

Training Course on “Transport Statistics”

Welcoming Remarks

Director General of SESRIC

21 July 2020

12:00 pm Turkey Time

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

- I am pleased to welcome you all to this training Course on “Transport Statistics”, which we organise it within the framework of our Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.
- Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Mr. Babacar NDIR, Director General of the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of the Republic of Senegal for accepting our invitation and nominating Mr. Jean Paul DIAGNE to provide this important online training course for the benefit of participants from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) and other relevant ministries of the Republic of Benin.
- My sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to H.E. Mr. Laurent Mahounou HOUNSA, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of the

Republic of Benin for accepting our proposal to organise this training course through distance learning facilities for the benefit of the staff of INSAE as well as the relevant experts from the relevant Ministries in Benin.

- We have initially planned to organize this training course physically as usual through sending an expert to Benin. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and in an attempt to respond to this extraordinary situation, we decided to conduct this training course online instead of postponing it to another date.
- As we all know, transport sector is an important component of the economy and plays a crucial developmental role in this age of mobilization. In this context, the OIC-2025 Programme of Action particularly focuses on the development of adequate, safe, secure, and interconnected multimodal transport corridors and networks among the OIC MCs in order to increase their competitiveness and facilitate trade, social and cultural exchanges among them.
- Transport has a significant role in enabling sustainable economic growth through facilitating the accessibility to local, regional and international markets. Adequate transport networks contribute also to the resilience improvement of cities as well as urban-rural connections. Indeed, the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has once

more proved how critical the transport infrastructures of the OIC MCs are in saving lives and bolstering economies.

Dear Participants,

- It is in the core of its mandate that SESRIC supports and contributes to the efforts of the OIC MCs towards enhancing the technical capacities of their National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant bodies of their National Statistical Systems (NSSs) such as relevant ministries, central banks, etc.
- As an effective approach for enhancing our role in this important domain of our mandate, we have initiated in 2007, the “SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme”. Our StatCaB Programme aims at identifying and matching the technical needs and capacities of the NSOs of our MCs with a view to increasing the quality of the official statistics produced by these institutions.
- By doing so, SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing the quality of the NSSs of the MCs with a view to improving the quality of the official national statistics on various fields and, thus producing more appropriate national sustainable development strategies.
- Within this framework and considering the importance of achieving sustainable development in our MCs, I believe that this online

statistics-training course will add value to the participants' knowledge and experience in transport statistics, which will contribute to the advancement of the transport sector in Benin.

- Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and a successful learning throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you, Wassalamoalikom.