

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

**Excellency Dr. Ali Al- Issawi, Minister of Economy and Industry,**

**Excellency Mr. Sadiq Al-Kabir, Governor of the Libya Central Bank,**

**Excellency Dr. Bandar Hajjar, President of the IsDB Group,**

**Excellency Amb. Abdurrazaq Mukhtar, Ambassador of the State of Libya to Turkey,**

**Distinguished guests,**

Assalamu Alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh. Good evening...

I am very honored to welcome you to this ceremony on the occasion of launching the BINA programme entrepreneurship incubator, which is the result of a vigorous work and a successful and productive tripartite partnership between the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD).

In the mid-2016, SESRIC was chosen by the IsDB and the LPRD to be the implementing partner of the BINA Programme, an ambitious programme with the aim of contributing to the support of building the capacities of the Libyan youth and institutions.

In this respect, I would like to seize this opportunity to express my warmest thanks and appreciation to the IsDB Group and the Libyan Government for the confidence they have placed in our Centre, showing their appreciation for its four-decades-long experience in the fields of economic and social research and capacity building in support of the development efforts of the OIC Member Countries.

With the participation of many research centers and think tanks from the OIC Countries and experts and officials from Libya, since the launch of the BINA Programme, we, at SESRIC, and our partners have developed a work plan to come up with an ambitious plan for the BINA programme with three main projects: Research project, capacity building project and entrepreneurship support project. The experts deem that these fields are the most important ones through which we can contribute to the Libyan youth capacity building with a view to strengthening the economic and social institutions in Libya.

Here we are today celebrating the launch of the third project, which is the largest of the BINA Programme projects in the field of supporting entrepreneurship and small-scale enterprises. The main objective of this project is the economic empowerment of the Libyan youth through supporting and improving the capacities of the entrepreneurship system in Libya and also the provision of advanced training through the BINA business incubator in Istanbul, the premises of which is the Yildiz University Technopark, which is one of the most important technoparks in Turkey and the region, with the aim of transferring technology and knowledge for the benefit of the Libyan entrepreneurs and their start-up companies.

The first activities of the entrepreneurship project started through the BINA business incubator, which we are in the process of its culmination officially by launching the BINA initiative for entrepreneurship in Libya in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Industry of Libya and the Libyan National Programme for SMEs. This incubator will sponsor dozens of small-scale enterprises and embrace the Libyan youth in Libya and then in the headquarters of the incubator here in Istanbul.

As an initiation to its activities, the BINA incubator launched the NAMA initiative for entrepreneurship for the Arab communities and students living in Turkey. It has already started embracing them and providing them with services. We wish them success and all the best. We hope also to witness in the near future other success stories with our young entrepreneurs of the BINA incubator.

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

We, at SESRIC, are proud of what has been accomplished so far with our partners in the BINA program, and we consider this achievement a successful example of effective coordination and solid partnership between OIC institutions and countries, hoping that the activities of this incubator would be culminated by launching successful projects that would contribute to building the Libyan economy and creating networks between the emerging companies in our region. This way our youth would be able to obtain employment opportunities that guarantee them a safe and dignified life.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the team of the BINA program and our partners in the IsDB for the confidence they have placed in SESRIC, and for supporting our efforts in implementing the program. Thanks go also to our partner the Libyan government and its institutions represented by the LPRD and the rest of the cooperating Libyan institutions and beneficiaries of the programme for their contribution in the success of this outstanding and unique partnership within the framework of implementing successful projects in our beloved country, Libya, to which we wish advancement and prosperity. We are confident that, with the help of Allah then the will and determination of the Libyan youth, this will be a reality in the very near future.

Assalamu Alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.