

**MESSAGE OF DR. SAVAŞ ALPAY**

**TO THE FIRST SESSION OF OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

Distinguished Representatives of the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries and the International Organizations,

I am very pleased to welcome you all to Istanbul on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the OIC Statistical Commission. It is very encouraging to see the strong interest of our Member Countries to this meeting. I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to IDB for their active collaboration in the organization of this event.

As you all know in our Meeting last year here in Istanbul, we agreed to convene the OIC-StatCom. In November 2010, the Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Committee of the OIC (COMCEC) welcomed and endorsed this initiative. Today, we are privileged to witness the actualization of its first meeting and give momentum to the OIC-StatCom.

The OIC-StatCom will be a lively platform for the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries where they can present and exchange their experiences and best practices with a view on enhancing their statistical systems together. The OIC-StatCom will strengthen the capacities within the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries towards enhancing statistical systems as critical contributors in the decision-making process both at the public and private level. The OIC-StatCom will also be functional in establishing a ground for comprehensive learning,

sharing experience and expertise, transfer of knowledge among the NSOs of the Member Countries in a concerted manner as well as in fostering the recognition and use of statistics across a wider spectrum of all relevant stakeholders.

The OIC-StatCom is our commission. Therefore, its success is critically linked to the active participation of all members. Today, we will witness a critical turning point in the way the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries cooperate with each other. The delegations will decide and identify the direction of this Commission. I will be looking forward to all the valuable inputs and views that will be provided by our distinguished participants. As in the case of all international organizations, the Member Countries' interest and involvement make these organizations successful.

Every human being affects and changes statistics at least two times in their lives, when they are born and when they die. But, in between, it is the availability of reliable statistics and their wise use, which impact the quality of their lives.

I congratulate all of you for the very critical functions that you are performing in your countries and globally by making reliable statistics in all walks of life available.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.