

**Welcoming Speech by Ambassador Musa KULAKLIKAYA, Director General of  
SESRIC at the Training Workshop on  
“Beneficiary-Oriented Social Assistance Models”**

**13-15 October 2015; SESRIC HQ, Ankara**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ اِنْ مَحْرًا اَمْ يَحْرًا

**Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

*Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,*

At the outset, I would like to welcome and thank you all for attending and participate in the training workshop on “Beneficiary-Oriented Social Assistance Models” on the occasion of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. I also want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciations to the Ministry of Family and Social Policy Republic of Turkey for supporting this training workshop through providing technical assistance and valuable knowledge by their competent experts.

Eradicating poverty and elimination of hunger and under-nourishment has been identified in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as one of the most important objectives to be achieved at both national and global levels. Despite all efforts, the number of poor and undernourished people is still on rise worldwide. The recent estimates indicate that one billion people worldwide are undernourished; it is quite evident that a significant portion of those poor and undernourished people resides in OIC countries, particularly in the least-developed and low-income members.

In this regard, our workshop aims to form basis for mutual knowledge and experience sharing among member countries in the field of social assistance models.

**Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to mention briefly some of the ongoing and conducted activities of SESRIC in the area of poverty alleviation very recently in 2015. As we are all aware, poverty is still considered as one of the most serious challenges facing humanity today. It is a complicated multi-dimensional phenomenon as a result of a complex socio-economic and political structure of a particular country. In this context, SESRIC prepared various reports for the benefit of OIC member countries to tackle the challenges facing human and socio-economic development.

One of these reports titled “**Integration of Waqf and Islamic Microfinance for Poverty Reduction: Case Studies of Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh**”. The research aims

to develop an integrated Waqf-based Islamic microfinance model for optimizing the use of combined resources of Waqf and Islamic microfinance institutions in OIC countries.

A major concern, however, is availability and quality of good quality. In this context, SESRIC published the report on “**Measurement of Poverty in OIC Member Countries 2015**” within the scope of the project titled “**Enhancing National Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics**” aiming at building statistical capacity in poverty statistics and overall contributing to the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Poverty is more than poor people; it is associated with poor economies, poor human resources, poor social services provision, and poor policies to overcome the difficulties confronting human and socio-economic development. Therefore, SESRIC gives importance on the capacity building activities through implementing short term training programmes, study visits and workshops within the domains of Social Policy and Employment under the framework of **the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET)** Programme, which is an apex programme originally designed and initiated by our Centre and comprising of several sub-programmes and activities.

Taking the strong support from the representatives of OIC Member Countries, SESRIC has developed the **OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP)**. This programme aims to have an active and vital role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and the best practices among OIC Member Countries by possible future events, trainings, capacity building programmes, research and other activities.

On the other hand, youth employment is a crucial phenomenon as the young population and unemployment rates have been increasing and are among the highest in most of the OIC Member Countries. **Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE)** project has been initiated by SESRIC in order to contribute to the solution of the unemployment problem through improving necessary skills for the current labour market. The SDYE project offers an experience and best practice sharing platform to develop effective models to fight against youth unemployment. Within the scope of the SDYE project, a study visit will be organized in near future to Cameroon with the technical support of Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Turkey.

SESRIC organises many training programmes in different dimensions within the context of poverty and its alleviation.

- OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme (OIC-AgriCaB)
- İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (IMTP)
- Ibn Sina Programme for Health Capacity Building (IbnSina-HCaB)

**Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We came together today in this training workshop to benefit from the experience of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy Republic of Turkey on the models of beneficiary-oriented social assistance which are currently implemented in Turkey. I am confident that your presence will contribute significantly to the eradication of poverty in your respected countries.

We all know that alleviating poverty necessitates more commitment and efforts by the governments at a higher level on their national development agendas. In this regard, there is also an urgent need for strengthening and enhancing cooperation and collaboration in various poverty related issues at both regional and international level.

I would like thank once again all the participants for sparing time to attend this gathering. I wish all the success to this workshop and pray to Allah Almighty to help us all and guide our steps to achieve prosperity and welfare for the Islamic Ummah.

*Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu*