

WELCOME STATEMENT

HE Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya
Director General, SESRIC

Bismillāhirrahmānirrahīm,

Distinguished Representatives of the National Statistical Offices of OIC Member Countries, Institutions of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Supranational and International Organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

It is a great privilege for me to welcome you all to the Fifth Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) and to have the opportunity to address you as the recently appointed Director General of the SESRIC. I also feel the distinct pleasure in seeing not only the Member Countries of the OIC but also the supranational and international organizations among us. Thank you for having accepted the invitation of the SESRIC and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group to join us during these two days.

The current session is the fifth meeting under the umbrella of the OIC-StatCom and tenth in the series of such large scale senior level statistical meetings since the establishment of SESRIC. As you may recall, these meetings had been held more infrequently before 2010. With the beginning of this decade, the OIC Member Countries resolved to hold their meetings in such a way that the experiences and recommended practices of the member countries and international organisations will be exchanged in a more structured manner and these exchanges will then be translated into more concrete activities.

Indeed, the bringing about of the OIC-StatCom is the result of such determinism that shows the desire of our member countries to take proactive steps in improving their statistical

capacities. Through the sessions taking place under the umbrella of OIC-StatCom, our member countries not only exchange the experiences they aggregated with respect to various aspects of the official statistics but also forge the linkages between their institutions for possible cooperation avenues. Speaking of which, this continuous interaction between the member countries and the OIC-StatCom Secretariat gives us the opportunity to learn on what fields we need to direct our efforts more profoundly to have the desired impacts. Being as one of the good epitomes of the South-South cooperation approach, the activities of OIC-StatCom at the same time firmly permeate the various aspects of the OIC's undertakings which aim at strengthening the solidarity and cooperation among the OIC Member Countries.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Though not being a statistician by training but a user of official statistics for decision-making purposes throughout my previous public servant career in various positions of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, I cannot help agreeing with one of the statements made by my predecessor, Prof. Savas Alpay. He said at the beginning of the First Session of OIC-StatCom in 2011: "Every human being affects and changes statistics at least [twice] in their lives, when they are born and when they die. But, in between, it is the availability of reliable statistics and their wise use, which impact the quality of their lives." Undeniably, this very truth will reiterate itself again and again as long as the human race exists on the world: Human beings and statistics interact with each other so closely that any misrepresentation within this interaction may have severe repercussions on the decisions to be made and ultimately lag the progress of the nations.

The connection between the progress of nations and the role that statistics undertakes will be celebrated in the upcoming World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015 under the theme "Statistics for Better Decision-Making—Statistics for Better Development" for the second time after 2010. On that very day, besides the global statistical community showcasing their achievements and their ongoing work to help this vision comes true, SESRIC also wants to hear from you; i.e., What have been your success stories that you want to share with the official statisticians? What are the activities to take place in your countries to celebrate World Statistics Day? Your responses will be shared with the global statistical community through our OIC-StatCom Forum to voice the undertakings of our member countries for the World Statistics Day 2015.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

During these two days, we will cover a significant agenda. First of all, we will have the election for the OIC-StatCom Bureau. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the former Bureau Members of the OIC-StatCom, including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chair, Republic of Indonesia and Republic of the Sudan as Vice-Chairs, and Republic of Senegal as Rapporteur for their invaluable contributions in making first four sessions of the Commission a success.

As is the usual practice, you will listen to the presentation of the SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC-StatCom Secretariat, about the implemented activities since our last session in 2014 and the planned ones. My colleagues from the Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC will give more details in the next session about the results and outcomes of the projects conducted.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the presentation of SESRIC, we will proceed with our first theme in the afternoon on the “Modernisation of National Statistical Systems of OIC Member Countries through Innovative Approaches and Effective Usage of Alternative Channels in Communicating Official Statistics”. As the title suggests, we will cover a broad topic and also a timely one as the impact of the ever-changing nature of the technological advancements is deeply felt in the official statistics field. Our colleagues from the international agencies and national statistical offices will cover the aspects of ICT development and the requirements imposed by the SDGs in order to modernise national statistical systems and how to communicate the outputs to the relevant stakeholders.

Our second theme on the “Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (Peer Assessment) for Official Statistics towards a More Efficiently Functioning National Statistical System” has brought to the attention of the Secretariat recently by our member countries. In connection with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the role of the monitoring and evaluation processes undeniably will increase. From the perspective of both the beneficiary and provider institutions,

the peer assessment is a helpful exercise to evaluate where the beneficiary stands with respect to its capacity and potentials based on the recommendations of the peers.

Our third and final theme on the “Strategic Priorities for National Actions to Transform National Statistical Systems to Embrace Post-2015 Development Agenda” will give you to opportunity to learn from the respective international institutions the wide range of possibilities and challenges that are awaiting us. In this respect, reaching a globally agreed indicator framework for the sustainable development goals and the activities to be shaped under this reference carries real importance.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, the proactive involvement of the participants in the discussions is highly encouraged. I am sure that the deliberations you will hold, the recommendations and proposals you will make will largely contribute in the effective implementation of the OIC-StatCom activities that are focused on taking the Member Countries’ national statistical systems levels to a better position.

I would like to thank the IDB for providing their generous support. Also accept my thanks once again for the dedication you have exhibited to participate in the Fifth Session of OIC-StatCom and I wish all the success to this Meeting.

May Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) bestow His mercy on the undertakings of this session of the Commission.

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu