

5<sup>th</sup> COMSATS-ISESCO-INIT International Workshop on  
'Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards'  
in collaboration with SESRIC

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu,

Good morning to you all,

At the outset, I avail myself of this opportunity to express my warm welcome to the Workshop participants, the representatives of the organizing institutions and agencies of the Turkish public sector, esteemed representatives of the diplomatic missions of the OIC and COMSATS member countries resident in Ankara, and the members of the press. We are honoured to be co-sponsoring the present Workshop, which is co-organized by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS); the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); the Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT); the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT).

As you are all aware, cybersecurity has become one of the most profound challenges of our time. We witness that criminals have access to many opportunities to take advantage of online vulnerabilities and attack countries' vital electronic resources. As advanced communication networks dominate the scene for the storage of information by not only individuals but also private and public sector entities, **the loss of revenue, confidential information and public infrastructure** are among the inconvenient consequences of these cyber-attacks. Though many developing countries are still in their early stages of becoming an information society, their capacities are jeopardized by threats rooting from the cyberspace, which knows no borders, a suitable environment for cyber attackers to bring about irreversible harm in these countries within a short timeframe. Recognition of cyber threats as a universal problem requires the involvement of all stakeholders to enhance confidence and security in the information society that can be achieved by working on the five pillars of **Legal Measures, Technical and Procedural Measures, Organizational Structures, Capacity Building, and International Cooperation**.

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to brief the floor on the activities and initiatives of our Centre in the area of capacity building and technical cooperation. Under the umbrella of its Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) initiated in 2009, capacity building programmes on agriculture, economy, finance, trade, employment, health, labour, social security and policy, tourism and information and communication technologies (ICT) have been designed

by the Centre with the aim of enhancing the capacities of human resources. The activities under these programmes are carried out based on the communicated needs and capacities of the relevant national institutions according to their responses to the related questionnaires of these Programmes. Within the framework of the implementation of these programmes, SESRIC organizes various training courses, workshops and study visits aiming at facilitating the **exchanging of knowledge and know-how, best practices and models, experience and expertise** among the OIC member countries **with a view to contributing to the South-South cooperation initiative** within the OIC community. In this respect, a total of 10 IT-related activities have been carried out by the Centre during the recent years and SESRIC is also acting as the official Secretariat of the e-Government Working Group of the OIC Member States since 2011.

In this respect, I would like to express our readiness at SESRIC to work with **ISESCO, COMSATS, and INIT** to address challenges of the cybersecurity environment in mutual members of the OIC and COMSATS and I would like to kindly request from the participants of this workshop to also allocate some time for discussing potential international collaboration opportunities.

I would like to stop at this point and thank ISESCO, COMSATS and INIT for their excellent partnership. I would also like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to TUBITAK and its president H.E. Prof. Arif Ergin, our chief guest, for their kind support and contribution to the workshop.

I wish you all the success and thank you for your kind attention.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu