Background and Objectives

Low levels of foreign direct investment (FDI), including intra-regional FDI, in the OIC countries can be attributed to several possible factors, including inadequate business environment, poor institutional frameworks, unsatisfactory market access, political instability and geopolitical matters as well as economic variables such as market size and factor costs. The scarcity, unreliability and inconsistency in existing data-reporting systems also aggravate the problem as they constrain the ability of policy makers to formulate appropriate policies to promote FDI inflows and benefit from them. In this connection, reliable, up-to-date and harmonized data are a precondition for understanding the trends and patterns in FDI, analysing the underlying factors, assessing the impact of FDI and foreign affiliates in host economies through employment, technology transfer and export performance, and accordingly formulating appropriate policies.

Against this background, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) will organise a webinar providing a general overview of the FDI Statistics in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 28 June 2021 with the participation of official statisticians working at the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Central Banks of the OIC countries.

The main objective of the Webinar is to raise awareness about internationally accepted standards and guidelines regarding the compilation of data on FDI and activities of MNEs as well as the latest methodologies and recent trends on FDI statistics which will pave the way to strengthen and improve the statistical capacities of OIC countries in the area of collection, compilation, processing, and dissemination of statistics on FDI and activities of MNEs. Besides, the Webinar will support enhancing the capacity of participants to effectively assess, particularly from an intra-regional perspective, the impact of FDI and activities of MNEs on their economies, monitor FDI-related development objectives, and formulate appropriate development-oriented policies.

The Webinar will cover the following topics:

a) Understanding and reporting global and regional FDI trends and prospects;
b) FDI concepts, definitions and measurement;
c) Collecting FDI and MNE data;
d) Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS); and
Format

- Around 3 hours of webinar via Zoom with presentations.
- Q&A session at the end of presentations.
- The webinar will be open to all NSOs and Central Banks of OIC countries interested in the subject.
- The webinar will be conducted in English only.

Work Programme

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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| 12:00 – 12:10 | Introduction and Agenda Setting                                                           | Dr. Atilla KARAMAN (5 Mins)  
Director, Statistics and Information Department, SESRIC  

Mr. Richard BOLWIJN (5 Mins)  
Head, Investment Research Branch, Division of Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD |
| 12:10 – 12:30 | Understanding and reporting global and regional FDI trends and prospects             | Presenter: Astrit SULSTAROVA  
Chief, Trends and Data Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD |
Chief, Trends and Data Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD |
| 13.15 – 14:00 | Collecting FDI and MNE Data                                                            | Presenter: Alexander FLÜHMANN  
Head of Financial Accounts, Swiss National Bank (SNB) |
| 14.10 – 14:30 | Statistics on Activities of MNEs                                                        | Presenter: Isya KRESNADI  
Economist, Trends and Data Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD |
Chief, Trends and Data Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD |

*All times are indicated in Ankara, Turkey (UTC +3) time. For time difference information, please refer to: https://time.is/compare/1200_28_June_2021_in_Ankara*
References

- World Investment Report 2021
- UNCTAD, Training Manual on Statistics of FDI and the Operations of TNCs, Volume I, 2010;
- Results of the metadata FDI survey of OIC countries
- UNCTAD, Training Manual on Statistics of FDI and the Operations of TNCs, Volume II, 2010;
- UN/EC/OECD/IMF/UNCTAD/WTO, Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS-2010), Chapter IV.