

**OPENING REMARK**

Dr. Abdullateef Bello

Director,

Economic Research and Policy Department

Islamic Development Bank

Assalaam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Your Excellencies & distinguished participants,

It is a great pleasure and honor to represent Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in this important meeting of the 5th OIC Statistical Commission. On behalf of IDB, I would first like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya, the new Director General of SESRIC & his team for the excellent arrangement put in place for this meeting and the warm hospitality accorded us since arriving in this beautiful city of Ankara.

A year has passed since we launched a number of initiatives that are aimed to position the OIC StatCom as an effective platform for exchanging ideas, advancing knowledge and addressing common challenges facing our various institutions. As we can see in the agenda of today's meeting, a lot of promising activities and programs have been launched and significant progress have been made. We should intensify our collective efforts to realize the full implementation of these activities.

As we know, 2015 is an historic and momentous year for a number of reasons. The year will see major agreements being reached such as sustainable development goals ( a replacement of Millennium Development Goals), OIC Ten Years Program of Action, Financing for Development, Climate change deal and global trade agreement. Therefore, 2015 is a year of opportunity for national statistical offices to contribute to these agreements in the form of identifying indicators to be used to monitor progress of the goals and targets to be included in the agreement framework. It is also an

opportunity to tell the global community what is doable in terms of data collection and resource requirements.

We have learnt a lot of lessons from our role in the MDGs, we now know what worked and what didn't work and how to address our weaknesses and challenges in preparation for the new tasks ahead of us. Clearly, the world around us is changing and so must we. We need a 21st century NSOs and institutions that are able to adapt to the new world order. A new strategy and new skills are urgently needed. A new crops of knowledge workers with multitasking capability is required. New titles such as Data Scientist, Data Revolution Officer and Big Data Analyst are some of the sought after role-players for the 21st century.

Data visualization is now the vogue. We need to devote enough resources and trainings in this time honored technique of captivating the attention of data users through telling story with static or dynamic infographics.

We, at IDB, has just launched a new IDB Data Portal, which is a platform for managing socio-economic and financial data of Member countries. The portal draws data from both member countries and international organizations especially access to all IMF data. It has powerful tools for data visualization and aggregations, empowering staff to take control of their data needs. We thank all OIC countries with Open Data Platforms which feed into our Data Platform and call on those countries without the Platform to embark on one.

In conclusion, we look forward for your active participation in today's meeting and wish you all success in your deliberations.

Thank you all and may Allah bless you.