

Third Session of OIC Statistical Commission

10-12 April 2013, Ankara – Turkey

FINAL REPORT

The Third Session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) was co-organised by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on 10-12 April 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

The delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from 26 OIC Member Countries and international organizations attended the Third Session of OIC-StatCom. The participants list is attached in Annexes.

The Agenda of the Third Session of OIC-StatCom included the following items:

- Opening Session
- OIC–StatCom Technical Committee of Experts: Implemented Activities and the Way Forward
- Towards a More Comprehensive System of Labour Statistics
- Open Data Initiative: Challenges and Opportunities for NSOs of OIC Member Countries
- From MDGs to SDGs: Involvement of National Statistical Offices in Measuring Progress in the Post-2015 Period
- SESRIC’s Technical Cooperation Proposal on Development of Data Visualization Tools
- Closing Session

1 Opening Session

Following the recitation of some verses from the Holy Quran, the Third Session of OIC-StatCom started on 10 April 2013 with the welcome addresses of Mr. Mohanna al Mohanna (Chairman of the OIC-StatCom and Director General of the Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Mr. Mehmet Metin Eker (Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office), and Mr. Jakhongir Khasanov (Professional Officer at the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat). Dr. Abdullateef Bello (Director of the Economic Research and Policy Department at the IDB) and Prof. Savaş Alpay (Director General of SESRIC) delivered the welcome speeches as co-organizers of OIC-StatCom. The opening session continued with the opening remarks of Mr. Elijah Muwanga-Zake (Chairman of the Board of UBOS, Uganda), Mr. Mohamed Ali Al Marzouqi (Director of Administration, QSA, Qatar), and Mr. Enver Taştı on

behalf of Mr. Birol Aydemir (President of TurkStat, Turkey) representing African, Arab and Asian region, respectively.

In their speeches, the speakers thanked SESRIC and IDB for their efforts for a good performance of the Third Session and also for supporting the work of the Technical Committees of Experts. Furthermore, they reminded the fruitful nature of the first two meetings and have dwelt on the significant contribution that OIC-StatCom shall provide to the statistical work in the world by helping the OIC countries in producing reliable and timely statistics based on standards and methods adopted at the international level and enabling evidence-based decision making, design and evaluation of programs and the prevention of crises. Indeed, they reminded the challenges facing the world, including poverty, climate change, and unemployment for which there is a real need for indicators developed by appropriate methods for monitoring these phenomena. They also highlighted the importance of cooperation between NSOs as recommended by the Istanbul Declaration (following the Meeting of National Statistical Organisations of the OIC Member Countries in 2010). Speakers also highlighted the urgency of the statistics demand to develop trade and economic potential of the OIC Member Countries. In particular, for the implementation of the strategy adopted at the COMCEC level, the various working groups established for its implementation (Tourism, Trade, Poverty Alleviation, Finance, etc.) have an urgent need for reliable statistics. They also focus on the statistics to be produced in the context of post-2015 development agenda. Developing solidarity among the member countries with experience and best practices sharing were mentioned in the speeches, as well. Resources available in member countries for capacity building (StatCaB, IDB projects, etc.) were also reminded. Special thanks were also extended to countries that had contributed to the construction of the new headquarters of SESRIC (inaugurated in 2012), namely Republic of Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait and State of United Arab Emirates.

Presenters also highlighted the importance of the issues mentioned in the meeting agenda, such as Labour Statistics, Open Data, and Post-2015 Development Agenda. They recognized that, despite the positive results achieved so far, there are still some challenges on the quality of statistics and dissemination.

The agenda was adopted without amendments. The StatCom members elected for the period 2011-2012 have been re-elected for the period 2013-2014. The Bureau is as follows:

- Chair: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Vice Chair: Indonesia
- Vice Chair: Sudan
- Rapporteur: Senegal

2 OIC–StatCom Technical Committee of Experts: Implemented Activities and the Way Forward

The following Technical Committees of Experts (TCE) presented the progress reports of their activities.

- TCE 1 on Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics: Progress report presentation by SESRIC (Mrs. Zehra Zumrut Selcuk, Senior Researcher). The Lead Country of this TCE is Jordan.
- TCE 2 on Executive Work Plan for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision: Progress report presentation by Dr. Suryamin (Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia).
- TCE 3 on Procedural Details of the Accreditation Program for Statistical Professionals in OIC Member States: Progress report presentation by SESRIC (Mrs. Munevver Nilgun Egemen, Senior Researcher). The Lead Country of this TCE is Bahrain.
- TCE 4 on Gender Related Issues: Progress report presentation by SESRIC (Mrs. Zehra Zumrut Selcuk, Senior Researcher). The Lead Country of this TCE is United Arab Emirates.
- TCE 5 on the Comprehensive Profile on the Population and Housing Census Experiences and Practices of OIC Member Countries: Progress report presentation by SESRIC (Mr. Atilla Karaman, Acting Director, Statistics and Information Department).

2.1 Presentation and Discussions about TCE 1 on “Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics”

In the presentation of TCE 1, the Istanbul Declaration of the Meeting of National Statistical Organisations of the OIC Member Countries in 2010 which called for a group of experts to be established to work on Islamic statistics was reminded. The Expert Group, led by Jordan, has identified a framework for Islamic statistics that was presented in the First Session of the OIC-StatCom. The First Session established a Technical Committee of Experts (TCE), which was working on "Specific Indicators for OIC Member Countries". Following the presentation of this work at the Second Session of OIC-StatCom, it was decided to focus on three themes on which the TCE would work. These are: Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics, Halal Food and Products Statistics, and Waqf Statistics. The activities presented by TCE 1 fell into this framework. They focused on the following items:

It was reminded that Islamic finance is based on the principle of sharing risks and benefits. The findings of relative literature presents it as more stable, equitable, inclusive and supportive of economic growth and serving sustainable development better. The assets of the global Islamic finance

market are estimated at 1.1 trillion USD at the end of 2011, an increase of 33% compared to 2010. However, this volume represents only 1% of global finance. The OIC countries owned a 98%-share in total Islamic finance assets. The OIC Countries in the MENA had a share of 78% and six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council had a 40%-share in 2011. In Asia, where the majority of the Muslim population is found, Islamic finance was not well represented (15%). Sub-Saharan Africa which has significant financing needs represented only 1%. Although Muslims represent nearly 25% of the world's population, with the exception of a few countries (Bangladesh with 65%, Bahrain with 46%, Saudi Arabia with 35%), the level of penetration of Islamic finance is limited (4-5%). Given this background, policy makers in the field have a significant need for statistical data for better implementation of Islamic finance. In this respect, the presentation mentioned that Islamic finance needs reliable, updated, comparable and consistent statistics, policies and programs oriented, interactive and coming from trusted sources. From this point of view, relative statistics should be produced by the NSOs and Central Banks on a voluntary basis. The TCE presented a number of indicators (18) and their definitions.

The open discussion following the presentation was about needs for human resources to develop statistics in this field. In a number of developing countries, the task of monetary statistics is legally trusted to the Central Banks. However, there is a need/interest for establishing Islamic finance statistics.

Given the importance of these statistics for strengthening the infrastructure of the Islamic banks, it was requested that the Meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries take advantage to raise awareness on the development of Islamic banking and statistics. It was decided to start working with the first 18 indicators proposed until enhancing them. It was suggested to develop a partnership with the Central Banks which will be invited to participate in the TCE. The TCE was also demanded to finalize the methodology before the next session of the OIC-StatCom. In particular, it will clarify the statistics that Central Banks should provide and those which fall within the responsibility of the NSO. As the importance given to the OIC Islamic finance is on the rise, the Ninth International Conference on Islamic Economics and Finance (ICIEF) is scheduled for 9 to 11 September 2013. It was also requested from SESRIC and IDB to conduct study visits to OIC Member Countries in order to facilitate the exchange of information on Islamic finance statistics.

2.2 Presentation and Discussions about TCE 2 on “Development of an Executive Work Plan for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision”

Dr. Suryamin, Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, presented the progress of the TCE. The TCE was composed of the focal points designated by member countries to provide feedback on the

prepared Project Planning Matrix (PPM). Some difficulties were pointed out in obtaining responses from countries to complete the PPM. In fact, from twenty two members of the TCE, only five responded to the PPM, and other focal points who have not responded mentioned about time constraint as an obstacle.

The session acknowledged the progress made in the field but also the difficulties of the task. During the discussions, two options appeared: i) Based on the feedback of the responding countries, the TCE's work will be finalised, ii) Call once more all OIC Member Countries to complete a simpler version of previously sent PPM. As a result, the TCE was requested to send back the questionnaire to countries that didn't answer and attach a guide for filling it in order to facilitate understanding and fixed the deadline for 6 May 2013.

2.3 Presentation and Discussions about TCE 3 on “Development of an Accreditation and Certification Programme for Statistical Professionals”

Following the approval of the accreditation/certification process (including criteria and measurement) during the Second Session of OIC StatCom, a team work was established under the facilitation of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat, responsible for the implementation of the Basic Level of Accreditation and identification of the challenges to be faced, and ensuring the effective implementation of the Full Programme. To recap, the OSTAT programme covers two levels: a basic level and an advanced level. For an effective participation of potential candidates for the program, a training component is planned for each level of certification. The program's objective is to certify the expertise of professionals in official statistics. The program aims to recognize those who have achieved a level of professional competence in the understanding and the use of statistical methods and who are governed by a code of ethics, principles and practices of official statistics.

The first target audience of OSTAT programme is the NSOs and government institutions of OIC Member Countries. The programme is assumed to be a source of motivation that will enhance the skills of statisticians who produce official statistics. As requested by the Second Session of OIC-StatCom, the OSTAT programme was submitted to the 28th Session of the COMCEC to bring about awareness for the programme at a higher level. The COMCEC welcomed the OSTAT programme and asked SESRIC and IDB to contribute technically and financially for its implementation.

The meeting that took place in October 2012 after the 28th COMCEC Session brought together the key stakeholders at the SESRIC headquarters. The discussions were about the following:

- How can the ISO 17024 (principles and requirements for a body certifying persons against specific requirements, and the development and maintenance of a certification scheme for persons) be applied for the OSTAT programme?

- What can be the sources of funding for the OSTAT programme?
- What are actions to be undertaken for recognition of the program at the national and international level?

For the implementation of the program, two bodies are expected to be established: the General Secretariat of the Programme, and the Examination Committee. The General Secretariat is the administrative body that will be responsible for the programme coordination while the Examination Committee prepares and organizes examinations. The full implementation of the programme is planned to be completed in 5 years, with a pilot phase which will cover the Basic Level. The Advanced Level will start after one year the Basic Level is initiated.

The costs of implementing the program are estimated at 2 729 850 USD including the establishment of the abovementioned two bodies and the cost of training, expenses related to examinations (fees for examiners and examination centres).

Following the presentation, the questions raised were about the timing of the project and also the profiles of candidates for accreditation. Some delegates believe that candidates must have an initial basic training in statistics, while others think that the program could also involve candidates without initial basic training but who have experience in the field of statistics. The OIC-StatCom Secretariat plans to provide training that would be beneficial in different profiles. A request for funding was submitted to the IDB in March 2013. The result of the application for the provision of funds will accurately determine the OSTAT programme schedule.

2.4 Presentation and Discussions about TCE 4 on “Gender Related Issues”

Delivered by SESRIC, the presentation briefed the participants about the OIC-StatCom Technical Committee of Experts Meeting on Gender Related Issues that was organised by SESRIC in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom on 21 – 22 January 2013 at the SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey. The members of the OIC-StatCom requested the Secretariat to prepare and send a short questionnaire to the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to assess the relevance of the UN minimum set of gender indicators.

2.5 Presentation and Discussions about TCE 5 on “Comprehensive Profile on the Population and Housing Census Experiences and Practices of OIC Member Countries”

This presentation, made by SESRIC, briefed the participants about the results of 2010 Housing and Population Census Round in the OIC Member Countries based on the findings from two surveys carried out by the UNSD. Focusing on the practices of member countries concerning population censuses in the 2000 (1995-2004) and 2010 (2005 - 2014) Census Rounds, the presentation informed the participants about the following findings:

In the 2000 Census Round, 46 Member States (81%) carried out a census. In total, 26 countries did not conduct a census in the world in the 2000 Census Round of which 11 of them were OIC Member Countries. As of 1 February 2013, 198 countries (including 37 on the OIC Member Countries) carried out their censuses in the 2010 Round, 30 countries (of which 15 of them are OIC Member Countries) are planning to do it in 2013 or 2014, 7 countries (including 5 OIC Member Countries) did not plan a census for the 2010 Round. The population enumerated so far in the 2010 Round is 6.2 billion (89% of the world population).

In terms of methodology, some improvements are noted between the Census Rounds of 2000 and 2010. Various sources and modes of population enumeration were used. Technological developments are also noted in the different phases of the census, the objective being to reduce costs, improve data quality and better dissemination of current data. The dominant method was full field enumeration although few countries have used administrative records or other methods (2 member countries out of 27).

The paper questionnaire by an enumerator was the most used enumeration method (24 member countries out of 27). Only five countries have used an electronic questionnaire. One member has used the phone for the enumeration. A wide range of technologies has been used; from GIS (20 members) to computers, tablet PCs and scanners.

Regarding costs, 17 member countries have confirmed that they realized cost and time savings, while 4 member countries did not confirm such savings. 8 countries stated an increase in costs due to employment of new technologies. As to the obstacles faced in use of new technology, 15 OIC Member Countries stated lack of staff resources and expertise and 8 of them indicated lack of financial resources.

Concerning data dissemination, most of member countries have used paper publications (19 countries from 27). In the 2010 Census Round, 10 OIC Member Countries collaborated with other countries in data dissemination and questionnaire design. 7 of them collaborated in new technologies, 6 of them in alternative census methodologies.

A significant number of countries pointed out that implementation of new technologies were success points for them, particularly in terms of improvement/maintenance of data quality. Despite, the cost was still the biggest challenge faced.

Discussions and comments following the presentation were related to methodological choices made for censuses (traditional methods or new technology). Participants also stressed the importance of good cartography, a good planning in order to succeed the census implementation and strong advocacy

for public support. The use of new technologies has been recommended as it will improve data quality. In addition, member countries were encouraged to share their experiences. The difficulty of substituting administrative registers with full field enumeration was also noted during the discussions.

3 Thematic Sessions

3.1 Towards a More Comprehensive System of Labour Statistics

The representatives of the International Labour Organisation made the first presentation which focused on the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The presentation highlighted the role of the ICLS in international standards, types of standards, themes of ICLS, new framework of labour statistics, new design of employment and new measures of underemployment.

The ICLS, held since 1923, brings together representatives of governments (statisticians), employers and workers. Its main objective is to help countries in developing and updating their systems of labour statistics and to promote consistency of methods and concepts and international comparability of statistics. In this respect, the conventions and recommendations developed are legally binding for the countries that have ratified. Resolutions are established but are not binding. ILO Convention 160 and the ICLS Resolution 170 of 1982 will be reviewed during the 19th ICLS.

The topics to be covered during the 19th ICLS in October 2013 are:

- For adoption: Standards updating on the economically active population, Employment, Unemployment, and Underemployment.
- For discussion: Statistical definition of “Green Jobs”, International Classification of Employment Status.

The new framework of labour statistics will deal with the type of work (own work production, employment, interns unpaid work, volunteer work) and also activities in the field of system of national accounts (SNA) production.

The experiences of Egypt, Malaysia and Turkey in labour statistics were also presented. Following the questions and comments related to the consideration of national characteristics in the development of standards for labour statistics, and the need to increase human resources specialized in labour statistics in member countries, it was recommended to the NSO to be represented at a high level and contribute significantly to the work of the 19th ICLS.

3.2 Open Data Initiative: Challenges and Opportunities of the OIC Member Countries

The presentations were made by the representatives of PROGNOZ, Indonesia, Palestine, Senegal, and Turkey, respectively. The representative of Prognoz introduced the software enabling free access to

information for all users who can instantly create their own field of work, download the online data, process and analyse them either for commercial or non-profit purposes. He presented the current project of African Development Bank (AfDB) and Prognoz for the establishment of a platform for Open Data for all African countries by the end of July 2013. 30 Countries currently have this platform. The data published by the country cannot be changed by users. The questions raised were related to funding, responsibility for misinterpretation of data by users, infrastructure and deployment schedule in Africa. AfDB finances the implementation of Open Data for African countries with 25,000 USD per country on average, for capacity building. The product of Prognoz is cloud-based, so no infrastructure is needed except for countries that want to host the platform. Responsibility for corrections is the responsibility of the producer of statistics in case of misinterpretation of data, as recommended by the fundamental principles of official statistics of the United Nations.

The National Statistical Offices (NSOs) have been encouraged to choose Open Data for greater dissemination of statistics. The OIC StatCom supported the idea of organising study visits and other capacity building programmes concerning open data with the support of SESRIC and IDB.

3.3 From MDGs to SDGs: Involvement of National Statistical Offices in Measuring Progress in the Post-2015 Period

Delivered by the UNSD, Eurostat, Cameroon, Niger, Oman and Turkey, the presentations in this session were related to the intergovernmental processes following the resolution adopted by the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. The consultation process to set the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), expected to be finished in 2015, is also supposed to involve statisticians at a greater extent to define targets and indicators for measuring progress related to the post-2015 development agenda. OIC StatCom invited NSOs to take active part in this process and get involved especially in the UN Open Working Group on SDGs.

3.4 SESRIC's Technical Cooperation Proposal on Development of Data Visualization Tools

SESRIC presented its data visualization tools for better presentation of data for its better use in policies and programs. SESRIC offered the opportunity to share for free these tools through seminars and workshops.

4 Closing Session

The Third Session of OIC-StatCom ended with the adoption of the draft resolutions. The OIC-StatCom members decided to have the next session in Turkey in May 2014.