed.

On 4 November 2016, the Roundtable Meeting (RM) was held as a half-day back to back meeting following the end of the EGM. The RM was attended by Eurostat, Paris21 (virtually) and Turkish Statistical Institute. In this meeting, the way forward and the timeline of the Project were discussed in detail.

5.1.2. Workshop on 'Peer Review Mechanisms for National Statistical Offices in OIC Member Countries'

SESRIC in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) organised the Workshop on 'Peer Review Mechanisms for National Statistical Offices in OIC Member Countries' on 19-20 December 2017 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

38 participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 25 OIC countries including Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Uzbekistan and 4 international organisations, namely Eurostat, PARIS21, African Union Commission (AUC) and SESRIC, attended the workshop.

During the Workshop, the OIC-Peer Project including survey results of OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS), Peer Review Mechanisms Conducted by International Organisations, and Country Experiences in Conducting the Peer Review Process and the way forward were discussed. The mechanisms of peer reviews including preparatory phases, selection of expert team, country visits, validation of results/reports and follow-up were also discussed during the brainstorming session on 'OIC-Peer: Conduct and the Way Forward'.

6. The Result of OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS)

In order to learn the current situation on the implementation of peer reviews in the NSOs of OIC member counties, the Centre prepared the OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) together with the partners including Eurostat, PARIS21, and Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and circulated the OPRIS to the NSOs of OIC member countries on 10 January 2017.
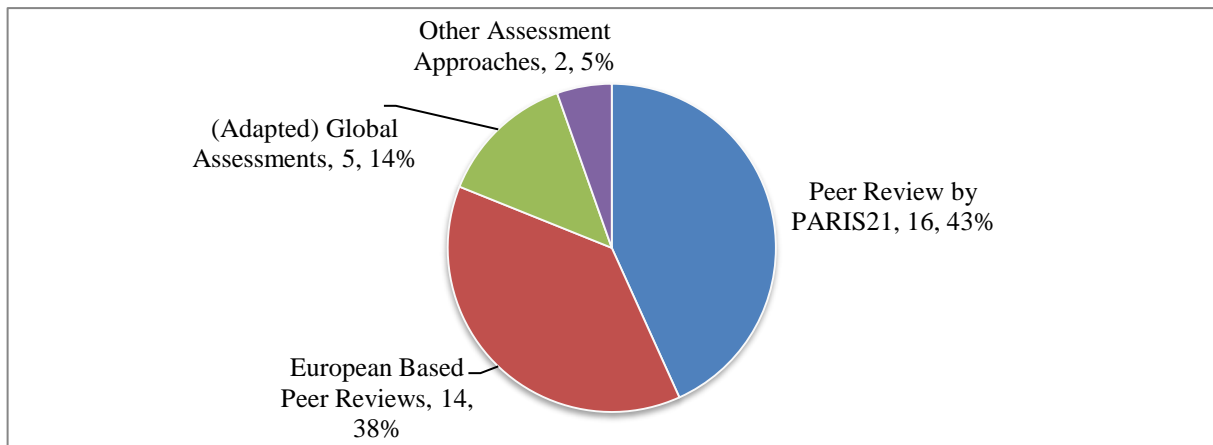
The questionnaire consists of two parts: In 'Introduction' part, the respondents are asked to provide general information regarding their institution and focal point responsible for responding to the questionnaire. In 'OPRIS' part, the survey includes 10 questions with a total of 12 sub-questions to learn the current situation on the implementation of Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries. As of December 2017, 33 OIC member countries have responded to the survey (Table 2) where 25 member countries fully completed the questionnaire and 8 member countries provided partial answers; whereas, 23 OIC member countries have not yet submitted their completed questionnaires.
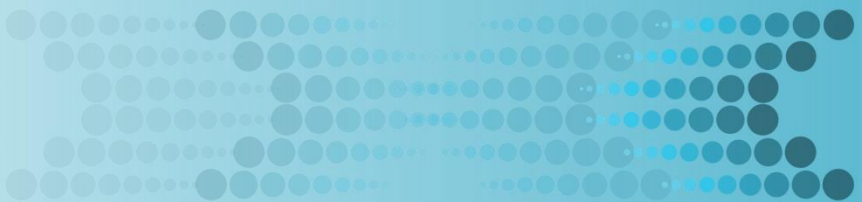
Table 2. Respondents by Region

EAST ASIA and PASIFIC (4)	EUROPE and CENTRAL ASIA (4)	MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA (13)	SOUTH ASIA (2)	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (10)
Bangladesh	Albania	Bahrain	Afghanistan	Benin
Brunei	Tajikistan	Egypt	Pakistan	Cameroon
Indonesia	Tunisia	Iran		Chad
Malaysia	Turkey	Iraq		Cote d'Ivoire
		Jordan		Gabon
		Kuwait		Mozambique
		Libya		Niger
		Oman		Nigeria
		Palestine		Togo
		Saudi Arabia		Uganda
		Sudan		
		UAE		
		Yemen		

Based on the responses, it is found that there are 24 countries (74% of the total respondent countries) aware of any peer review approach for NSOs conducted by international organisations while the other 9 countries are not. As shown in Figure 1, peer review facilitated by PARIS21 is mostly known by the respondent countries while two countries (i.e., Egypt and Saudi Arabia) stating that they are also aware of other assessment approaches namely the peer review for Economic Statistics (National Accounts) facilitated by the African Development Bank (AfDB)[1] and peer review by United Nations.

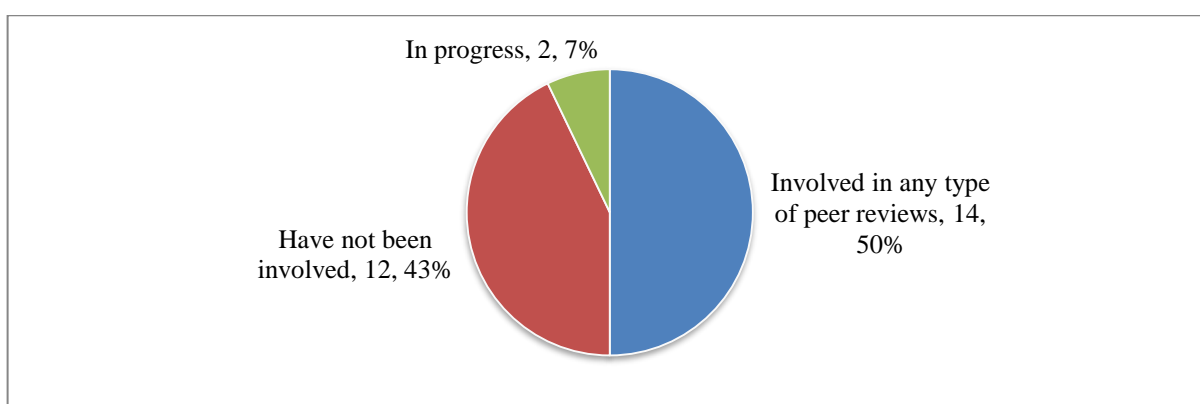*Figure 1. Type of Peer Reviews Known by the Respondent Countries*

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[1] The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the AfDB is a mutually agreed instrument and voluntarily acceded by the African Union member states as a self-monitoring mechanism. As at June 2016, 35 African Union Member States[1] (note: 20 of them are OIC member countries) had joined APRM and by joining the APRM, the Member States agree to voluntarily and independently review their compliance with African and international governance commitments. See https://au.int/en/organs/aprm for the list of 35 AU Member States joining the APRM.
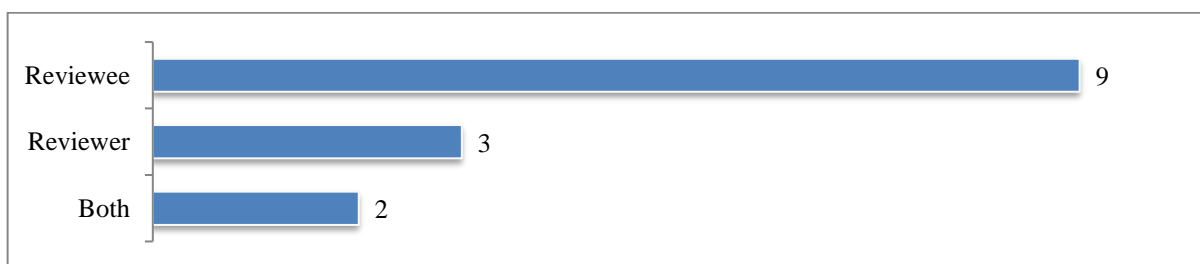
In the survey, we also questioned whether the countries have been involved in any type of peer review processes. Fourteen respondent countries have been involved in peer reviews, namely 7 countries[2] for peer reviews by Eurostat, 6 countries[3] by PARIS21 and one country[4] has been involved in other assessment which cannot be identified as the answer from the respondent country was not clear concerning the type of peer review. Besides, Egypt also stated in the survey that they were involved in the African Development Bank peer review programme as well[5]. Two countries are in progress of conducting the peer reviews, namely Oman and Saudi Arabia, while the other 12 respondent countries[6] stated that they have no experience in conducting any type of peer reviews (See Figure 2).

Figure 2. Countries Involvement in Any Type of Peer Review Processes

Of 14 countries stated that they have been involved in peer review process, 9 countries[7] were being reviewed and 3 countries[8] were being in the reviewer teams while 2 countries[9] have been involved in both, reviewer and reviewee (See Figure 3).

Figure 3. Countries' Experiences in Peer Review Processes

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[2] Involved in peer reviews by Eurostat (7): Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Niger, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey
[3] Involved in peer reviews by PARIS21 (6): Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Mozambique and Niger
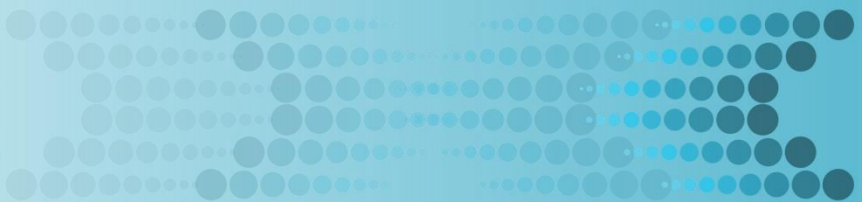[4] Iraq did not specify the type of peer review that they have been involved in.
[5] The review was conducted for Economic Statistics under National Account department of CAPMAS of Egypt.
[6] No experience in conducting peer reviews (12): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Brunei, Chad, Gabon, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Togo, UAE, Uganda and Yemen.
[7] Reviewee (9): Albania, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Niger, Oman, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey.
[8] Reviewer (3): Iraq, Jordan and Malaysia.
[9] Both (2): Cameroon and Mozambique.

These information are in line with our pre-research while for Benin and Cote d'Ivoire, we found that they were also involved as reviewers in reviewing Congo and Senegal (please see Table 1). The other two countries who are currently in progress conducting the peer review are Oman and Saudi Arabia in which Oman indicated that they are currently in the process of renewing Oman's Statistical Law and Quality Assurance Framework and Code of Practice of Official Statistical System while Saudi Arabia is in the process of conducting peer review by PARIS21 which was started since 2016 and is expected to finalise the review process in 2018.

When it comes to the question concerning the advantage of peer review to the institutions, 12 countries[10] indicated that it is *very beneficial* while the other 4 countries[11] indicated the advantage of conducting the peer review as *somewhat beneficial*. Table 3 shows countries' reasons concerning the advantage of peer review to their institutions.

Table 3. Countries' Reasons Concerning the Advantage of Peer Review

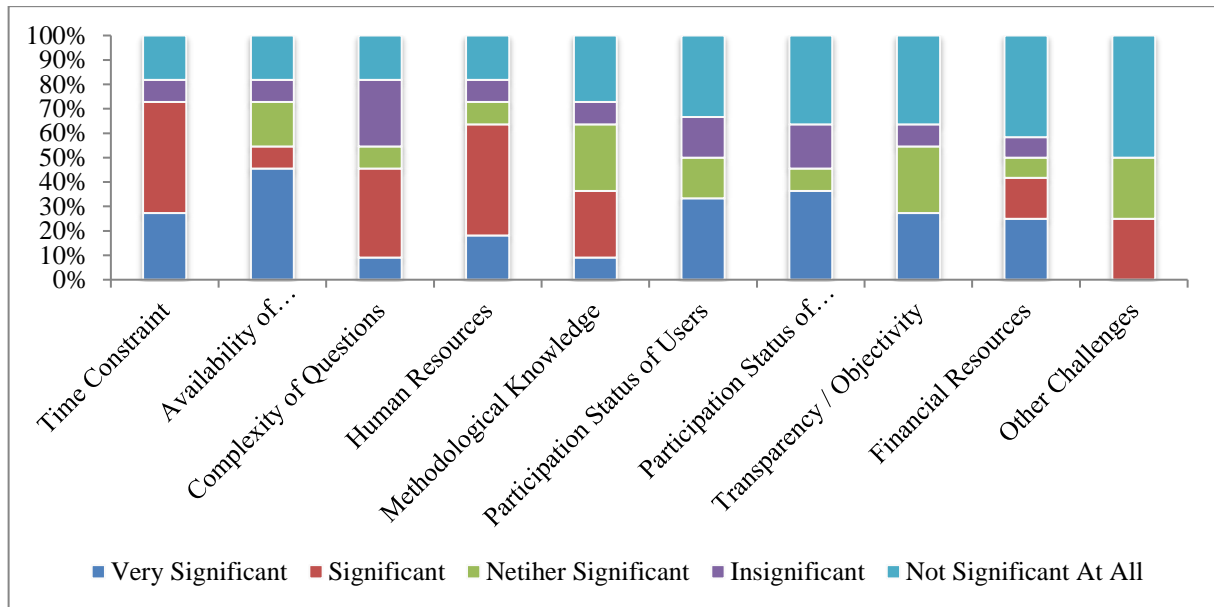| No	Countries	Reason
1	Albania	The PR assessment is used as a strategic document for future for development of statistical legal framework, enhancing the professional independence, quality of official statistics and the image of the institution.
2	Benin	Sharing experiences allows us to improve by finding innovative solutions to the problems we face that are resolved by our peers in their context. However, the approach is limited as to its ability to influence leaders.
3	Cameroon	At the end of the peer review, very important recommendations were made, the implementation of which could significantly improve the National Statistical System.
4	Cote d'Ivoire	Enriching exchanges between the actors of the National Statistical System (NSS); Identification of the strengths and weaknesses of the NSS; Proposal of recommendations; Establishment of a mechanism for monitoring recommendations; etc.
5	Egypt	The best experiences were co - shared between the reviewer and the reviewee.
6	Niger	Built on the same time horizon as the National Development Plan (2017-2021), it participates in the implementation of some of its strategic outcomes, including management of the economy and monitoring and evaluation in general.
7	Saudi Arabia	Helped in facilitating the transformation of the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT).
8	Mozambique	We could get ideas how our system is going on and also we could improve what needed more attention and action to be done.

It is in fact that peer review is not only giving advantages to the institutions, but also some countries were facing some challenges during the conduct of peer review. There are 9 countries (56% of the 14 countries who were involved in peer reviews and who are in the process of conducting the peer review) stated that they faced some challenges during the peer

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[10] Very beneficial (12): Albania, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malaysia, Niger, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey.
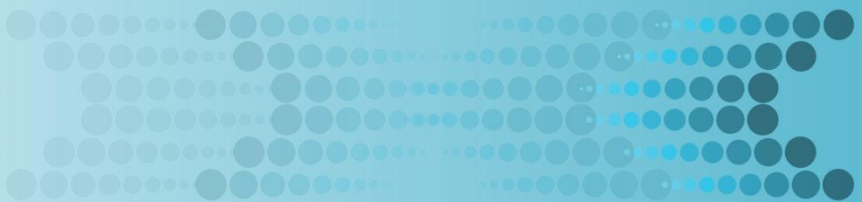[11] Somewhat beneficial (4): Benin, Iraq, Jordan and Mozambique.

review process while the other 8 countries are not. The following Figure 4 illustrates the level of significance for each challenges faced during the conduct of peer review.

Figure 4. Challenges Faced by the Respondent Countries during Peer Review Process
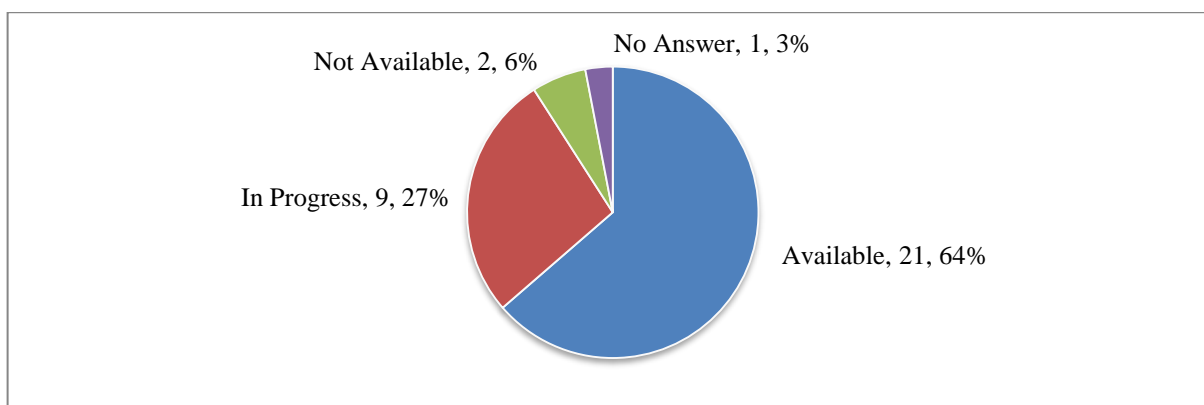

It could be seen from the chart that the *availability of documentation* with respect to statistical processes, *participation status of users* (such as media representatives, NGOs, etc) attended to the peer review meetings and *participation status of producers* (such as other national authorities) attended to the peer review meetings are the very significant challenges affected the conduct of peer review. Besides, *time constraints* for the completion of the peer review procedures, *complexity of questions* asked in the peer review process, number of *human resources* required to complete peer review request and *methodological knowledge of human resources* need in terms of peer review process are considered as the significant challenges affected the conduct of peer review process. On the other hand, *financial resources* is considered as not significant at all to facilitate the meetings, movement and the conduct of peer review itself. This is supported the methodology of peer review by PARIS21 and Eurostat in which they did cost sharing between the host country and the international organisation supporting the peer review process. For instance, PARIS21 has funded international travel and per diem expenses, as well as providing the facilitators; while the host countries have provided internal travel and office facilities (Samuel et al, 2010). Samuel et al (2010) argued that '*peer reviews are not necessarily directly linked to NSDS process but, country costs can be included in National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) funding*'.

As the NSDS is a framework for the coordination of all statistical activities within a country and also for all international and bilateral assistance for statistics to a country (PARIS21,

2007), a question concerning the availability of NSDS or Strategic Plan in the institution was raised in the survey. Figure 5 shows that from 33 respondent countries, 21 countries[12] indicated that they have NSDS/Strategic Plans, 9 countries[13] are having their NSDS under the development while 2 countries[14] indicated that they do not have NSDS/Strategic Plan at the moment. Kuwait did not respond to this question thus further inquiry will be asked to the Central Statistical Bureau (CBS) of Kuwait in order to have complete answer from all respondent countries.

Figure 5. Availability of NSDS or Strategic Plan in NSOs of Respondent Countries

The implementation period of the countries' NSDS/Strategic Plan are varied as shown in Table 4 below.

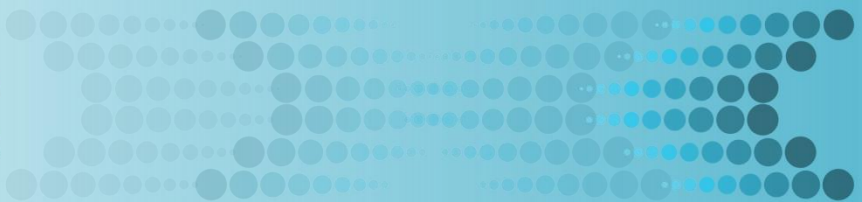*Table 4. Implementation Period of Country's NSDS/Strategic Plan*

No.	Countries[15]	NSDS/Strategic Plan Implementation Period
1	Afghanistan	2016-2020
2	Albania	2012-2016. Next NSDS: 2017-2021
3	Bahrain	2014-2018. Next NSDS: 2018-2020
4	Bangladesh	2013-2023
5	Benin	2017-2022 (in progress)
6	Brunei	2014-2023
7	Cameroon	2015-2020
8	Chad	2011-2015
9	Egypt	2018/2019-2023 (in progress)
10	Gabon	2016-2020
11	Indonesia	2015-2019

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[12] NSDS available (21): Afghanistan, Albania, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uganda.

[13] NSDS is under development (9): Benin, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, Togo, UAE and Yemen.

[14] No Current NSDS available (2): Cote d'Ivoire and Pakistan.

[15] 30 countries are represented the countries indicated that either they have NSDS or their NSDS are still in the process of development.

No.	Countries	NSDS/Strategic Plan Implementation Period
12	Iran	2017-not indicated (in progress)
13	Iraq	2013-2017
14	Jordan	2017-2021 (in progress)
15	Libya	2018-2022 (in progress)
16	Malaysia	2015-2020
17	Mozambique	2013-2017 (possible to extend until 2019)
18	Niger	2017-2021
19	Nigeria	2017-2020
20	Oman	2016-2020
21	Palestine	2014-2018. Next NSDS: 2018-2022
22	Saudi Arabia	2016-2020
23	Sudan	2012-2016
24	Tajikistan	2012-2016. Next NSDS: 2016-2018
25	Tunisia	2017-2020 (in progress)
26	Turkey	2017-2021
27	Togo	2018-2022 (in progress)
28	UAE	2018-2022
29	Uganda	2013/14-2017/18. Next NSDS: 2013/14-2019/20
30	Yemen	2018-2020

Next question was about whether the country's current/planned NSDS/Strategic Plan is compliant with the National Development Plan. This question was actually aiming as an exercise to the country as this question is part of the Self-Assessment questionnaire. Of 28 countries responded to the question, 9 countries[16] indicated that they are *fully compliant*, 16 countries[17] *highly compliant* and 3 countries[18] answered *neutral*. Bangladesh argued that they are at the preliminary stage and thus they considered their NSDS/Strategic Plan as neutral to the National Development Plan while Oman argued that 'five year development plan does not reflect the work of National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) of Oman explicitly. But it provides orientation for each required area of statistics'. On the other hand, Yemen argued that they have no experience which could help them to hold the NSDS as fully compliant thus they positioned their NSDS as neutral.

The focus on the peer review is on the governance of the NSS, its organization, strategic planning, service to users, funding, sustainability, etc. All of these were set against the backdrop of the fundamental principles of official statistics. To learn which fundamental principles are followed by the NSOs of OIC member countries, we set a question concerning this issue in the survey. Figure 6 shows the fundamental principles followed by the respondent countries.

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[16] Fully compliant (9): Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Turkey and UAE.
[17] Highly compliant (16): Afghanistan, Albania, Bahrain, Benin, Brunei, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Uganda.
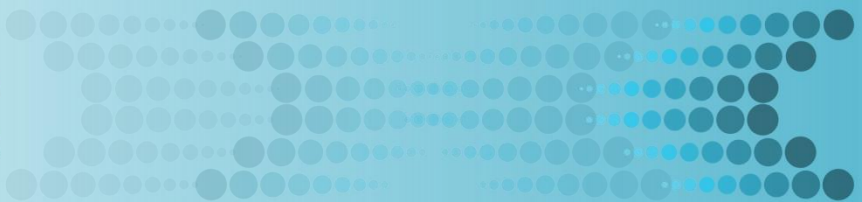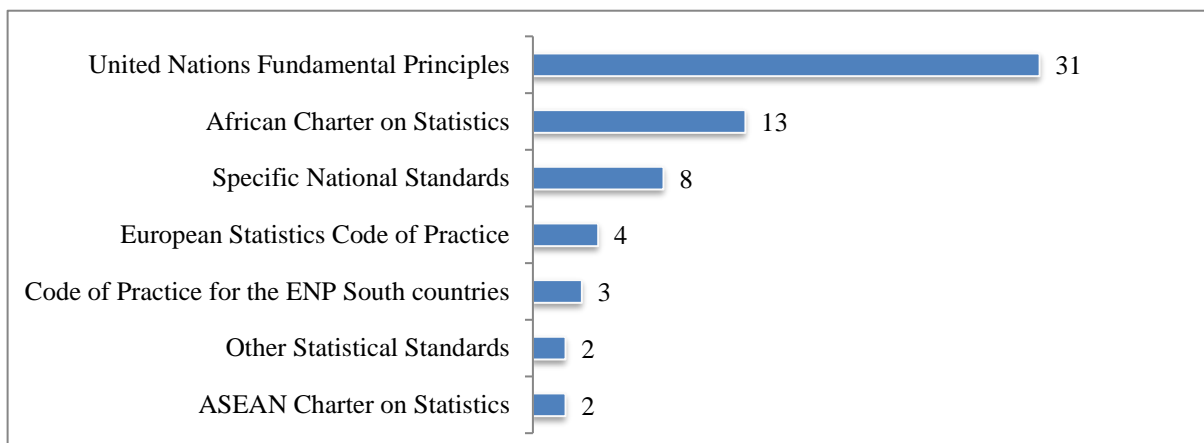[18] Neutral (3): Bangladesh, Oman and Yemen.

Figure 6. Fundamental Principles Followed by the Respondent Countries

From the graph above, it could be seen that 31 countries[19] (91% of the total respondent countries) indicated that they follow the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, while 13 countries[20] which are majority from the member states of African Union indicated that they followed the African Charter on Statistics. Eight countries indicated that they followed specific national standards as well, namely Bangladesh (i.e., as per national demand when indicators appear), Cameroon (i.e., National Statistics Law; the Code of Good Practice in the Production of Official Statistics; the Manual of Concepts and Definitions Used in the Official Statistics of Cameroon; the Investigations Dictionary; the National Quality Assurance Framework (in preparation)), Cote (no explanation), Libya (no explanation), Pakistan (no explanation), Palestine (i.e., Code of Practice for Palestine's Official Statistics), Tunisia (no explanation) and Uganda (no explanation).
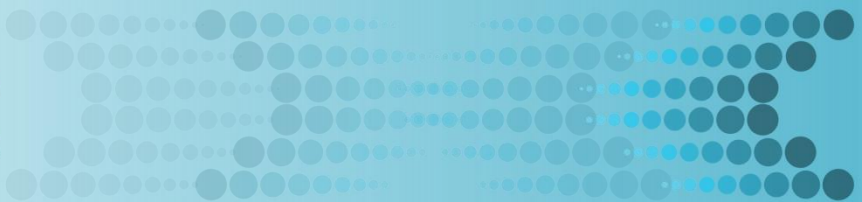
In order to learn country interest in the peer review process, a question on whether the country would like to be engaged in the peer review process was asked at the end of the survey. 79% of the total respondent countries (26 countries[21]) showed their interest to be engaged in the peer review process as either to be a reviewer, reviewee or both; while another 21% of the total respondent countries (7 countries) did not want to be engaged in the peer review process. This is due to several reasons as follows:

1. Security and lack of funds.
2. Ongoing reorganization/restructuring of the institution and departments.

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[19] UN Fundamental Principles (31): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Cote, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Togo, UAE and Uganda

[20] African Charter on Statistics (13): Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Cote, Egypt, Gabon, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Togo and Uganda
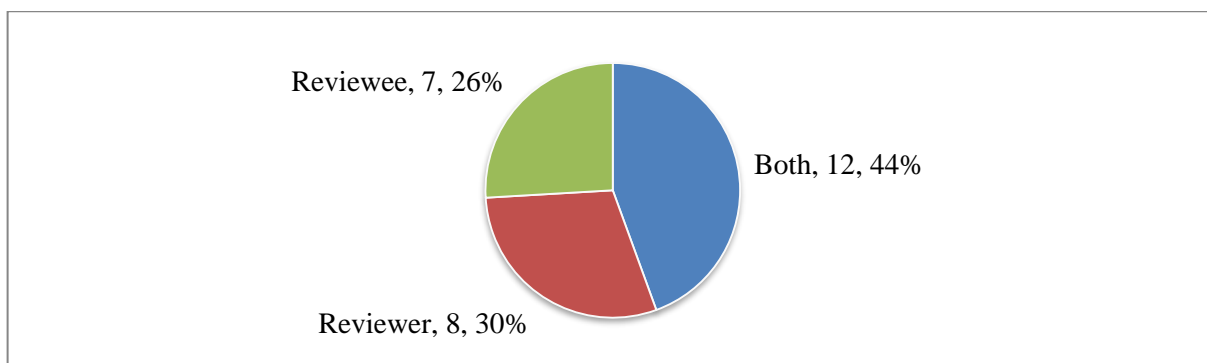
[21] Countries want to be engaged in peer review process (26): Albania, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Togo, Uganda and Yemen.

3. Recent experience in conducting/implementing peer review in the institution.
4. Priority is given to the implementation of NSDS.
5. Priorities are given to the internal structure reformation, capacity building and the completion of the activation of new organizational structure and reconstruction of the national statistical system.

Figure 7 shows the number of countries who want to be engaged in peer review process either being a reviewer, reviewee or both.

Figure 7. Countries' Interests to be Part of the Peer Review Process/Project[22]

7. Planned Activities

a. SESRIC will work together with all relevant national, regional, international and supranational stakeholders for the implementation of peer reviews of NSOs of OIC countries and supported the proposal of a multilateral agreement among SESRIC, Eurostat, PARIS21 and AUC for determining the cooperation modalities among them concerning the OIC-Peer Programme to support the countries in their common scope of work.

b. SESRIC will participate in peer reviews as an observer and/or partner institution through incorporating the know-how and experience gained by the relevant stakeholders.

c. SESRIC, as being the main information bank of OIC and the secretariat of OIC-StatCom, will host an Online Repository of Peer Review Documents with proper intellectual property acknowledgements and requested relevant stakeholders to share the related documents with SESRIC.

d. The received experts nominated by the NSOs will be entered into SESRIC ROSE system.

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[22] Reviewer (8): Bangladesh, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Iran, Malaysia, Niger, Tunisia and Turkey.
   Reviewee (6): Albania, Benin, Brunei, Mozambique, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Togo.
   Both (12): Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

ANNEX 1: Recommendations - Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer) on 3 November 2016 held in Konya, Republic of Turkey
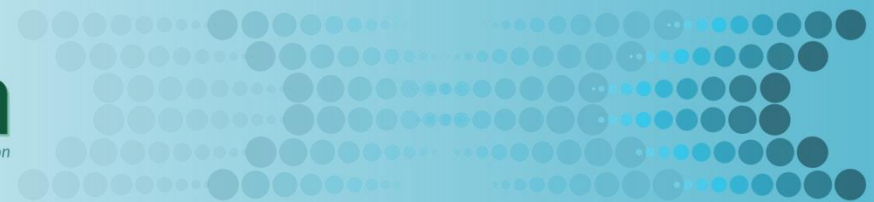
Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)
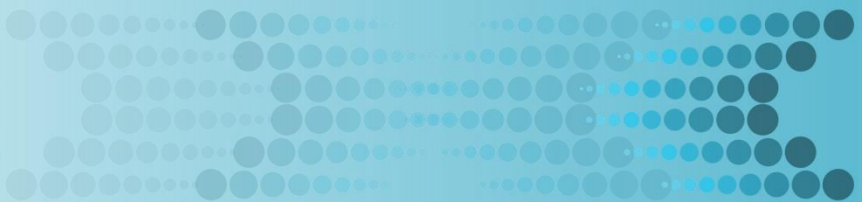
3 November 2016, Konya – Turkey

RECOMMENDATIONS

Expressing their thanks to the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for the support in organising the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer) which was held on 3 November 2016 in Konya, Republic of Turkey with the participation of delegates from Eurostat, Paris21 (virtual), and 14 OIC Member Countries including, Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uganda, and acknowledging with appreciation the presentations and deliberations by all speakers, the participants of the EGM have agreed on the following recommendations to the consideration of the Sixth Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) to be held on 5-6 November 2016 in Konya, Republic of Turkey:

1. **Emphasizes** the need for enhancing the credibility of the NSOs and for strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of OIC member countries in addressing the challenges posed by the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

2. **Affirms** the dire need to depict the current situation of the NSSs of the OIC member countries and to assess the compliance status to the international codes and standards,

3. **Welcomes** the SESRIC Project on OIC-Peer which will be a good example to strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards identifying the strengths and weaknesses of NSOs of OIC member countries,

4. **Supports** the proposal of composing a volunteering Technical Team from OIC member countries with an experience on monitoring and evaluation mechanism to share their experience with SESRIC,

5. **Thanks** SESRIC for taking the initiative to prepare the Draft OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) and **urges** the Technical Team to ameliorate the content and structure of OPRIS in light of their experiences in collaboration with Eurostat and Paris21 (*tbc*),

6. **Requests** SESRIC to circulate the OPRIS to all OIC member countries and **underlines** the importance of the timely completion of the OPRIS by member countries in accordance with the project timeline,

7. **Calls on** the Technical Team to suggest the most appropriate underlying criteria/benchmarks based on which the compliance of the OIC member countries volunteering for the Peer Review will be assessed, and to provide the concrete rationale behind their proposal,

8. **Invites** the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to volunteer for being candidates as reviewer and reviewee under the OIC-Peer project.

ANNEX 2: Recommendations - Workshop on Peer Review Mechanism for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries) on 19-20 December 2017 held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey
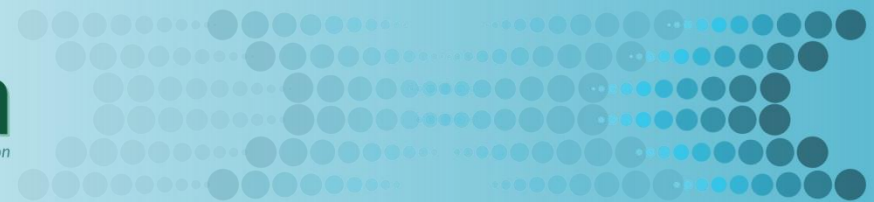
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Workshop on

Peer Review Mechanisms for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries

19-20 December 2017, Ankara – Turkey

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Expressing their thanks to the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for the support in organising the **Workshop on Peer Review Mechanisms for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in OIC Member Countries** which was held on 19-20 December 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the participation of delegates from 25 OIC countries including *Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda* and *Uzbekistan,* and international and supranational organisations including *Eurostat, PARIS21 and African Union Commission (AUC),* the Workshop participants have agreed on the following recommendations:

1. *Extended their sincere thanks* **to** SESRIC for the warm hospitality and Albania, Cameroon, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Eurostat, PARIS21 and AUC for their enlightening presentations;

2. *Expressed* their support to and willingness to be involved in the OIC-Peer Programme aiming to enhance the credibility of the NSOs and to strengthen the capacity of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of OIC countries towards addressing the challenges posed by regional and global agenda;

3. *Commended* the efforts of SESRIC for the design and circulation of the OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) (available on www.sesric.org/activities-announcements-detail.php?id=404), *appreciated* the progress report of OPRIS and *called* the NSOs of OIC countries which have not responded to the survey to submit the completed survey to SESRIC;

4. *Welcomed* the readiness of SESRIC to work together with all relevant national, regional, international and supranational stakeholders for the implementation of peer reviews of NSOs of OIC countries and *supported* the proposal of a multilateral agreement among SESRIC, Eurostat, PARIS21 and AUC for determining the

cooperation modalities among them concerning the OIC-Peer Programme to support the countries in their common scope of work;

5. *Encouraged* SESRIC to participate in peer reviews as an observer and/or partner institution through incorporating the know-how and experience gained by the relevant stakeholders;

6. *Suggested* SESRIC, as being the main information bank of OIC and the secretariat of OIC-StatCom, to host an Online Repository of Peer Review Documents with proper intellectual property acknowledgements and *requested* relevant stakeholders to share the related documents with SESRIC;

7. *Requested* SESRIC to ameliorate the features of Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) (available on www.sesric.org/rose.php) in order to gather a pool of eminent experts that will be candidates for the teams of OIC-Peer Programme and in this regard *called* the NSOs of the OIC countries to propose qualified candidates; and

8. *Encouraged* the NSOs of the OIC member countries to volunteer in and to raise awareness about the OIC- Peer Programme.