

Third Session of OIC Statistical Commission

10-12 April 2013, Ankara – Turkey

RESOLUTIONS

Expressing their appreciation to SESRIC and IDB for their efforts in co-organising the Third Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and their thanks to all the speakers for their presentations, the Members of the OIC-StatCom have resolved the following decisions at its Third Session in Ankara, Turkey held on 10-12 April 2013 with the participation of 26 National Statistical Offices (NSOs), SESRIC, IDB, COMCEC Coordination Office, OIC General Secretariat, AITRS, EUROSTAT, ILO, UNESCWA, UNSD, and Prognoz Corporation.

1. Noting with satisfaction the activities undertaken for the biennium 2011 and 2012 by the Members of the Bureau, the OIC-StatCom renewed its confidence in the current Members of the Bureau by extending their term for the biennium 2013 and 2014. The OIC-StatCom Members of the Bureau re-elected for the biennium 2013 and 2014 are:
 - Chair: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Vice Chair: Indonesia
 - Vice Chair: Sudan
 - Rapporteur: Senegal

2. Having examined the documents and presentation of the Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) on “*Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics*”, the OIC-StatCom
 - a. decided that this TCE should follow its future activities as planned;

 - b. called for an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to be co-organized by SESRIC and IDB before the end of 2013 with the aim of finalizing the initial set of indicators and proposing the methodologies and standards which will be submitted to the upcoming Session of OIC-StatCom;

 - c. requested SESRIC and IDB to conduct study visits among the OIC Member Countries to facilitate exchange of information about Islamic banking and finance; and

 - d. underlined the importance of coordination among all agents of National Statistical System (NSOs, Central Banks, line ministries, etc.) and encouraged frequent communication and cooperation in the advancement of this field.

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3. Expressing its appreciation in the work undertaken by Indonesia, as the Lead Country, and other members of the TCE on "*Executive Work Plan for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision*", the OIC-StatCom requested the Secretariat to circulate the brief survey to all members and collect their feedback by 6 May 2013 so as to identify the views of the members concerning the assignment of short, medium, and long term, and the prioritisation on the strategic sub-objectives stated in the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Document.
4. Having reviewed the report of the TCE on "*Procedural Details of the Accreditation Program for Statistical Professionals in OIC Member States*" prepared by Bahrain, as the Lead Country, the OIC-StatCom
 - a. called the OIC Member Countries to actively participate in the OStat Programme and to consider including the OStat Programme in career planning for their staff;
 - b. further invited the Member Countries to technically contribute in the implementation of the OStat Programme and requested Secretariat to establish partnership with the relevant international organizations working on similar programs;
 - c. renewed its request to IDB to support the implementation of this program both in terms of human resources and funding in a timely manner; and
 - d. requested the timely initiation of the Basic Level of OStat Programme provided that sufficient human and financial resources are secured.
5. Having considered the recommendations of the TCE on "*Gender Related Issues*", the OIC-StatCom
 - a. extended its gratitude for the efforts of the SESRIC for hosting the preparatory meeting that was held on 21-22 January 2013 in Ankara and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of United Arab Emirates for assuming the role as the Lead Country;
 - b. endorsed the recommendations agreed on the aforementioned meeting (*as attached – Annex I*); and

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- c. accepted to express the common view of the member countries on the relevant themes and indicators in a coordinated manner so as to enhance works of global statistical community in these areas.
6. Having examined the *Comprehensive Profile on the Population and Housing Census Experiences and Practices of OIC Member Countries* prepared by the Secretariat, the OIC-StatCom
 - a. expressed its thanks to SESRIC and IDB for co-organising the “Seminar on Population and Housing Census Practices of OIC Member Countries” that was held on 6-8 March 2013 in Ankara;
 - b. agreed with the conclusions reached at the aforementioned Seminar (*as attached - Annex II*);
 - c. called the OIC Member Countries that could not attend the aforementioned Seminar to submit their best practices and respond to the relevant survey; and
 - d. requested the Secretariat to publish the Comprehensive Profile prepared on its website and update it accordingly for each Census Round.
 7. Noting the interest shown for the presentations on “*Towards a Comprehensive System of Labour Statistics*” made by ILO, Egypt, Malaysia, and Turkey, the OIC-StatCom
 - a. recognized the importance of production of labour statistics in accordance with international standards by taking national concerns into account;
 - b. affirmed the need to increase the human capital of member countries in terms of labour statisticians. In this regard, OIC-StatCom requested SESRIC and IDB to organize more capacity building programs to broaden the skill base of the experts in the member countries;
 - c. acknowledged the vital roles and responsibilities of NSOs in producing labour statistics;
 - d. urged NSOs to be represented at the highest level at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 2013 that will adopt revised draft standards of labour force and work statistics.

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8. Having listened to the presentations on “*Open Data: Challenges and Opportunities for NSOs of OIC Member Countries*” made by Prognoz Corporation, Indonesia, Palestine, Senegal, and Turkey, the OIC-StatCom
- a. encouraged the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to benefit from open data approach for wider dissemination of their statistical information by taking the opportunities offered by open data initiatives into consideration;
 - b. supported the idea of organising study visits and other capacity building programs concerning open data with the support of SESRIC and IDB; and
 - c. welcomed the initiative of SESRIC in offering the OIC Member Countries its Motion Chart Module to enable them present their data in a visual way so as to improve the analytical capabilities and effective use of data in evidence based policy making.
9. Having considered the presentations on “*From MDGs to SDGs: Involvement of National Statistical Offices in Measuring Progress in the Post-2015 Period*” made by UN Statistics Division, EUROSTAT, Cameroon, Niger, Oman, and Turkey; the OIC-StatCom
- a. urged the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to take part in discussing post-2015 development framework and to actively engage in the process of formulating targets and related indicators through utilizing their experiences they gained during MDG monitoring and reporting period; and
 - b. called the OIC Member Countries taking part in the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to actively voice the common concerns and interests of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries.
10. Thanking for the hospitality shown, the OIC-StatCom expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Turkey as the host country.
11. The OIC-StatCom decided to have their next Session in Turkey in May 2014.

The Members of OIC-StatCom
Ankara, 11 April 2013

ANNEX I

Recommendations of the OIC-StatCom Technical Committee of Experts Meeting on Gender Related Issues

21-22 January 2013, Ankara – Turkey

The delegations participating in the OIC-StatCom Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) Meeting on Gender Related Issues recognized that the content, scope, and profile of gender statistics, including statistics on violence against women, vary from country to country due to economic, cultural, and traditional differences as well as differences in policy objectives. Considering the above, the TCE agreed on the following recommendations:

1. The performance of OIC Member Countries in statistical processes concerning gender related data has still room for improvement to reach the desired level. In this regard, SESRIC and IDB in collaboration with UNESCWA should scale-up capacity building efforts in that area.
2. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in consultation with the interested members of TCE, should prepare a draft report highlighting its perspective on the concepts and definitions of “violence against women” indicators brought forward by the international statistical community. To have a broader view, the draft report may also be extended to cover the common perspectives of other GCC countries.
3. As the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, SESRIC should circulate NBS’s draft report to the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries to collect their feedback before the Third Session of OIC-StatCom.
4. The final report should be submitted to the Third Session of OIC-StatCom to invite the participants from NSOs and international organisations to take note of the concerns of respective OIC Member Countries.
5. By considering the previous efforts of UNESCWA exerted for Arab Gender Indicator List and VAW toolkit, a short questionnaire should be prepared and sent to the NSOs of OIC Member Countries by the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom to assess the relevance of the UN minimum set of gender indicators. The outcome of the survey should be shared with Members of OIC-StatCom.
6. OIC Member Countries should participate and take an active role in all relevant expert group meetings of the UN and voice their perspectives and concerns about specific issues directly during those meetings.
7. SESRIC and IDB are encouraged to participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) for Arab Countries.

ANNEX II

Seminar on Population and Housing Census Practices of OIC Member Countries

6-8 March 2013, Ankara - Turkey

CONCLUSIONS

In accordance with the Resolutions of the Second Session of the OIC-StatCom, the Members of the OIC-StatCom called for an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to be organized by SESRIC and IDB to define the structure of a comprehensive profile that will include all the relevant phases of censuses and to compile the different country experiences and practices from OIC Member Countries with the aim of initiating possible cooperation activities among the member countries within this respect.

The respective meeting co-organized by SESRIC and IDB was attended by delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 17 member countries, namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen and the representatives of the UNSD and UNESCWA.

At the end of the deliberations, participants of the seminar agreed on the following conclusions:

1. Providing the most comprehensive socio-economic data at the small area level on the number and characteristics of populations and their housing situations, censuses are the primary statistical source for most of countries, especially for developing countries. In this regard, censuses are regarded as the benchmark for development planning and the sampling frame for surveys.
2. Administrative sources and registers can be a good source of socio-economic information for governments and policymakers as long as data quality and completeness are ensured. For registers to be a sound alternative to traditional censuses, functional registers, well-established technical infrastructure, necessary statistical laws, public trust in registers and reliable solutions to security aspects are some of the essential conditions that need to be met. -
3. Application of advanced technologies into census processes is perceived to increase the timeliness and quality of census data. It was emphasized that adequately testing is required for their sound application. Introduction of new technology, however, could be costly.
4. As the unit cost of the censuses keeps increasing and as many countries face financial constraints, a thorough opportunity cost analysis among the alternative census methodologies and other applications (i.e. traditional, register-based, surveys, use of modern technology, etc) should be carried out before determining future activities related to the implementation of population and housing censuses.
5. The UN Principles and Recommendations for Populations and Housing Censuses and accompanying handbooks should be considered as useful guidelines for census planning and implementation. In this context, countries are encouraged to apply the core topics recommended by the UN in the design of their census questionnaires although countries could include additional topics to reflect the reality of their societies.

6. Many countries overburden the census questionnaires as censuses are seen as an opportunity to collect data on many topics which could increase the cost of the censuses and also have adverse consequences for data quality. It was suggested that countries carefully assess the availability of other sources such as surveys to meet specific data needs as well as the appropriateness of collecting data on some complex topics through the census.
7. Collaboration and cooperation among countries and international organisations are necessary for sharing experience and knowledge as well as getting detailed information on best practices. In addition to organising study visits and training workshops, countries can exchange their equipments as well as tools and applications developed for census to produce tangible outputs. On this matter, Bahrain, being the only member country conducting register-based censuses, expressed their willingness to share their expertise and tools with other member countries and the participants applauded the proposal.
8. Expertise is very important in providing technical assistance to countries. Following the request of countries to have a roster of experts, SESRIC indicated the existence of such a roster through their database (<http://www.sesric.org/statistics-experts.php>) which will be further improved to include more experts.
9. It was proposed to organise workshops for the upcoming population and housing census round in order to provide detailed and up-to-date information about the different aspects of censuses. In this regard, participants welcomed the suggestion made by UNESCWA to establish a network among SESRIC, IDB, UNESCWA, UNFPA and AITRS to be able to organize more comprehensive and budget friendly workshops annually. In addition, UNSD informed participants about plans for 2020 round that will include updating of census guidelines followed by conducting of regional census workshops as was done for 2010 Round.