



**Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**  
**Statistical, Economic and Social Research**  
**and Training Centre for Islamic Countries**  
**(SESRIC)**



**Webinar on**  
**“Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Systems during the**  
**Pandemic: The Impact and Response”**

12 August 2020, 11:00 AM Turkey Time

Opening Statement

**H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Distinguished Participants,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**  
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

- It is a great pleasure for me to address this Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Systems during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response”. We are honoured at SESRIC to co-organize this webinar with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET).
- We are delighted today to bring together five distinguished high-level representatives of the national occupational safety and health authorities from different regions of the OIC MCs. On behalf of SESRIC, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to

all of you for accepting our invitation to contribute to this Webinar. I welcome you all.

**Dear Participants,**

- The outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted our life at all levels, including travel, trade, tourism, and labour markets. Workplaces, including health and safety of workers were not exception from the negative impact of this unprecedented health crisis.
- During the Pandemic, we witnessed the rise of the “essential services mode” as a safer operating mode for work in many businesses. However, some of the protective measures that have been taken to limit the spread of the Pandemic and to continue work operations, such as home-office, remote working model and physical distancing measures, cannot be applied to all types of jobs due to the specific nature of some jobs.
- Although some economic sectors and companies have been able to implement remote work policies, a significant number of workers continued to commute to their workplaces under burdensome circumstances. In all cases, more new innovative occupational health and safety measures are still needed. The current situation of the Pandemic in many countries around the world, including our MCs, is still urging all stakeholders, in particular, the national OSH authorities,

to undertake risk assessments and implement preventive measures to cope with this unprecedented crisis.

- As it is well known, the level of the risk of the workers exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace depends in part on the type of the industry or business. This risk is classified from high to medium or lower risk. To apply appropriate precautions measures, workers should be informed by the employers about the virus and the ways of protection, disinfection exercises at workplaces should be conduct and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be supplied. In this context, OSH authorities should play an important role in setting regulations, providing necessary guidance, resources and training and assessing exposure risk levels at workplaces for the control and prevention of COVID-19.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

- With a view to continuing the implementation of our planned training activities for this year in the area of OSH during these difficult times of the Pandemic, we at SESRIC started to conduct our activities online through various digital platforms. In this context, I am pleased to inform you that we have organized two important online capacity building training courses in the field of OSH namely, “Inspection Services for Occupational Safety and Health” and “Occupational Safety and Health Structures” to support the efforts of the OIC member

countries in improving workplace safety and health during this challenging time.

- Today, we are also pleased to conduct this webinar within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), which we, as SESRIC, assume the role of the OIC Technical Coordinator of this Network, whereas the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey assumes the role of the Secretariat of this Network.
- As you may recall, the OIC-OSHNET has been initiated in 2011 as a cooperation platform gathering the national OSH institutions in OIC member countries with a view to facilitating the share and exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices among these institutions. OIC-OSHNET has been welcomed by the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Conference of Ministers of Labour in 2011. So far, three meetings have been convened, the last of which, was in April 2018.
- In this connection, I would like to make use of this opportunity to inform you that currently the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, and SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC coordination institution of the OIC-OSHNET, are preparing for organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of this important Network to be convened virtually in October this year. The main two objectives of this meeting will be, first,

reviewing and discussing the activities that have been implemented so far under the umbrella of this Network, and, second, activating the work of the OIC-OSHNET through discussing and adopting new Rules of Procedures and two-year Work Plan (2021-2022) for this important Network.

**Dear Participants,**

- In fact, the exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences and best practices among the OIC member countries during these difficult times are needed more than ever before. Therefore, I hope that this Webinar would provide insights on how the national OSH authorities in our member countries can play a more significant role in supporting the national emergency response policies against COVID-19 Pandemic by setting standards and regulations that help all stakeholders in different fields. I am confident that it would also offer further collaboration opportunities among the members of the OIC-OSHNET.
- Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and productive discussions that can hopefully inspire other OSH authorities in the OIC member countries that are working on setting their regulations and guidelines.
- Thank you all for your kind attention. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته