

Second Session of  
**OIC Statistical Commission**

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*13-15 May 2012, Izmir – Turkey*

**OPENING SPEECH**  
**Mr. Birol Aydemir**  
**President, TURKSTAT**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Members of the Commission and Dear Delegates,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to participate in the Second Session of OIC Statistical Commission.

I would like to welcome you to Turkey and wish you a nice stay in this beautiful city, Izmir which has been a cradle for many civilizations.

I sincerely think that this meeting would serve as a platform for gathering all high-level statisticians within OIC region towards improved statistical cooperation, common statistical stance and understanding. On this occasion, I would like to emphasize my pleasure that the agenda covers significant issues including quality management, population censuses and capacity building.

As we all know, statistics is a vital tool for economic and social development of the countries in our age. Having the right indicators is essential at every stage of policy making as well as social and economic development of a country.

In this respect, statistics cannot only be the bookkeeping of the state; but it can be said that statistics are the eyes of the administration of a state. It displays crucial picture regarding the future facts and trends of the society and economy.

It is therefore obvious that sound and reliable official statistics are essential to the proper functioning of a modern state. This role has further increased particularly in the globalization period and after the emergence of the recent global financial crisis. I consider that our only response to meet these challenges could be making statistics more accurate, scientific and timely.

Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues,

The use of official statistics by society depends on the credibility of the methodology and standards; the good reputation of the producer and trust of user.

How can we provide credibility, good reputation and the trust of the user? The only way I believe to achieve these goals is to develop a sound statistical system depending on the norms covered by the UN Fundamental Principles and EU Code of Practices.

Moreover, trust in official statistics and NSOs is the key element in social and economic development of a country, which can only achieved by the professional independence.

And, in order to achieve such a statistical system and to obtain public trust, National Statistical Offices have to be strong enough in terms of both

organizational and technical terms. Therefore, we need to enhance our capacities as much as we can.

In this respect, multilateral cooperation in statistics is essential to the improvement of statistical and institutional capacities in all countries. In order to do so, OIC-Statistical Commission would be a most convenient platform to ensure such cooperation among the member countries.

On the occasion of our gathering, I would like to underline that aims of the Commission would only be realized through the active participation of the Member Countries in statistical cooperation studies. Furthermore, I sincerely believe that this session will be finalized with concrete outputs which will be implemented in long-term through result-oriented and well planned studies. In this context, I would like to note that as Turkish Statistical Institute we firmly support the activities of the Commission and suggest giving further momentum to the joint activities in order to stimulate the spirit of cooperation.

In conclusion, on behalf of my Institute and my country, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to OIC, Islamic Development Bank and SESRIC for their invaluable and intensive studies.

Thank you.