

Fourth Session of OIC Statistical Commission

21-23 April 2014, Ankara – Turkey

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Expressing their appreciation to SESRIC and IDB for their efforts in co-organising the Fourth Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and their thanks to all speakers for their presentations, the Members of the OIC-StatCom have agreed on the following decisions at its Fourth Session in Ankara, Republic of Turkey held on 21-23 April 2014 with the participation of 38 National Statistical Offices (NSOs), OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, IDB, COMCEC Coordination Office, AITRS, UNESCWA, UNSD, WHO, CDC, CDC Foundation, ICDDT and OPHI.

1. Having examined the documents and presentations on the “*Implemented Activities of the OIC-StatCom*”; the OIC-StatCom
 - a. *appreciated* the OIC-StatCom Secretariat for preparing the activity and project reports concerning the pertinent items of the OIC-StatCom Executive Work Plan;
 - b. *called upon* the OIC Member Countries, which have not done so thus far, to complete the re-designed Biannual Survey for the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme of SESRIC for supporting the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the OIC Member Countries in accordance with their development priorities by identifying the needs and capacities of the NSOs in statistical domains and professional skills essential for statistical information collection, collation, processing, and dissemination;
 - c. *expressed its thanks* to the OIC-StatCom Secretariat in activating the OIC-StatCom Forum, an online service to act as a dynamic and centralized platform of knowledge and experience sharing on official statistics, *invited* the OIC Member Countries to actively use and engage in the discussions in the OIC-StatCom Forum, and *requested* the OIC-StatCom Secretariat to further enhance the capabilities of the OIC-StatCom Forum as a knowledge repository;
 - d. *took note* with satisfaction of the active role of the SESRIC and IDB in materialising the certification of the expertise and knowledge on the professional conduct of statistical work by official statistics professionals in the OIC Member Countries through the *OIC Accreditation and Certification Programme for Official Statisticians* (OIC-CPOS), *approved* the proposed implementation plan for the first phase of the OIC-CPOS prepared by the OIC-StatCom Secretariat, *invited* the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to become a member of the Certification Advisory Board by the

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- end of May 2014, nominate competent experts to the Examination Committee, and promote the Basic Level Examination in the areas of *Demographic and Social Statistics; Economic Statistics; Environment and Multi-Domain Statistics; Methodology of Data Collection, Processing, Dissemination and Analysis; and Strategic and Managerial Issues of Official Statistics* among the official statisticians;
- e. **extended** its gratitude to SESRIC and IDB for their efforts in co-organising the “*Training Programme on Statistical Database Design and Visualization Tools Development*” that was held on 11-12 December 2013 in Ankara and **endorsed** the recommendations agreed on in the aforementioned Training;
 - f. **thanked** the OIC-StatCom Secretariat in sharing the *Results of the Survey on the UN Minimum Set of Gender Indicators* that assesses the relevance of these indicators from the perspective of responding OIC Member Countries and **requested** SESRIC and IDB to organize Capacity Building Programmes in accordance with the outcomes of the Survey; and
 - g. **appreciated** SESRIC and Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) of the IDB Group for the organisation of *OIC-StatCom Expert Group Meeting on Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics* on 25-26 March 2014 in Ankara, **agreed with** the recommendations of the aforementioned Meeting, **emphasized** the key role of relevant stakeholders in the NSS including the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries for the collection of Islamic Banking and Finance data, and **requested** the active collaboration among SESRIC, IRTI, and Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) for the development of global standards for the relevant indicators.
2. **Mindful of** the fight against poverty and vital role of good quality and comparable statistics needed for sound decision making to implement and oversee the complex processes in poverty alleviation initiatives, and **having listened to** the presentations on “*Enhancing National Capacities in Poverty Statistics*” made by OPHI, Indonesia, Senegal, Turkey, Yemen, and SESRIC; the OIC-StatCom
- a. **affirmed** the need to develop the statistical capacity of OIC Member Countries in generation of poverty statistics and **requested** SESRIC and IDB to organize capacity building programs, including the multi-dimensional poverty measurement approaches towards enhancing the quality of measurement of poverty statistics by the NSOs;
 - b. **expressed** its appreciation of the close collaboration between the SESRIC and COMCEC for the project titled “*Enhancing National Capacities in Poverty Statistics*”
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- of OIC Member Countries*” and *invited* the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to facilitate timely responses for the surveys carried out and actively participate in the activities to be organised within the project framework; and
- c. *encouraged* the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to benefit from the multidimensional approaches to measure different forms of poverty, deprivation and inequality, and *invited* them to partner with The Global Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)¹.
3. *Having considered* the presentations on “*Post-2015 Development Agenda and Implications for NSOs*” made by IDB, UNESCWA and Egypt; the OIC-StatCom
- a. *acknowledged* the increasing functions and duties of NSOs for the post-2015 period concerning the measurement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)², the successor of Millennium Development Goals (MDG);
- b. *called upon* the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to actively contribute with their feedback to the discussions that will shape the Post-2015 Development Agenda based on the experiences gained during MDG monitoring period and preparation of national reports submitted to relevant stakeholders;
- c. *took note* of the experiences and lessons learned by NSOs during the MDGs era and *called* on NSOs to document and submit to the OIC-StatCom Secretariat their best practices, to be published on the OIC-StatCom website and OIC-StatCom Forum, that are reproducible, scalable, adaptable, and easily understandable by others; encompass both the user and producer side, and can be leveraged for the post-2015 era with a view to developing a reference “OIC Statistical Toolkits” for sharing knowledge and benchmarking among NSOs at different levels of development;
- d. *reiterated* its call to the OIC Member Countries taking part in the UN Open Working Group on SDGs³ to actively voice the common concerns and interests of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries; and
- e. *recognized* that new goals in post-2015 development agenda will require more indicators and in turn more data from NSOs and *called* on governments of OIC countries to devote more resources to NSOs and other partners in the NSS to support "data revolution" activities as called for by the UN High Level Panel report⁴.

¹ <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/policynetwork/>

² <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

³ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>

⁴ <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>

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4. **Noting** the interest shown for the presentations on “*Towards a More Comprehensive System of Health Statistics and Global Tobacco Surveillance System in OIC Member Countries*” made by WHO, Turkey, CDC and Bangladesh; the OIC-StatCom
- a. **drew attention** to the critical role of coordination mechanism among the relevant agencies responsible for health statistics within NSS of the OIC Member Countries;
 - b. **affirmed** that public health issues and tobacco control in this context have become more important for all countries and interventions need to be effectively managed and improved through the direct involvement of the NSOs together with the relevant national and international stakeholders and **invited** NSOs to incorporate the relevant modules of Global Youth and Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GYTS, GATS)⁵ in the respective surveys; and
 - c. **requested** SESRIC and IDB to initiate cooperation activities by including the relevant stakeholders to develop the capacities of the OIC-StatCom Members in health statistics.
5. **Having viewed with appreciation** the presentations on “*Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information*” delivered by UN Statistics Division, Bahrain, Qatar, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates; the OIC-StatCom
- a. **called upon** the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to integrate statistical and geospatial data in official statistics including coordinated data sharing among the relevant stakeholders;⁶ and
 - b. **encouraged** SESRIC and IDB to intensify their collaboration with the UN Statistics Division and United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)⁷ towards building and enhancing capacities of the NSOs on the integration of statistical and geospatial information.
6. **Fully aware** of the role of tourism sector in the economic development of OIC Member Countries, noting the importance of reliable statistics in this sector and **having devoted attention** to the presentations on “*Improving Statistical Capacities in Tourism Sector*” made by SESRIC, Malaysia, Oman, and Turkey; the OIC-StatCom
- a. **welcomed** the close collaboration between the SESRIC and COMCEC for the project titled “*Improving Statistical Capacities of Tourism Sector in Mediterranean and*

⁵ <http://www.emro.who.int/tobacco/gtss/>

⁶ Official statistics enriched with geospatial information plays an active role in good governance and development of OIC Member Countries

⁷ <http://ggim.un.org/>

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- Gulf Regions*” to be carried out under the COMCEC Project Funding Programme to develop statistical capacities in tourism statistics and *called* the OIC Member Countries under the project scope to respond to the questionnaire to be circulated by SESRIC and actively participate in the activities to be organised within the project framework; and
- b. *requested* SESRIC to share the outcomes of the aforementioned Project after its completion.
7. The NSOs of OIC Member Countries are *encouraged* to share their innovative methodologies and best practices concerning the issues covered in the Fourth Session of OIC-StatCom through the OIC-StatCom Forum⁸.
8. The NSOs of OIC Member Countries *expressed* their appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Turkey as the host country.
9. The OIC-StatCom *decided* to have their next Session in (country) in (month) 2015.

The Members of OIC-StatCom
Ankara, 22 April 2014

⁸ <http://forum.sesric.org>