

Draft Istanbul Declaration on Meeting of OIC Countries' National Statistical Organisations

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, agreed to issue the following declaration:

1. We express thanks and appreciation to SESRIC, IDB and Republic of Turkey for organising this meeting.
2. We acknowledge the importance of accurate, reliable and consistent data for policymaking and strategy development in OIC Member Countries and express 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.
3. 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. However, our resources are limited.
4. 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
5. 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.
6. We endeavour to provide better statistical services unprejudiced by any interferences.
7. 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.
8. We notice 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 activities of OIC-NSOs.

9. 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. For this reason, we agree to set up an Experts Group Meeting to look into these issues.
10. 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 efficiency, cut wastage, and avoid reporting conflicting figures at national and aggregate level in their respective statistical publications.
11. We agree to organize an annual meeting of OIC-NSOs under the title “OIC Statistical Commission” and to make SESRIC the secretariat of the OIC-SC.

Istanbul Declaration

23 March 2010