

**Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of
2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

14-15 November 2017

Ankara, Turkey

Welcoming Remarks by

**HE Ambassador Musa KULAKLIKAYA, Director General of
SESRIC**

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. I want to thank you for accepting our invitation and participating to the Workshop. I also want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for providing their support and valuable knowledge through their distinguished experts as they did for the First Workshop we held together back in last February in Ankara.

I am full of hope that your deliberations would strengthen the long term and mutually beneficial cooperation in food security, particularly in view of the multiple challenges faced by OIC member countries in food insecurity and poverty alleviation.

Distinguished Participants,

Food is one of the fundamental human rights. As found in the definition made by FAO, we can talk of a food security *when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.*

Food insecurity is one of the most significant challenges facing humanity today. Over the past few decades, we witness that many initiatives have been taken at both the national and international levels to end hunger and achieve the goal of food security at global levels.

In 2000, the elimination of hunger and under-nourishment was identified in the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** as one of the most important objectives to be achieved on both national and global levels.

In addition, the issues of hunger and under-nourishment are also specifically targeted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely **SDG 2**, which is specifically aiming at ending **hunger and all forms of malnutrition** by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year.

It is true that the fight against hunger has progressed during the MDGs period. However, according to Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, **more than 790 million people worldwide still lack regular access to adequate amounts of dietary energy.**

Additionally, hidden hunger as a result of micronutrient deficiencies in iron, Vitamin A and Zinc affect nearly 2 billion people worldwide.

The majority of these people reside in the developing regions of Asia & Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean. As majority of OIC countries are located in these regions, it is evident that a significant portion of the undernourished people in these regions resides in OIC countries, particularly in the least-developed member countries

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The **OIC began to focus quite extensively on agriculture and food security.** Seven ministerial conferences have been held between 1981 and 2016 to strengthen the cooperation and foster development in agriculture and food security in OIC countries. Additionally, the OIC

Ten-Year Programme of Action has also paid significant attention to agricultural and rural development and food security.

During the recent years, several project proposals have gained support from the OIC member states and moved towards materialization. One of these proposals was on the establishment of an **Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) as a specialized institution of OIC** in Kazakhstan.

Distinguished Participants,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to mention briefly some of the ongoing and conducted activities of SESRIC in the area of **food security and poverty alleviation** within the scope of its mandate on statistics, research, and training.

In the area of statistics, SESRIC collates, processes and disseminates socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries. Hosting 355 socio-economic variables under 20 categories for OIC Member Countries, the **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat)** currently has **20 indicators** pertaining to **agriculture and malnourishment**. The content of OICStat is regularly updated and enriched based on information collected from the sources with the internationally comparable data.

Additionally, organized with a South-South and Triangular cooperation approach, the **OIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB)** Programme contributes to the capacities of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC member countries in order to enhance the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in member countries. In the field of agriculture statistics, SESRIC has facilitated the organisation of a total of **19 short-term statistical courses and 4 study visits in 17 OIC Countries** since 2007 with the support of **8 OIC Countries** by providing their experts and facilities.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the FAO, we organised the first edition of this current Workshop in February 2017 in Ankara for the benefit of **20 OIC countries**.

In its close connection with food security, SESRIC conducts **statistical activities on poverty alleviation**. For instance, the project titled “*Enhancing National Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics*” produced the report on “**Measurement of Poverty in OIC Member Countries 2015**”. In parallel to these, **10 short-term statistical courses, 3 study visits, and 4 Workshops** have been organised for the benefit of NSOs of OIC member countries. Recently, our cooperation with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) brought about good synergy with the organisation of a Regional Workshop in Senegal in 2015 and a Summer School in Morocco in 2017 on Multi-Dimensional Poverty Measurement.

In the area of research, SESRIC regularly publishes the report on “**Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries**” every two years for the **OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development**. The report explores major issues such as agricultural population and land use in agriculture, water resources and their use in agriculture, production and trade of agricultural commodities, food aid, prevalence of undernourishment, and impacts of food price volatility. The report also includes a diverse set of policy recommendations and project proposals for enhancing OIC cooperation in this important area.

In the area of training, SESRIC has developed **the OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme (OIC-AgriCaB) and OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP)**. These programmes aim to have an active and vital role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and the

best practices among OIC Member Countries through various projects, trainings, and other capacity building activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The persistence of hunger is no longer simply a matter of food availability. If significant progress cannot be demonstrated, the ‘**zero hunger**’ target will be largely missed by 2030. More and better data on access to food can enable the tracking of progress and guide interventions to fight food insecurity and malnutrition.

Monitoring progress also requires a mutual effort among countries, international and regional organisations. **National data collected by governments should form the foundation for monitoring SDG 2.** The goal is to provide information for action leading to policies that reach the most vulnerable groups in all countries.

In this regard, I am sure that this Workshop will foster exchanges of knowledge, and help to create an environment for collaboration and innovation concerning the **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) methodologies.**

I wish you very productive deliberations, and pray to Allah Almighty to help us all and guide our steps to improve prosperity and welfare in our societies. Thank you for your attention.

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu