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## **Draft Concept Note “Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices In the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)”**

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### **1. Project Background**

The Fifth Session of OIC Stat-Com, held on 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara-Turkey, expressed the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems to better plan and to coordinate the future strategies of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). The OIC Stat-Com requested the OIC-StatCom secretariat to initiate a project entitled “Peer Review for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer).” This project aims to facilitate south-south learning in statistical development through a peer review mechanism to enhance the credibility of the National Statistical Systems (NSS), to strengthen the system’s capacity to produce high-quality statistics and to reassure stakeholders about the quality of statistics produced by the NSOs and the trustworthiness of the system. Sound high-quality data and statistical analysis play important role for policy-making at national and international level.

In this regard, the Centre has approached Eurostat to collaborate on the project towards establishing a sound mechanism for peer-review, sector reviews, and a self-assessment based on snapshot tool as the possible modalities of the assessment process. The Peer Review defines statistical principles and quality criteria which are further elaborated in the Code of Practice (CoP). The CoP consists of principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output. It sets out the standards for developing, producing and disseminating relevant, timely and accurate statistics. The indicators developed for each principle provide a reference for measuring the implementation of the CoP. Besides, the Centre plans to invite Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) to take part in the project as they have significant experience with the First Round of Peer Review in the format of Light Peer Review (LPR) and the Second Round of Peer Review composed of Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ), Questionnaire of Coordination (QoC) and Light Self-Assessment Questionnaire (LiSAQ) conducted by the EuroStat in 2011 and 2015, respectively.

## 2. Some Samples of Statistical System Peer Reviews

- ***Light Peer Reviews (LPRs) – Eurostat***

Light Peer-Reviews (LPRs) is one of the reviews facilitated by Eurostat based on the structure and procedures of the ESS (European Statistical System) peer reviews and are designed for candidate countries and countries with a developed statistical system. The objectives of these reviews are, in particular, to assess compliance of the reviewed National Statistical Institute (NSI) with principles 1-6 and 15 of the European Statistics Code of Practices, to evaluate the coordination role of the NSI within the statistical system, to highlight transferable practices suitable to foster compliance with the Code of Practice and to recommend improvement actions needed in view of fully complying with the Code.

- ***Adapted Global Assessments (AGA) – Eurostat***

Adapted Global Assessments (AGAs) are based on traditional global reviews of statistical systems but specifically adapted to the potential candidates and ENP countries aiming at aligning their statistical production with European standards. The objectives of AGAs are to assess the administrative and technical capacity of the reviewed statistical systems, to assess the statistical law and other legal acts and its respect of the European and international recommendations and principles, to assess the mechanisms used by the National Statistical Institute to coordinate the statistical system, to review the medium and long-term planning mechanisms in place, to propose a list of actions to be undertaken in order to improve and strengthen the statistical system, and to assess the statistical production against the *acquis* in statistics.

- ***Peer Reviews on African National Statistical Systems – Paris21***

The African peer review of NSSs was launched by the Economic Commission for Africa's Committee on Development Information (CODI) meeting in 2003. CODI recommended that African countries, supported by PARIS21, carry out peer reviews to ensure that good practice passes from country to country, based on the firsthand experience of peers, to help accelerate the change processes in reforming statistical systems. The focus of this peer reviews is on governance of the NSS, its organisation, strategic planning, service to users, funding, and sustainability. Peer review teams typically include both senior

statisticians (normally the head or deputy head of the NSS) and senior policy makers from two other countries.

- ***Global Assessment of the NSOs - UNECE***

The Global Assessment of the NSOs is jointly undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Commission (Eurostat). The assessment was initiated in response to country request to UNECE. This assessment is based on an extensive review performed during the assessment missions with the objective to describe and analyse institutional and organisational aspects of the NSS including the compliance of the official statistics with international European standards, norms and recommendation.

### 3. OIC Member Countries that Have Conducted Peer Reviews (PRs)

There are 14 countries which have been reviewed in coordination with international organisations such as Eurostat, Paris21, and UNECE as details below.

