



**MESSAGE OF
H.E. Mr. IYAD AMEEN MADANI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC,
TO THE FOURTH MEETING OF
THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

**ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
21-23 APRIL 2014**

Bismillahi Arrahmani Arrahim

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

It is a great pleasure for me to address this year's OIC Statistical Commission, which is the first gathering of this nature since my assumption of duty as the OIC Secretary-General in January 2014. Let me at the onset congratulate our colleagues in SESRIC and Islamic Development Bank for the elaborate preparations for this meeting. I wish to also commend the Government of Turkey for the excellent arrangements and brotherly hospitality extended to all participants at this meeting.

You would recall that the existing OIC cooperation on statistics was spawned by a common desire among the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of OIC Member States to get together and share data, best practices, experiences, and technology. It is in this context that the meetings of NSO gradually transformed to the OIC Statistical Commission in 2011, and has ever since become a regular venue for discussing issues and formulating strategies and directions in the development of statistics in our Member States, and has effectively, served as a hub of a network of NSOs in OIC region.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The vision embodied in the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action has in many ways changed the philosophy and direction of cooperation efforts of OIC Member States, from simply establishing relations for better understanding and discussing issues on certain common interests, to more closely working together towards fostering closer cooperation in the various sectors. As a result, efforts have been intensified towards increasing collaboration among the various national and regional institutions working in the domain of promoting socio-economic development in OIC Member States. This approach is aimed at promoting synergy, best practices and exchange of expertise in diverse fields, including in the domain of statistics. It is for this reason that your regular meetings within the OIC Statistical Commission would greatly support our collective demarches towards realizing the objective of fostering economic growth and attaining sustainable socio-economic development in OIC Member States.

In this regard, I am happy to note that this session would consider, among other issues, the current status of implementation of the Executive Work Plan for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of Strategic Vision Document for the OIC-StatCom, including increasing capacities of NSOs to produce sound statistics and data necessary for policy formulation and elaboration of development programmes.

In a similar vein, it is gladdening that development of statistical indicators specific to OIC Member States, namely on Islamic banking and finance, Zakat and Awqaf will also feature in the agenda of your meeting. There is no doubt that the introduction of such indicators will further boost OIC efforts towards mainstreaming these assets into the economic cooperation agenda of the OIC and popularizing them within our region.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me inform this meeting that based on the mandate given by the 40th Council of Foreign Ministers held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea on 9-11 December 2013, we are presently pre-occupied with taking stock of OIC achievements over the past nine years, considering the imminent expiration of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action in December 2015. This exercise would enable us assess the progress as well as identify the constraints experienced in implementing this comprehensive blue-print for intra-OIC cooperation in diverse fields. . It will also underscore the need for elaboration of a new OIC programme of action, which will cover priority areas of intra-OIC cooperation with specific targets and timelines. In doing this, there is a greater need to consult widely among our Member States and institutions, including the national statistical organizations (NSOs) so that the new OIC programme of action would be inclusive, collectively designed and collectively implementable. As such, it requires a lot of detailed and relevant statistics as key inputs into the whole process.

As we begin consultations on new OIC programme of action, it is obvious, that the contribution of the OIC-StatCom is crucial in this context. Therefore, I would like to urge the OIC-StatCom and its members to be actively involved in the preparation of the new OIC programme through providing consistent and relevant data at all levels as well as assistance in setting guidelines on monitoring progress on each identified target therein.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that the outcome of your deliberations today would create an added momentum for the realization of the noble

objectives of scaling up economic development in OIC countries and for putting in place action-oriented programmes in the over-all interest of the Muslim Ummah.

I look forward to a successful outcome of this important meeting.

I thank you for kind attention.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullah wa-Barakatuh