

**4th Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network
(OIC-OSHNET)**

Virtual, 07 October 2020, 12:00 pm Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

I wish you all a very Good Day

- It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the 4th Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). We, as SESRIC, the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, have the honour to organise this meeting jointly with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services of the Republic of Turkey, the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET.
- We are glad today to bring together distinguished representatives of the national focal points of the OIC-OSHNET, the only cooperation forum at the OIC level in the field of occupational safety and health. I would like, at the outset, to thank you all for accepting our invitation and allocating part of your valuable time to attend and participate virtually in this important meeting.

- My thanks and appreciation are also extended to the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of the Republic of Turkey, the Secretariat of this Network and our strategic partner for their continuous support and close cooperation with SESRIC in organizing this meeting and following up the activities of the OIC-OSHNET.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- As we all know, the developments over the last two decades in the field of occupational safety and health have played a crucial role for the well-being of workers, employers and the society in general. It is now well recognized that a well-structured OSH system that includes good policies, standards, records, and clear rules and regulations is essential in workplaces in order to maintain a safe working environment.
- Decent and safe workplaces are basic elements to ensure the sustainability of production and well-being of societies. The right of workers to a safe and healthy working environment is recognised as a fundamental human right. This has been stipulated under Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 2.9 of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Recognizing the importance of developing adequate and modern OSH systems in our member countries, SESRIC has initiated almost a decade ago the OIC-OSHNET with the aim of establishing an official OIC platform for closer cooperation and sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and good practices among the national OSH institutions in OIC member countries.
- The OIC-OSH Network was, first, welcomed by the 1st Session of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in 2011 and since then the activities of the Network have been appreciated by the relevant OIC fora including the 3rd and 4th Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers.
- Since its establishment, three networking meetings were organised jointly by SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET.

- These meetings, which took place in 2011, 2013, and 2016 with the participation of the National Focal Points of the OIC member countries and the relevant OIC institutions, contributed to facilitating the transfer and exchange of knowledge, know-how and experience among the members of the Network.
- During that period, among other activities, we succeeded to publish of a “Fatwa” by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy about the essence of occupational safety and health for workers and an “OIC General Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health” has been prepared and published.
- At the same time, in 2010, SESRIC has initiated and started to implement the SESRIC Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB). Based on the needs and capacities of the OSH institutions, the aim of this programme is to support and contribute to the efforts of our member countries towards improving their OSH systems through using different modalities such as short-term training courses, training workshops and study visits.
- In this connection, I am pleased to inform you that within the framework of this programme, we have successfully implemented since its inception in 2010 more than 25 different OSH capacity

building training activities by matching needs and capacities of the OSH institutions in our member countries. Just to mention the latest two of these activities, which we conducted virtually since the breakout of the pandemic:

- 1- We organized an online training course on “Inspection Services for Occupational Safety and Health” on 13-21 July 2020 for the benefit of 22 work inspectors from different OSH institutions in Djibouti. The training course was provided by a competent expert from Tunisian Occupational Safety and Health Institute.
- 2- In collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey, we organized a Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Systems during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response”. During the Webinar, high-level representatives of the national OSH authorities from different regions of the OIC shared and exchanged their OSH experiences and practices during the Pandemic.
- Here, I would like to make use of this opportunity and call upon all the national focal points members of the OIC-OSH Network, that have not done so, to respond to our OSH-CAB Questionnaire for better planning and organisation of our future training activities.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- We aim, in this important meeting, at reactivating the work of this important Network through discussing and adopting two important documents: the Rules of Procedures and the Work Plan of the OIC-OSHNET. These two instrumental documents will help improving our work and better targeting our activities and programs.
- The aim of the Rules of Procedures is to elevate our Network into a more structured and institutionalized forum in order to ensure the development and sustainability of the joint efforts of all partners and stakeholders. On the other hand, the Work Plan for the upcoming two years 2021-2022 provides a guideline for the activities to be undertaken jointly by the members of the Network multilaterally or bilaterally with a view to enhancing the OSH systems in our member countries.
- Here, I would like to mention that in the previous years, we used to implement ad-hoc activities and projects with various partners in the field of OSH, which resulted in successful outcomes. However, I believe that the Work Plan will facilitate our collaborative work and joint endeavours and help us to proceed during the upcoming two years with a more structured and goal-oriented approach.

Excellencies, Distinguished participants,

- In this connection, it is also my great pleasure today to inform you that we at SESRIC have recently launched the new version of the OIC-OSHNET Portal, which SESRIC has initiated and hosted in its website as an active platform and knowledge hub for all national OSH institutions and professionals in our member countries.
- Here, I would like to call upon all the national OSH institutions in our member countries to, regularly, visit this portal in order to update and enrich its content. Your support and cooperation with us on this issue would be highly appreciated in order to keep this Portal active as an OIC hub for facilitating and enhancing technical cooperation among the national focal points of the OIC-OSHNET.
- Before concluding my remarks, let me, once again, express my deep thanks and appreciation to all of you. I am confident that the deliberations and recommendations that you will make during these two days will be instrumental in improving our work and better targeting our activities and programs.

- I wish you all very fruitful discussions and I look forward to significant outcomes of this meeting that reflect our solidarity and commitment to this important Network.
- Thank you for your kind attention والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته