

First Meeting on Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries

29-30 April 2014

SESRIC HQ, Ankara, Turkey

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the representatives of relevant authorities on public employment services in OIC member countries participating in the “First Meeting on Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries” held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 29-30 April 2014;

Having been informed by the detailed presentations made by the representatives of the different participating institutions in this meeting, highlighting the presence of a wide range of expertise in areas crucial to contribute to national strategies for reducing unemployment, including expertise in supporting capacity building, strategy development, project and program planning/designing, resource mobilization, mentoring capability etc.;

Inspired by the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection adopted by the Second Session of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-26 April 2013;

Recalling that the Baku Declaration adopted during the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers urged member countries to establish networks among relevant institutions of member states and ensure exchange of experiences and best practices among them to promote development of skilled and competitive labour forces and occupational standards;

Recognizing that the present challenges and accelerating changes pertaining to higher average unemployment rates in member countries call for the OIC to intensify its efforts and strengthen its capacity to stimulate cooperation among the Member States in the area of labour, employment and social protection;

Reaffirming commitment and support to the efforts made by international organizations, such as the World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES) and International Labour Organization (ILO), to promote and intensify research and development efforts for decent work, productive employment and safe work places that are important elements to ensuring the sustainability of societies and combating poverty;

Expressing our profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for organizing and hosting the First Meeting on the Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries;

Inspired by the shared common views towards addressing the employment challenges in the OIC member countries, hereby recommend the followings:

1. **Acknowledge** the need for the provision of international integrated efforts in OIC community to facilitate, implement and monitor programs to mitigate collective challenges in employment domain faced by the OIC member countries;
2. **Expose** strong aspiration in the establishment of a network among relevant institutions of OIC member countries to ensure exchange of experiences and best practices of public employment services, with the purpose of promoting better employment policies and development of skilled and competitive labour forces;
3. **Establish** the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) as one of the means to contribute to the achievement of the aspirations of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection;
4. **Call upon** OIC member countries to designate National Focal Points (NFPs) for the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), which shall be a national public or governmental body with the responsibility of managing employment or implementing labour market policies;
5. **Recommend** that private employment bureaus or organizations, employer organizations, trade unions and private individuals shall not be eligible to attend the meetings of OIC-PESNET unless they are entrusted by their respective NFP's to represent the member states;
6. **Invite** the future members of OIC-PESNET to develop, strengthen and maintain global partnerships and undertake joint actions to ensure solidarity, trust, transparency and optimal synergy and impact through exchange of experts, capacity building and training programs, joint projects, and study visits for the benefit of the member states;
7. **Welcome** the proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan with respect to establishment of the OIC Labour Centre in Baku which will promote OIC-PESNET in the area of labour, employment and social protection.
8. **Request** SESRIC and IDB to coordinate for developing a Capacity Building Program with respect to improving Public Employment Services through matching the needs and capacities of OIC member countries and organizing different types of training programs, courses or workshops.

9. **Request** SESRIC to undertake the role of the Secretariat of the OIC-PESNET to represent, publicize and raise awareness in both OIC and international level, and establish an e-mail and social media groups which will facilitate and ease the communication among the members of the Network;
10. **Request** SESRIC to prepare analytical reports that provides detailed account of labour market conditions in OIC countries in order to be able to identify and assess the fundamental problems and challenges in the labour markets of OIC countries, highlighting practical approaches that are regarded to be crucial in supporting and enhancing employment opportunities in order to reduce unemployment and avoiding impairment of the skill endowment of labour force.
11. **Recommend** developing an OIC-PESNET Web Portal, where knowledge sharing related to experiences, projects and best practices of Public Employment Services is facilitated, which will also involve a roster of experts involving specialists on (i) employment/placement, (ii) active labour market policies, (iii) passive labour market policies, (iv) consulting services and (v) labour market statistics separately;
12. **Encourage** member countries and relevant international institutions to actively support the Network and participate in the implementation process for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of public employment services;
13. **Request** Gambia, Maldives, Mali and Turkey, the volunteering countries, in coordination with SESRIC, to develop a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the OIC-PESNET to be adopted through circulation to the participants of the “First Meeting on Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries”, before 17th of June 2014;
14. **Convene** the Meeting of the OIC-PESNET on an annual basis and to adopt a Final Communiqué at the end of each Meeting which shall stipulate the consensus, common views, decisions and recommendations of the members of the Network.