

**Statement of H.E. Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of the SESRIC**

**COMCEC Economic Summit**

**Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 9 November 2009**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Your Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of COMCEC,**

**Your Excellencies Heads of States,**

**Your Excellencies Heads of Governments,**

**Your Excellencies Ministers,**

**Your Excellency Secretary General of the OIC,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me to have this opportunity to extend my deep thanks and gratitude to our member countries for their continuous support and encouragement to the activities of the SESRIC as a subsidiary organ of the OIC.

In particular, I have the honour to express our deep gratitude to His Excellency Abdullah Gül, the President of the Republic of Turkey, and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

The high global competitiveness and rapid changes in technology have significant implications on the development of human resources, a challenge which most of our countries are facing today.

This challenge urges for intensified efforts towards the knowledge societies and diversification of labour and production skills.

In this connection, we believe that this is the right time for launching the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), which will immensely accelerate economic and commercial cooperation among our member countries.

This programme, which SESRIC has first initiated and submitted to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC in 2007, aims to provide the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for seizing the opportunities inherent in globalization and technological progress specially for the young labour force in our member countries.

We are confident that the OIC-VET Programme will significantly contribute to enhancing cooperation and collaboration among our member countries. In particular the OIC-VET will improve the current capacity of vocational education and training systems present in our member countries towards increasing the competitiveness of our economies in the face of the global developmental challenges.

**Your Excellencies,**

I have the honour to inform you that after the endorsement of the OIC-VET Programme by the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC last year, SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the programme, has already finalised the preparation for the implementation of the programme. Additionally, the OIC-VET Web Portal has been launched for providing the necessary guidance for both the national focal points and potential beneficiaries of the programme.

**Your Excellencies,**

SESRIC is dedicated to take all measures to enhance economic and commercial cooperation among our member countries with many new and innovative projects similar to the OIC-VET.

I thank you all for your kind attention.