



Welcoming Address

By

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Your Excellency, the Chairman of OIC STATCOM
Your Excellency, Director General, SESRIC
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalaam `alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

It is a great honour and privilege to join you here today. On behalf of the Islamic Development Bank, I welcome you to this 4th OIC Statistical Commission meeting. First and foremost, allow me to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to SESRIC for the excellent arrangement put in place for this year's meeting and for the generous hospitality accorded us since arriving in this great city of Ankara.

The global economy is in recovery mode; thanks to the recent growth spurt in the United States and to some extent in the Euro Area which has ended its economic recession. The economic activity in most OIC countries has experienced uneven growth due to their different levels of exposure to the crisis-hit advanced economies, majority of whom are implementing unconventional monetary policies.

The National Statistical Offices (NSOs) have and continued to bear the brunt of the global economic crisis in varying degrees as governments reprioritize their development activities. The Official Development Assistance (ODA) which, for many years, has been the main source of financing for statistical projects in developing countries has remained unstable due to financial crisis. This is not surprising as donor countries rebalance and adjust their economies. Tellingly, according to PARIS21, only 0.16 percent of ODA went into support statistical-related activities in 2012. This is too low to make any significant dent in the huge resources needed to finance statistical projects especially in poorer or least developed countries.

At IDB, we have continued to finance statistical projects and activities in member countries. For instance, Yemen, Egypt and ESCWA are the latest beneficiaries of DfID-fund being managed by the IDB. The Bank has also provided resources to finance the OIC Certification Program for Statisticians

(OIC-CPS) and other related events of the OIC-StatCom during the past year.

Partnership is at the heart of IDB's strategy for financing development activities. In this context, I am pleased to inform you that the IDB joined six other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to sign an MOU with the UN on 19 April 2013 on coordination of statistical activities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Since the MOU became effective, the "MDBs Focal Point Contact Group" has met a number of times and recently submitted its progress report to the Head of MDBs at their meeting held last week during the Development Committee meeting of the IMF/World Bank. This global outreach has helped position IDB as an essential partner in international drive to "revolutionize" data for the post-2015 agenda.

We gather here today for an important reason, which is to take stock of the progress of work that we set out to do during our last meeting in 2013. From all indications, it appears we have recorded impressive progress on all fronts; thanks to the strong leadership of SESRIC who continued to play pivotal role in supporting and managing all the OIC-StatCom activities.

As we gradually move to the post-MDGs era, it is crucial that we collectively document our experiences and lessons learnt during the MDGs era with a view to identifying best practices that can be leveraged for the post-2015 era. We cannot afford to repeat costly mistakes in an era of austerity and competing priorities. We need to develop toolkits for each best practice that we know in order to recycle knowledge that will help NSOs address their myriad challenges.

In conclusion, taking an inspiration from IDB's motto "together we build a better future", it is time to put all our hands on deck to move OIC-STATCOM activities forward. This requires our individual and collective commitment, dedication, and determination to share information, knowledge, and resources both in-kind and cash.

With this I end my address by wishing you all success in your deliberations in the next two days.

Thank you and May God bless you all!