

**Istanbul Declaration on the Meeting of the National Statistical Organizations of the OIC
Member Countries**

We, the representatives of the National Statistical Organisations of the Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC-NSOs) and the international and regional institutions attending the meeting of OIC-NSOs in Istanbul, Turkey on 22-23 March 2010,

Acknowledging the importance of accurate, reliable and consistent data for policymaking and strategy development in OIC Member Countries, and

Expressing our resolve to use the resources available to us to provide timely and quality data on key indicators relevant to the need of data users and providers worldwide, with special preference for OIC institutions,

Agreed to issue the following declaration:

1. We note that the global economic meltdown, which has devastated many economies worldwide, has brought unprecedented challenges to the OIC-NSOs in terms of increased demand for additional official statistics, putting additional pressure on our limited resources.
2. In this context, we recognize the need to foster increased relevance, responsiveness, and results-orientation individually and collectively as we address the challenges and expectations of post-crisis world.
3. We affirm our commitment to work together, share knowledge, information/publications, and best practices, and help one another through exchanging technical experts to provide training and hands-on experience.
4. We endeavour to provide better statistical services unprejudiced by any interference.
5. We encourage the governments of the OIC Member Countries to better integrate statistical development as a sector in the National Development Plan, and to increase and provide sustained resources to support statistical development and statistical services.
6. We note that our capacities to respond rapidly to data requests are curtailed by scarce resources. Accordingly, we call on international agencies and donor community to commit more resources to support the enhancement of statistical capacity building activities of OIC-NSOs.

7. We recognize the effect of global footprint on OIC countries and the shift in development landscape, which is putting more pressure on OIC-NSOs to provide statistical services to support demand for new indicators such as early warning systems, climate change, Islamic statistics. Accordingly, we agree to set up an Experts Group Meeting to look into these issues.
8. We welcome the initiative to set up OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) to coordinate, harmonize and standardize statistical activities of OIC institutions with a view to improve efficient and effective use of resources, and report consistent figures at national and aggregate level in their respective statistical publications.
9. We agree to organize the meeting of OIC-NSOs under the title “OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-SC)” annually, and to make SESRIC the secretariat of the OIC-SC.
10. We express our thanks and appreciation to SESRIC, IDB and Republic of Turkey for organising this Meeting.

Istanbul Declaration

23 March 2010