



Second Meeting of the General Assembly of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), 29 August 2019, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Address by

the Director General of SESRIC

H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum, and very good morning,

I it is indeed a great pleasure and honor for me to join you at the 2nd Meeting of the General Assembly of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS).

At the outset, I would like to express my deep thanks and gratitude to our hosts, particularly to H.E. Abdulrahman Al-Fadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this event.

I would also like to commend the outgoing Chairman of the IOFS General Assembly, Republic of Kazakhstan, for successfully steering the IOFS, and extend our firm support to the new Chairman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under which this newly born Organization will surely make great progress.

Allow me also to congratulate the newly elected Director General of IOFS, H.E. Mr. Yerlan Baidalet and the Members of the Executive Board and wish them all the success in their endeavours.

As a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, SESRIC is looking forward to continue cooperation with your esteemed Organization and together contribute to the joint action towards addressing the wide spread challenges of our Member States in the areas of food security, and rural and agricultural development.

In line with its mandate, SESRIC is undertaking various activities and implementing programmes in the areas of statistics, research, and training, aiming to sustain stability, unlock the development potentials and build institutional and human capital in our MCs.

As a response to the evolving needs of OIC MCs over the past four decades, our Centre proved capable in guiding policy making process and achieving practical results in a wide range of socio-economic areas and field in our MCs.

Here, I would like to share with you a very brief snapshot of what SESRIC is doing in areas supportive to the goals and objectives of your Esteemed Organisation:

- We are conducting research in agricultural, rural development, water and environment related issues for the OIC MCs, with a view to identify the gaps and needs and increase the understanding about available tools for sustainable development of agricultural and food sector.**
- SESRIC is hosting and managing the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat), the first and only international official statistics repository on the OIC MCs with more than 750 indicators under 24 categories including 85 indicators related to agriculture, water and environment. Furthermore, SESRIC assists member countries to develop and enhance capacities of their National Statistics Offices by organizing statistical training courses and workshops on agriculture, water and environment sectors.**
- SESRIC has achieved meaningful results by the successful implementation of many training and technical cooperation activities through its capacity building programs on agriculture, water and environment sectors. These programmes and activities provided a platform to the OIC MCs to work together and share their best practices and**

technical expertise with each other to attain higher socio-economic development.

In this context, Mr. Chairman, I would like to underline that our activities and programmes in the domain of agriculture, rural development, water and environment are well aligned with the goals of the 5-Year Action Plan of your Esteemed organization. And this commonality of goals offers a unique opportunity to streamline our agendas and work together for the socio-economic prosperity of our MCs.

I strongly believe that based on our experience in collecting and disseminating statistical data, SESRIC could support the IOFS in establishing their Database on Food Security in OIC MCs. Furthermore, SESRIC can also collaborate with the IOFS to conduct research on topics of mutual interest like food loss and waste. As SESRIC, we are ready to welcome any of your proposals for joint activities, to further consolidate the existing SESRIC - IOFS collaboration.

Before I conclude, I would like to express once again my gratitude to our hosts and wish a successful mandate to the Chairman of the General Assembly and the Director General of IOFS.

Thank you for your attention!

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu.