



MESSAGE OF
H.E. DR. YOUSEF A. AL-OTHAIMEEN,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC,

TO

THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
OF ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(OIC-STATCOM)

ANKARA,
TURKEY, 2-3 MAY 2018

Bismillahi Arrahmani Arrahim

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,
Your Excellency Amb. Musa Kulaklikaya, Director General of SESRIC,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

I am very much pleased to address the Seventh Session of the Statistical Commission of the OIC holding in Ankara city, which is political and administrative center of Turkey. On this occasion, let me, at the onset, express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its continuous support for the various activities of the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) as well as other OIC institutions.

I also wish to commend Amb. Musa Kulaklikaya, Director General, and the entire staff the SESRIC for the elaborate preparations made for this meeting and for the generous hospitality accorded all participants. By the same token, I hereby acknowledge the outstanding support of Islamic Development Bank to the activities of the OIC Statistical Commission.

I am full of hope that your deliberations during the next two days would further strengthen the long term and mutually beneficial cooperation among our member states in the area of statistics and data collection, particularly in the new era of development, which requires new ways of gathering data, new data-based partners, new users and new policies for attaining better lives for all in our countries.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,**

You are very much aware that OIC-2025: Programme of Action, which was adopted by our leaders in 2016, has laid out an agreed agenda for action by OIC member states and institutions towards fostering economic growth and development in our countries. In addition, several OIC programmes have been designed and being implemented in such areas as trade and investment promotion; agriculture and food security; tourism and transport development; labour, employment and social protection; and education and health, among others. Accordingly, the implementation of these programmes requires data for many areas to be disaggregated by income, gender, age, and other characteristics, to make sure that agreed goals and targets are achieved. This will pose significant challenges in many OIC countries.

It is against this background that the OIC Statistical Commission, which brings together the chief statisticians of OIC member states with the common goal of establishing statistical standards, formulating concepts and methods, and their application at national and OIC levels, is set to guide development policy in OIC member states for the next 10 years through developing meaningful and reliable indicators as well as providing assistance to needy countries to significantly strengthen their national statistical capacities.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,**

As we continue to consolidate our efforts towards implementing the various OIC programmes, this occasion provides us with a good opportunity to determine how we can

take advantage of opportunities for growing demand for statistics as well as address the challenges statistical community in OIC member states faces. In this regard and as we set the agenda for the activities of OIC Statistical Commission in the coming year, this august meeting would need to consider the following issues, which would have a positive impact on intra-OIC cooperation in the area of statistics and data collection.

Firstly, since its inception in 2011, the OIC-StatCom has succeeded in creating awareness among OIC member states on the OIC various initiatives in the area of statistics. However, the involvement of the majority of National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) in OIC countries in the Commission' activities is limited only to their participation at annual meetings. It is, therefore, necessary for NSOs to utilize fully the OIC-StatCom as a good platform for networking, enhancing technology transfer and knowledge sharing among them.

Secondly, the Second Session of OIC-StatCom, which was held in Izmir, Turkey in May 2012, approved the Strategic Vision Document of the OIC-StatCom for the 2012-2020 years. In view of the imminent expiry of this document, the Commission should examine the extent of the implementation of this vision document. This exercise will provide the needed feedback and inputs for elaboration of a New Strategic Vision Document of the OIC-StatCom for the 2020-2030, which OIC-StatCom is going to deliberate on during this session.

Last but not least, other initiatives of OIC-StatCom on developing Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics database and Accreditation Programme for Statistical Professionals in OIC member states need to be expeditiously implemented. In this regard, it is significant that the development of the set of indicators of Islamic Banking and

Finance would represent an important step in developing Islamic financial products for project financing and investment in our countries. In a similar vein, accreditation will further boost qualifications, professional training and experience of statisticians in our countries, thus contributing to their capacity development efforts in producing and disseminating statistics.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the OIC General Secretariat's commitment to working closely with you to further strengthen and enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the development, production, dissemination and communication of statistics.

I thank you for kind your attention and wish all of you a successful deliberation at this meeting.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullah wa-Barakatuh.