



# **1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP (SWG-1) AT OIC LEVEL**

## **SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**25-26 March, 2008 at IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

# **1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP (SWG-1) AT OIC LEVEL: SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organized the First Meeting of the Statistical Working Group (SWG-1) at the OIC level on 17-18 Rabi-Awwal 1429H (25-26 March, 2008) at its Headquarters in Jeddah. The SWG emanated from one of the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Capacity Building organized by IDB on 12 Rabi-Thani 1428H (29 April 2007) which called on IDB to "*establish a working group, in collaboration with relevant OIC Institutions, to meet regularly to harmonize statistical activities, exchange experiences and best practices, develop common methodologies for collecting and processing data from Member Countries*". Similar proposal in the form of a project for establishing SWG was made by the Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savas Alpay, during his visit to IDB on 3rd December 2007.
2. The objective of the SWG-1 is to discuss and put in place a coordination mechanism for achieving greater synergy between OIC Institutions and for coordinating statistical programs and activities with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and reporting conflicting statistics.

## **ATTENDANCE**

3. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, ICCL, ICDT and IDB (see Annex 1 for the list of the participants). COMCEC could not attend the meeting due to workload but informed the IDB that it would convey its views to SESRIC.

## **AGENDA**

4. The agenda of the SWG-1 (copy attached as Annex 2) was composed of Inaugural and Working Sessions. The Inaugural session was graced with the presence of the Vice President (Operations) of the IDB, Dr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse, who delivered the welcoming address. This was followed by a Statement from the Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savas Alpay and then a PowerPoint presentation entitled "*Setting the Scene: The Big Picture*" by the Division Chief, Statistics (Data Resource Center, IDB), Dr. Abdullateef Bello.
5. The Working Sessions were centered on four themes namely (i) Institutional Statistical Capacity and Activities; (ii) Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand?; (iii) A Framework for Statistical Coordination: Institutional Niches; and (iv) Statistical Working Group: Functions, Membership, Modus Operandi, and Schedules. In the first day of SWG-1 (25<sup>th</sup> March 2008), the Working Sessions were chaired by Dr. Savas Alpay (Director General, SESRIC) while those of the second day (26<sup>th</sup> March 2008) were chaired by Dr. Lamine Doghri (Director, Economic Policy and Statistics Department, IDB).
6. The participants, during the Working Sessions, made PowerPoint presentations on the themes of the respective sessions based on the papers earlier prepared by them and sent to IDB for distribution during the meeting. The participants also contributed actively to the general discussion. The proceedings of the SWG-1, which will be prepared by IDB as background document for the next SWG meeting, will contain the welcoming address of the

Vice President (Operations) of the IDB, the statement of the Director General of SESRIC, the papers submitted by the participants, and the minutes and outcome of the SWG-1 meeting.

## **MAJOR CONCLUSIONS**

7. The SWG-1 recognized that:

- (i) It is important to monitor the progress of goals and targets set in the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action and IDB 1440H Vision and stressed the need for OIC Institutions to work together to collect, process and disseminate necessary consistent and reliable data.
- (ii) The statistical activities of OIC Institutions are overlapping which is not cost-effective and stressed the need to streamline these activities.
- (iii) The human and financial resources dedicated to statistical activities in OIC Institutions are limited and called on the authorities concerned to scale up the human and financial resources by recruiting dedicated Statisticians in all institutions and mobilizing/allocating adequate resources to statistical activities.
- (iv) There is urgent need to develop a framework for coordination of statistical activities among the OIC Institutions and decided to make SWG to act as an apex body to oversee the development and implementation of the required framework as well as to resolve technical and statistical issues.

## **MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. The SWG-1 agreed on the core areas of statistical activities (i.e. data collection, data processing, and data dissemination) that need coordination as well as on statistical capacity development, framework for coordination, membership of SWG, and date and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SWG, and decided as follows:

### **(A) Data Collection**

9. The SWG-1 agreed:

- (i) To give priority to sourcing primary data directly from member countries and decided to:
  - (a) Avoid sending multiple questionnaires from different OIC Institutions to member countries for socio-economic data collection; only one questionnaire developed jointly by the OIC Institutions shall be used. In special cases, individual institution may develop its questionnaire provided there is close consultation with the other members of SWG. In this regard, SESRIC would act as a focal point for developing a proposal to achieve this objective.

- (b) Explore ways and means for increasing the response rate to the questionnaire sent to member countries. SESRIC and IDB would submit a concrete proposal in this regard.
- (ii) To continue to collect secondary data from international sources and decided to:
- (a) Coordinate the selection of the most reliable international sources. To this end, the following focal points shall be responsible for each category of indicators:
    - Trade Statistics – (ICDT)
    - Socio-Economic and Financial Statistics (SESRIC/IDB)
    - Private Sector Statistics (ICCI)
  - (b) Request SESRIC to also represent the SWG in the UN Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).

## **(B) Data Processing**

10. The SWG-1 agreed to:

- (i) Standardize:
  - (a) Definitions of various indicators used in databases and publications of OIC Institutions. The definitions shall be circulated to all members of SWG for review and standardization.
  - (b) Methodologies for calculating aggregation.
- (ii) Assign responsibilities to the following focal points for each category of indicators:
  - Trade Statistics – (ICDT)
  - Socio-economic and Financial statistics (SESRIC/IDB)
  - Private Sector Statistics (ICCI)

## **(C) Data Dissemination**

11. The SWG-1 agreed to:

- (i) Immediately provide, on the website of each OIC Institution, both the general and specific links to the statistical pages of all institutions in the membership of SWG.
- (ii) Create a common database as a one-stop platform for accessing reliable and consistent statistics on indicators of OIC member countries. It was decided that SESRIC shall lead this initiative and prepare a concept paper to be submitted for discussion in the next SWG meeting.
- (iii) Make available the statistical publications of each institution for review by other OIC Institutions for feedback before they are printed and released.

- (iv) Jointly produce a “**Special Brochure on Intra-OIC Trade Statistics**” to be released during the forthcoming COMCEC Meeting. It was decided that ICDT shall act as a focal point for this task and prepare a concept paper on issues related to measurement of intra-OIC trade.
- (v) Jointly produce a publication titled “**Islamic Ummah in Figures**”, covering OIC countries and Muslim communities in non-OIC member countries to be released on the occasion of the OIC Summits & Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers. It was decided that SESRIC and IDB will coordinate this activity.

#### **(D) Statistical Capacity Development**

12. The SWG-1 agreed to share information on statistical capacity development programs/activities and coordinate among the OIC Institutions. It was decided that SESRIC and IDB will prepare a document on the coordination of statistical capacity development.

#### **(E) Framework for Coordination**

13. The SWG-1 decided to prepare:

- (i) A document on “**A Framework for Statistical Coordination among OIC Institutions**”. SESRIC will prepare the document and circulate to all OIC institutions for comments before submitting the final version to COMCEC.
- (ii) A document on “**A Charter for Statistics at OIC level**”. IDB will prepare the draft Charter and send to all OIC Institutions for feedback.

#### **(F) Membership of SWG**

14. The SWG-1 agreed that:

- (i) The membership in SWG shall compose of representatives of the OIC Institutions that were invited to attend the SWG-1 (i.e. OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC, SESRIC, IDB, ICDT, and ICCI). However, the membership will be opened to all other OIC Institutions.
- (ii) OIC member countries would be invited to participate in the SWG meetings as and when necessary.

#### **(G) Date and Venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SWG**

- (iii) SESRIC offered to host the Second Meeting of the SWG (SWG-2) at its Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey, before COMCEC Meeting in October 2008.
- (iv) It was decided that the meetings of SWG will be on rotational basis and that the host institution for a SWG meeting shall act as the Secretariat and will prepare the agenda and relevant documents in close collaboration with the members of the SWG.

