

8th SESSION OF OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION

23-24 October 2019, Ankara-Republic of Turkey

**OPENING SPEECH OF H.E. MR. NEBIL DABUR
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SESRIC**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Honourable Guest H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümürüt Selçuk, Minister of Family, Labour
and Social Services of the Republic of Turkey

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries,
Dear Colleagues Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, Islamic
Development Bank, Regional and International Institutions,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Very Good Morning

It is indeed a distinct honour for me today to address your august Commission, the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), at its 8th Session for the first time in my capacity as the newly appointed Director General of SESRIC, the Secretariat of this important OIC cooperation forum in the domain of statistics.

Allow me at the outset, and on behalf of all SESRIC staff family, to express my deep thanks and gratitude to our Honourable Guest, H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümürüt Selçuk, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services of the Republic of Turkey, for honouring us by accepting our invitation and being with us today at the opening Session of this important meeting.

I welcome you all to Ankara and to our HQs and thank you for accepting our invitation and allocating these two days from your valuable time to participate in this Session.

My thanks and appreciation are also extended to our strategic partner in organizing the sessions of this Commission, the IsDB, for their continuous support to the organization of this important forum.

**Honourable Minister,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we all agree, the accurate, reliable, timely, and accessible national statistical data are necessary for making robust and sound national policies. Over the last four decades, since its establishment in 1978, SESRIC has been introducing and implementing programmes and initiatives with a view to supporting the efforts of OIC member countries towards enhancing the technical capacities of their NSOs, and thus improving their national statistical systems.

The OIC-StatCom is one of these initiatives, which is a unique initiative since it is the only OIC cooperation platform in the domain of statistics. In this connection, we believe that the ownership and the active participation of our member countries in the activities of this Commission are important factors for ensuring the realization of the expected role of this forum in supporting the efforts of our national statistics offices (NSOs) towards improving the quality of the national statistical data at the OIC level.

**Honourable Minister,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Based on our experience, as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, we believe that it is now the time that we should improve our work in this important forum through introducing a new approach in both the rules of procedures and the agenda of the OIC-StatCom.

In this context, we would like, in our capacity as the Secretariat of this Commission, to propose some amendments on the format and style of work of the Commission. We will discuss these proposed amendments during this Session, and if your august Commission agree on them, we will include them in the draft resolutions tomorrow to be adopted for implementation starting from the next Session.

The aim of our proposed amendments is to align the Commission's rules of procedures with those of other official OIC forums.

In this context, we propose that the main Session of the OIC-StatCom to be convened for two days annually at the Headquarters of SESRIC (the Secretariat of the Commission) in Ankara in the first week of October of each year instead of each 18 months as was the case in the last two Sessions.

We also propose to organize and convene a Follow-up Meeting every year in March (that is six months after the main Session) on the margins of the annual meetings of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York with the participation of the representatives of the NSOs of the member countries.

The aim of this Follow-up Meeting is to brief the Members of the Commission on the progress of the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the annual main Session as well as to discuss and exchange views on the provisional agenda of the upcoming Session.

Similar to other official OIC fora, the OIC-StatCom shall elect the Members of its Bureau in a way, which reflect the geographical distribution of the three official groups of the OIC (the African group, the Arab Group and the Asian Group).

The Bureau of the Commission shall comprise a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen, and SESRIC (the Secretariat of the Commission) as the Rapporteur.

SESRIC and IsDB Group are ex-officio members of the Bureau. The Bureau shall be elected following the opening of the main Session of the Commission in October of each year.

The Chairmanship position of the Commission shall be rotated among the three OIC official groups of countries (Africa Group, Arab Group, and Asia Group). In addition to Palestine as a permanent Vice Chairman, the Commission shall elect the other two Vice Chairmen from among the other two groups of countries where the Chairman country is not included in them.

These proposed amendments on the rules of procedures of the Commission will be discussed after the Opening Session and reflected in the Resolutions, which will be adopted at the end of the Session tomorrow.

**Honourable Minister,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Concerning the Agenda of the Commission, we believe that it is now the time that we should follow a more focused and results-oriented approach in selecting the subjects of our agenda, which should be in line with the most recent global statistical agenda. We should move from scattered to targeted agenda items and prioritize results-oriented activities where the outcomes can generate the greatest impact and benefit for our member countries.

In this connection, we propose to limit our agenda items every year in three or a maximum of four subjects to be easily and in depth covered during the two-days meeting of the Session. In its capacity as the Secretariat of the Commission, SESRIC should consult the members of the Commission while deciding on the subjects of the agenda items. This could be done through circulating a simple ad-hoc questionnaire in a timely manner to all the members of the Commission.

On the other hand, we also believe that we should accelerate the preparation of the Strategic Vision 2030 of this important OIC cooperation forum. I hope that your discussion today on the progress made so far in the preparation of this important document will lead to specify a clear road map for its finalisation.

In this context, we propose that the Secretariat to finalise the document in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Working Group which has been established for this purpose to be ready for adoption during the next year Session. We also propose that based on this document, a 5-year Programme of Action to be prepared where specific programmes and activities to be implemented by the members of the Commission in collaboration with SESRIC and other relevant regional and international institutions.

**Honourable Minister,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before concluding, I would like once again to express my deep thanks and gratitude to our Honourable Guest, H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümürüt Selçuk, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services of the Republic of Turkey, for honouring us and being with us today at this opening Session.

I thank you all and wish you all the success in your deliberations. I am confident that the deliberations and recommendations that you will make during this Session will be instrumental in improving our work and better targeting our activities and programs.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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