No	Country	Year of Review	Peer Review Coordination	Reviewed By	Type of Review
1	Albania	2013	Eurostat		LPR
2	Azerbaijan	2009	UNECE, Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)		Adapted Global Assessment
3	Benin	2010	Paris21	Burundi and Guinea	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems
4	Burkina Faso	2009	Paris21	Cameroon and Niger	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems
5	Cameroon	2015	Paris21	Chad and Senegal	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems
6	Kazakhstan	2008	UNECE and UNESCAP		Global Assessment
7	Kyrgyzstan	2010	UNECE, Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)		Global Assessment
8	Mauritania	2014	Paris21	Djibouti and Mali	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems

9	Mozambique	2009	Paris21	Malawi and Tanzania	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems
10	Niger	2009	Paris21	Mauritania	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems
11	Palestine	2012	Eurostat		LPR
12	Senegal	2011	Paris21	Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea	Peer Review of African National Statistical Systems
13	Tajikistan	2013	UNECE, Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)		Global Assessment
14	Turkey	2011	Eurostat		LPR

#### 4. Objective

To assess the compliance of the NSOs of OIC member countries with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (as amended on 29 January 2014) to ensure that the statistics produced by the NSOs are not only relevant, timely and accurate but also comply with principles of professional independence, impartiality and objectivity and to support the further improvement of the NSOs.

#### 5. Project Purpose

- Enhancing the credibility of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries.
- Strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Systems of OIC Member Countries to produce high-quality statistics.
- Reassuring stakeholders about the quality of data that the NSS produces and the trustworthiness of the NSS.
- Assessing the progress made in adherence to the principles of the CoP.
- Encouraging OIC Member Countries to benefit from the Peer Review mechanism to objectively learn the strengths (including the identification of innovative practices) and weaknesses of their NSOs and to get effective recommendations to improve their systems.

## 6. Expected Results

- The quality of statistics produced by the NSOs of OIC Member Countries will be assured.
- The coordination role of the NSOs within the NSS of OIC Member Countries will be identified.
- Recommendation for improvements of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries in view of fully complying with the CoP will be pinpointed.

## 7. Target Group

The National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC member countries, international agencies including Eurostat, UNSD, UN-ESCWA, UN-SIAP, UNECE, PARIS21, GCC-Stat, AfriStat, AITRS, etc.

## 8. Contribution to the Multilateral Cooperation among the OIC Member Countries

This project will mainly work to maintain standards of quality, improve performance, and provide credibility of the NSOs. In the short and middle term, the project aims to assure the quality of statistics produced by the NSOs, to evaluate the coordination role of the NSOs within the NSS, to highlight transferable practices suitable to foster compliance with the CoP and to recommend improvement actions needed in view of fully complying with the CoP. In the initial phase of the project, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) and a Roundtable Meeting (RM) will be held with the participation of selected NSOs of OIC Member Countries, international agencies including Eurostat, UNSD, UN-ESCWA, UN-SIAP, UNECE, PARIS21, GCC-Stat, AfriStat, AITRS, etc to identify the Peer Review mechanism including the tools and CoP of the Peer Review.

## 9. Proposed Activities to be Carried Out

- **Activity 1 – Organisation of Virtual Meetings:** The meetings had been conducted in March and April 2016 participated by the TurkStat and Eurostat to identify the Peer Review mechanism including the roadmap, snapshot tools, and the way forward.
- **Activity 2 - Organisation of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM):** to introduce the Peer Reviews including the methodology, and to receive some recommendations and inputs on the Peer Review mechanism including the roadmap, tools and the CoP from the invited experts. This meeting also give a chance to the countries to voluntary

engage in the Peer Review process. Plan to be conducted on 3 November 2016 in Konya, Turkey.

- **Activity 3 - Organisation of a Roundtable Meeting (RM):** The meeting will be participated by the TurkStat, Eurostat, UNSD, UN-ESCWA, UN-SIAP, UNECE, PARIS21, GCC-Stat, AfriStat, AITRS, and other international agencies to evaluate the OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) responses, to discuss the way forward including the roadmap, tools, CoP, selection of pilot study countries (around 2-3 countries) to be participated in the project, and the reviewer team. Plan to be conducted on 4 November 2016 in Konya, Turkey as a half-day back to back meeting following the end of the EGM.
- **Activity 4 – OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) Design and Circulation:** Questionnaire on the current situation about the implementation of Peer Reviews in the OIC Member Countries. The questionnaires will be designed and circulated in three official languages of the OIC.
- **Activity 5 – Collection and Collation of OPRIS:** to collect and collate the questionnaire responses.
- **Future Activity – Organisation of a Peer Reviews and Peer Review Missions to the Selected Pilot Study Countries**

## 10. Work Plan

No.	Activity	2016			2017				
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
1.	Organisation of a Virtual Meeting	X							
2.	Organisation of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM)		X						
3.	Organisation of a Roundtable Meeting (RM)		X						
4.	OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) Design and Circulation			X	X	X	X		
5.	Collection and Collation of OPRIS							X	X

## 11. Cooperation Modalities among Stakeholders

Will be discussed during the Roundtable Meeting (RM).