## Annex 1

### List of participants at the SWG-1

Institution	Name of Participant	Title	Focal point: Email, Telephone & Fax Number
SESRIC	1. Dr. Savas Alpay 2. Dr. Sidika Basci	Director General Senior Researcher	Email: <a href="mailto:sbasci@sesric.org">sbasci@sesric.org</a> Tel: (+90-312) 468 61 72/308 Fax: (+90-312) 467 34 58
IDB	1. Dr. Lamine Doghri 2. Dr. Abdullateef Bello 3. Mr. Aamir Ghani Mir 4. Mr. Abdinasr Nur 5. Mr. Cheick Amadou Diallo 6. Mr. Toka Koita	Director, EPSD Chief, DRC, EPSD Statistician/Database Expert, EPSD Statistician/Database Expert, EPSD Statistician/Database Expert, EPSD Operations Evaluation Officer, OEO	Email: <a href="mailto:abello@isdb.org">abello@isdb.org</a> Tel: +966-26467430 Fax: +966-2-6467478
ICDT	Mr. Maghraoui Hassani Said	Expert/Consultant	Email: <a href="mailto:icdt@icdt-oic.org">icdt@icdt-oic.org</a> and <a href="mailto:maghraoui@mce.gov.ma">maghraoui@mce.gov.ma</a> Tel: +212-22-314-974 Fax: +212-22-310110
ICCI	1. Dr. Syed Azhar Hasan 2. Mr. Majali Jamel	Researcher Expert	Email: <a href="mailto:azharibne@yahoo.com">azharibne@yahoo.com</a> and <a href="mailto:icci@icci-oic.org">icci@icci-oic.org</a> Tel: +9221-5874910 Fax: +9221-5870765
OIC	Mr. Jakhongir Khasanov	Economist	Email: <a href="mailto:jahon5@yahoo.com">jahon5@yahoo.com</a> and <a href="mailto:info@oic-oci.org">info@oic-oci.org</a> Tel: +966-2-6900001 Fax: +966-2-2571953
COMCEC	No representative	None	Email: <a href="mailto:comcec@dpt.gov.tr">comcec@dpt.gov.tr</a> Tel: +90-312-294 55 10 Fax: +90-312-294 55 77

## Annex 2



# 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Statistical Working Group (SWG-1)

17-18 Rabi-I 1429H (25-26 March 2008)  
IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
Venue: 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, IRTI Building, Meeting Room

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### *Agenda*

#### **Tuesday, 17 Rabi-I 1429H (25 March 2008)**

- 08:30 - 09:00 a.m.      **Registration**
- Inaugural Session (Board Room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, IDB HQTs)*
- 09:00 - 09:05 a.m.      **Recitation from the Holy Qur'an**
- 09:05 - 09:15 a.m.      **Welcoming Address by the Vice President (Operations)**
- 09:15 - 09:25 a.m.      **Statement by Director General, SESRIC**
- 09:25 - 10:00 a.m.      **Setting the Scene...the Big Picture**  
                                 *(presentation by IDB-DRC)*
- 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.      **Tea Break**
- Working Sessions (Meeting Room, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, IRTI Tower)*
- 10:30 - 12:30 p.m.      **Institutional Statistical Capacity and Activities**  
                                 *(presentation by SESRIC, ICDT, ICCI & IDB-DRC; 20 minutes each)*
- General Discussion*
- 12:30 - 14:00 p.m.      **Prayer and Lunch Break**
- 14:00 - 16:00 p.m.      **Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand?**  
                                 *(presentation by SESRIC, ICDT, ICCI & IDB-DRC; 20 minutes each)*
- General Discussion*

#### **Wednesday, 18 Rabi-I 1429H (26 March 2008)**

- 09:00 - 11:00 a.m.      **A Framework for Statistical Coordination: Institutional Niches**  
                                 *(proposals from OIC, COMCEC, IDB-DRC, SESRIC, ICDT, & ICCI)*
- 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.      **Statistical Working Group: Functions, Membership, Modus Operandi, and Schedules**  
                                 *(proposals from OIC, COMCEC, IDB-DRC, SESRIC, ICDT, & ICCI)*
- 12:30 - 14:00 p.m.      **Prayer and Lunch Break**
- 14:30 - 15:30 p.m.      **Closing**  
                                 *Summary and Conclusions*