

The First Meeting of the Development and Cooperation Institutions of the OIC Member States

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Session II

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) is a subsidiary organ of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) operating in Ankara, Turkey since June 1978 as the main economic research arm, statistics centre and training organ of the OIC. Our Centre has been engaged in statistical data collection, collation and dissemination on and for the member countries, undertaking the preparation of research papers, reports and studies on economic cooperation and development issues contained on the agenda of various OIC ministerial and other forums, organizing training programs on subjects of immediate interest to the member countries, and putting out periodic and other publications in its areas of mandate for the benefit of the member countries.

SESRIC is undertaking a number of activities related to the implementation of the OIC Ten-year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December 2005.

In the field of socio-economic research, in its capacity as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, the Centre undertakes research activities on various issues of concern to the member states with a view to analysing the prevailing situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges.

The Report of Economic Problems of the Least-Developed and Land-Locked OIC Countries aims at analyzing the developments in the economies of the 22 OIC members and highlighting their specific problems, thereby pointing to the need for special actions in their favor, particularly in the financial, commercial and technical cooperation areas.

The Centre worked on the issue of microfinance that may be a tool in poverty alleviation and development of Member States, and published a report called "Microfinance Institutions in the OIC Member Countries" in 2008. The report identifies the leading institutions in member states and suggests a number of proposals such as setting up "OIC- Microfinance Institutions Rating System" and "OIC- Microfinance Institutions Database Network", and establishing of a Microfinance Investment Fund in order to generate more effective ways and means in poverty alleviation.

The Centre attaches great significance to building capacities of organisations and institutions operating in member states. To this end the Centre has developed several tailored programmes and continued with its training and technical cooperation activities and further enhanced its cooperation with the most relevant international and regional organisations to provide high-level training opportunities to an increasing number of staff from the member states in various branches of socio-economic activities. OIC Statistical Capacity Building Programme, Capacity Building in Central Banking and

Capital Markets and Ibn Sina Programme for OIC Health Capacity Building are amongst these programmes.

In this connection I would like to mention another initiative by the Centre, the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), which aims at improving the quality of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the public and private sectors with the objective of supporting and enhancing the opportunities for individuals in the MCs to develop their knowledge and skills and thus to contribute to the development and competitiveness of the economies of their countries.

Regarding the improvement of the collaboration of the DCIs of OIC Member States, establishment of a committee within OIC like the OECD-Development Assistance Committee would be functional. Annual meetings may be held by the committee.

In order to work on the structure and action principals of the committee an experts group may be formed. SESRIC is ready to coordinate the work of such an experts group in collaboration with IDB and OIC General Secretariat.

On the other hand, as it was highlighted by delegates during the previous session, there is a big need for the collection and dissemination of development assistance statistics in the OIC Member States. SESRIC is also ready to produce these statistics with the cooperation of the Member States.