

First Session of the OIC Statistical Commission

11-12 April 2011, Istanbul – Turkey

BACKGROUND NOTE

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Accurate, timely, reliable and consistent statistical data and information are indispensable tools for evidence-based policy making in any country. National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) are vital in making available quality data, and play significant role in helping decision makers develop and design prudent socio-economic development strategies towards higher prosperity.

During the last Meeting of National Statistical Organizations of the OIC Member Countries in 2010, the delegates of the NSOs agreed to organize annual meetings under the title “**OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-SC)**”. Also, at the recent side-line meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the delegates from NSOs of the OIC Member Countries discussed the tentative agenda of the First Session of the OIC-SC and agreed on the following four themes:

1. OIC-SC: Expectations, Goals, and Operational Principles
2. Effective Cooperation for Statistical Capacity Building
3. Enhancing Statistical Awareness and Outreach
4. Concerted Efforts, New Prospects and Future Challenges in Statistics

The synopsis of the detailed [agenda](#) is attached.

The First Session of the OIC-SC focuses on clearly defining the direction, objectives, goals and expected benefits as well as the fields in which the Commission will generate a value-added contribution to statistical systems of the OIC Member Countries.

The OIC-SC will be a dynamic platform for the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to share and exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on initiatives that can help them become more effective and efficient in managing their national statistical systems. The Commission will identify areas of cooperation and collaboration that will not duplicate the existing international and regional statistical commissions in different parts of the world. In this context, it will be more flexible in addressing the new requirements and expectations of the Member Countries arising from the challenges of the post-crisis era.

As critical decisions will be taken regarding the OIC-SC, it is highly recommended that all NSOs of the OIC Member Countries participate at the highest level at the First Session of the OIC-SC. Furthermore, the Session will be organised in such a way that active participation by all delegates in a dynamic brainstorming environment is ensured. Under each agenda item, there will be introductory presentations, which will be followed by discussions by all participating delegates, and the central focus of the meeting will be the facilitation of the expression of viewpoints of all delegates on each item. Therefore, all delegates are encouraged to share their expectations, views, comments and experiences on each theme, and in particular, regarding the future direction, targets and operational principles of the OIC-SC during the meeting.