

Training Workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment”

30 November – 3 December 2020, 12:00 PM, Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR Director General of SESRIC

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Very Good Day to all of you

- **I am pleased to welcome you all to the training workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment”, which we organize it within the framework of SESRIC Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) and in partnership with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).**
- **Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Prof. Dr. Ziad H. ABU-GHARARAH, Secretary General of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and his team, for their close cooperation and collaboration with SESRIC in the organisation of this important training workshop.**
- **I would like also to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E Mr. Elborni SALHI, Director General of Tunisian Agency for**

Technical Cooperation (ATCT) for playing a key role in supporting the implementation of this training workshop through the facilitation of technical cooperation between SESRIC and Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET).

- **My thanks are also extended to Her Excellency Ms. Kmaira Ben JANNET, Director General of Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) for accepting our invitation and nominating Engineer Makrem SAIDI, Specialist of Environmental Impact Assessment to provide this important training workshop.**
- **I also welcome and wish a fruitful training and benefit for all the participated environment experts from the Ministries of Environment of Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.**

Dear Participants,

- **In the recent decades, rapid economic growth and urbanization lead to a substantial increase in the demand for many and diversified economic activities such as mining and manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, etc. And, as a result, these sectors have caused very harmful impact on the environment, particularly in the developing world.**

- **Therefore, today the majority of developing countries are facing serious environmental challenges, including desertification, deforestation, air and water pollution, water scarcity, declining wildlife populations and loss of biodiversity.**
- **Representing a significant part of the developing world, the majority of OIC member countries are characterized by poor environmental performance and highly vulnerable to environmental changes induced by the increasing anthropogenic activities. The situation is particularly alarming in low income and least developed member countries due to their low mitigation and adaptation capacities coupled with high vulnerability to environmental degradation.**
- **High-populated OIC Member Countries like Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt and Turkey also face various serious environmental problems and challenges, such as water pollution from industrial sewage and cleaning chemicals and air pollution especially in urban areas due to heavy traffic and rising tourism industry.**
- **Therefore, to enhance their efforts towards sustainable development, there is an urgent need for the relevant authorities of the OIC member countries to give special attention and high priority to the**

“Environmental Impact Assessment” as a tool to identify and mitigate potential environment impacts on their economies.

Dear Participants,

- **The importance of the “Environmental Impact Assessment” process lies in its ability to predict, direct project studies and address environmental impacts before they occur. The “Environmental Impact Assessment” is an interdisciplinary process intended to inform the public and decision makers of the likely consequences of a proposed action in order to avoid or mitigate environmental degradation.**
- **It is worth mentioning here that the 4th Session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, which was held in Tunisia in 2010, made a declaration on “Enhancing the Efforts of the Islamic World towards Environment Protection and Sustainable Development”. The Ministers agreed on promoting cooperation between the Islamic countries on issues pertaining to environment and sustainable development, within the framework of Islamic solidarity and joint Islamic action.**
- **In this connection, SESRIC has initiated the Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) in 2015 to contribute to the efforts of the OIC member countries towards enhancing the**

technical capacities of their national institutions working in the domain of environment and climate change.

- **Within the framework of this programme, we organise short-term training courses, training workshops (like this one), and study visits on a wide range of technical topics such as environmental risk assessment and early warning systems, environmental sensitivity mapping, diversification of agro-forestry and reforestation, etc. This is usually done through different modalities by matching the needs and capacities of the relevant national institutions working in the domain of environment and climate change.**
- **I believe that this training workshop, which aims at introducing the technical aspects related to the process of “Environmental Impact Assessment” and its procedures will contribute to enhancing the capacities of the participants through adding value and knowledge to their experience in this important area.**
- **Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and a successful training throughout the upcoming days.**

Thank you, Wassalamualeykum.