

**Workshop on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023 (SHPA)”**

**07-08 APRIL 2014 ANKARA, TURKEY**

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

*Assalamu Alaikum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu*

It is a great pleasure for me to address this august gathering on the occasion of the Workshop on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023 (SHPA)”, which we have the honour at SESRIC to organize it. At the outset, I avail myself of this opportunity to welcome and express my deep thanks and gratitude to the participants of this workshop for accepting our invitation and designating these two days from your valuable time to attend and participate in the deliberations of this important workshop.

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we are all aware, the issue of health and development of modern and sustainable health systems has recently gained greater importance and attention in many developing countries as one of the main drivers of socio-economic progress where more resources have been invested in this sector than ever being before. However, many developing and least-developed countries are still seriously lagging behind the progress in health sector which has been achieved over the years in the developed countries. This is particularly true in the regions of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa where health care coverage and

health services remained significantly poor in many countries including most of the OIC member countries in these regions.

In fact, over the last few decades, many OIC member countries have witnessed significant improvement in health care coverage and services and, consequently, they recorded declining trends in mortality rates both for adults and children. The average life expectancy rate at birth has been also improved over the years. However, despite these positive trends in many OIC member countries, as a group, they are still lagging behind the world average in many health issues.

To give some statistical facts:

- Annually 200 thousand maternal deaths are recorded in OIC countries, corresponding to 50% of the world total maternal deaths.
- 1.1 million babies in OIC countries are stillborns and 1.3 million die within first four weeks of their life, corresponding to 44% of stillbirths and 40% of neonatal deaths in the world.
- Only 49% of total pregnant women in OIC countries benefit from four antenatal checks up compared to 56% in the world.
- 41% of total births in OIC countries are still taking place without receiving any assistance and care from skilled health personnel compared to 30% in the world.
- Last three polio endemic countries in the world are OIC member countries.
- Out of the 106 malaria-endemic countries worldwide, 43 are OIC countries, and OIC Member countries accounted for 33% of the total tuberculosis-related deaths worldwide.

- Currently, 9 million people with HIV/AIDS are living in OIC countries, corresponding to 28% of the world total infected people.
- One-third (33.7%) of the adults aged over 20 in OIC countries are overweight; and one out of every ten people of this group is facing obesity in member countries.
- On average, OIC member countries allocate only 4.7% of their GDP for health compared to the world average of 7.6%.
- In OIC countries, the average share of health expenditures in total government expenditures is only 8.1% compared to the world average of 15.8%.
- Average health expenditures per capita in OIC countries is only US\$ 387 compared to the world average of US\$ 1010.
- Average out-of-pocket health spending in OIC countries account for 36% of total health spending compared to the world average of only 20%. This ratio reached more than 50% in 20 member countries.
- On average, there are only 26 health personnel per 10,000 people in OIC countries compared to the world average of 43.

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In view of the aforementioned problems and challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries as a group, the Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in Jakarta in October 2013 have adopted the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA), which was developed by SESRIC in collaboration with the Ministries of Health of our member countries and relevant OIC and international

institutions with a view to strengthening and enhancing cooperation and collaboration on various health issues at both OIC and international level. In the light of the current health status of OIC member countries and magnitude of their health problems, the OIC-SHPA identifies six thematic areas for cooperation and joint action: (1) Health System Strengthening, (2) Disease Prevention and Control, (3) Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition, (4) Medicine, Vaccine and Medical Technologies, (5) Emergency Health Response and Interventions, and (6) Information, Education, Research and Advocacy, each of which led by a coordinator country; Kazakhstan, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sudan and Oman respectively.

Under each of these six thematic areas of cooperation, the OIC-SHPA identifies certain programmes of actions and activities to be implemented collectively by the OIC Member Countries and the relevant OIC and international institutions with a view to strengthening the health systems and enhancing the quality of health services in member countries. SESRIC, in collaboration with the lead countries of the six thematic areas of cooperation, has coordinated the preparation of the implementation plan of the OIC-SHPA, which constitute an integral part of the programme.

I would like to seize this opportunity to brief your august meeting on the activities and initiatives of our Centre for pursuit of improving health in the Islamic world. In the area of research, SESRIC regularly prepares the OIC Health Report, which provides a detailed analysis of the trends on major health indicators in the OIC Member Countries at the average OIC group level as well as at the individual country and OIC sub-regional levels. The report also highlights some health related issues in these countries such as health expenditures, the using of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in health sector “e-Health” and the OIC cooperation efforts and initiatives in the domain of health. The report emphasizes the significant improvement in health care coverage across OIC

countries. However, it also underscores that, despite the positive trend, OIC member countries are still lagging behind the world and developing countries averages.

The report shows that the health care coverage situation remained significantly poor in member countries located in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa region mainly due to the lack of adequate and sustainable financial resource, poor health infrastructure, insufficient trained health workforce and slow progress on health reforms. The report emphasizes that the nature and magnitude of these key challenges facing the health sector in many OIC member countries require a greater commitment from the governments to put health sector higher on their national development agendas and build health infrastructure and train workforce to meet the current and future demands for the health services.

In addition to the OIC Health Report, SESRIC have prepared a number of analytical studies on specific health issues of immediate concern to our Member Countries, namely, "The State of Maternal and New-born Health in OIC Member Countries", "The State of Polio in OIC Member Countries", "Pharmaceutical Industry in OIC Member Countries: Production, Consumption and Trade", "The Status of Immunization and Vaccine Industry in the OIC Countries" and "Vaccines Need Assessment in OIC Member countries". Two research studies on "Healthy Life Style and Non-Communicable Diseases" and "A Business Case for Maternal and Newborn Health for OIC Member Countries" is currently ongoing.

On the other hand, SESRIC has also given a special importance to training and capacity building in the field of health. Under the umbrella of its Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), three capacity building programmes have been designed and initiated by the Centre with the aim of enhancing the capacities of human resources involving in health sector in the member countries. These programmes are: Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB),

Tobacco Control Training Programme, and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Program (OSHCaB). These programmes are based on matching the needs and capacities of the relevant national institutions in the Member Countries according to their responses to the related questionnaires of these Programmes. Within the framework of the implementation of these programmes, SESRIC organizes various training courses, workshops and study visits aiming at facilitating the exchanging of knowledge and know-how, best practices and models, experience and expertise among the OIC member countries in the field of health with a view to contributing to the South-South cooperation initiative within the OIC community.

**Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the last twenty years, NGOs have been very active in implementation of national and international health strategies, constructing partnerships with the governments in involving directly in public health, addressing emergency and crisis situations, as well as physical, financial and human infrastructural issues with a view to strengthening the overall health and well-being of the communities. Today, nongovernmental organisations are increasingly recognised as strategic partners in health related issues. Much work in international health is performed by non-governmental organizations. Services provided by international health NGOs include direct health care, community potable water, vitamin supplementation, and mitigation of endemic and epidemic infectious diseases and malnutrition, providing services to low-income areas and deploy financial and human resources during natural disasters and crises.

In view of the above considerations, I strongly believe that NGOs will increasingly play critical role in supporting achievement of national health strategies as well as implementation of OIC-SHPA. Seeking for improved public health outcomes, NGOs can

be particularly active and instrumental in advocating for issues of public health promoted by governments and OIC institutions and expanding their outreach and audience through enhanced mutual dialogue and collaboration among each other as well as governmental and intergovernmental institutions at OIC level. Generating an active and systematic approach to boost the engagement and greater inclusiveness, NGOs can be an integral part of the implementation of regional and country health policies and strategies. Health-related NGOs can also provide crucial capacity development in areas of need, helping nations develop sustainable domestic health solutions through training programs.

In this spirit, SESRIC organized this workshop to deliberate and exchange our views and expertise in partnership with you on the implementation of the OIC-SHPA. This workshop brings together key NGOs operating in the area of health related issues in OIC member countries. The workshop will explore the role of NGOs in health related issues focusing on the modalities that the civil society institutions can employ in complementing the role of governments in the implementation of the OIC-SHPA.

Before concluding, I would like to express our readiness at SESRIC to strengthen our cooperation with all the NGOs and other institutions in generating modalities for engaging health NGOs in several research, training and capacity building activities at OIC level in pursuit of the improving health conditions of people in OIC region. We are confident that together we can continue to develop and introduce more new innovative approaches to support our efforts towards developing more effective modern and sustainable health systems in the OIC Member Countries. In this regard, regular meeting with NGO representatives and their participation in different OIC fora will enrich and support the overall success of the implementation of the OIC SHPA.

I wish you all the success and thank you for your kind attention.

*Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu*