



**MESSAGE OF
H.E. PROF. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC,
TO THE THIRD MEETING OF
THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

**ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
10-12 APRIL 2013**

Bismillahi Arrahmani Arrahim

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

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to address the Third Meeting of the OIC Statistical Commission. Let me at the outset commend the Government of Turkey for the warm reception and brotherly hospitality extended to all participants at this meeting. I also express my sincere appreciation to all participants at this meeting for their steadfastness and consistent identification with the activities of this august body.

I have followed with keen interest the efforts of the OIC Statistical Commission since its transformation from the meeting of National Statistical Institutions of OIC member states, which epitomized the new spirit of result-oriented actions in the area of intra-OIC cooperation on statistics. Let me acknowledge the fact that this meeting is very significant as we strengthen our collaborative efforts, aimed at developing the capacities of our member states for a more robust statistical data compilation, collection, analyses and surveys.

You would recall that before this Commission was established, there were initial attempts at harmonizing the various statistical activities embarked upon by the relevant OIC institutions. The OIC Statistical Working Group, which tried to bring into unify the approaches and

methodologies adopted by OIC institutions, with a view to removing overlapping and duplication, had succeeded in creating a solid basis for the tasks, which the Commission now undertakes.

The OIC Statistical Commission is therefore a useful framework for developing the potentials of our member states through exchanging best practices and sharing experiences for the promotion of sound statistical data collection and dissemination. I must also recall that, in addition to improving general statistics, there are other on-going efforts towards improving our statistical capacities in such specific areas as national accounts, population and demography, labour and use of web-based data collection, among others.

In this regard, the upcoming meeting of the Heads and Senior Officials of the National Organizations for Civil Registration of the OIC member states in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 15-17 April 2013, can find relevant support from the general mandate of this Commission. I am sure that, in the fullness of time, the Commission will be in a position to accomplish a comprehensive harmonization of all these activities in this important domain of economic planning for the sake of development.

I am left with no doubt that our member states do have greater opportunity to share knowledge and benefit from the capabilities of those other member states of our Organisation, which are considered as having greater comparative advantages over their less endowed counterparts. This approach, which is reflective of the new drive for solidarity in action within the OIC would compare favourably with our traditional mode of cooperation in other sectors of intra-OIC activities. This will also accord with the spirit

and letter of the OIC Charter and the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia in 2005, which underscore our joint action towards socio-economic transformation in OIC member states.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

Let me also commend this meeting for devising mechanisms for the implementation of its various initiatives and programmes. There is no doubt that our Organisation has recently been putting more emphasis on implementation of the outcomes of our numerous meetings. It is high time that we became recognized as Organization that translates all its resolutions into effective actions in the interest of its member states and their peoples, including those belonging to the vulnerable groups, who are daily yearning for an effective leadership to better their livelihoods and alleviate the excruciating poverty they suffer from.

While the Technical Committees of Experts established by the Commission are expected to submit their progress reports, I urge this meeting to come up with immediately implementable actions, which will serve, in the short term, as the low-hanging fruits for the efforts we have expended so far. In this context, I have in mind actions such as an immediate pledge by those member states, which have relatively advanced experiences in the area of statistics, to organize training workshops for the benefit of less endowed member states in this domain. Another quick-win programme could be organization of an open-ended capacity building workshop before the next meeting of the Commission so that the momentum, which we have

created through the activities of this Commission would be sustained. This will provide the desired dividend of our on-going efforts as well as constituting the raison-d'être of this Organisation.

Let me conclude by re-iterating our commitment to continue to support the noble objectives and activities of this Commission. I am sure that the output of our collaboration will complement the various demarches, programmes and projects within the OIC aimed at expanding South-South cooperation and socio-economic transformation in our member states.

While wishing this meeting every success, I thank you for your kind attention.

Wasalam alaekun, warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.