

Background Note

Technical Committee of Experts to Follow-up the Procedural Details of the Accreditation and Certification Programme for Official Statistical Professionals in OIC Member States (OStat Programme)

Lead Country: Bahrain

Members of the TCE: Egypt, Kazakhstan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, IDB and SESRIC

Background:

The Central Informatics Organisation (CIO) in Bahrain had proposed to initiate a program on the “Accreditation of Statistical Professionals” specific to the OIC Member States in the First Session of the OIC-StatCom, by considering the fact that, it would be one of the useful tools for statistical capacity development through improving the statistical competency of the statisticians working in the National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Based on this proposal, the OIC-StatCom Working Group on the Development of a Certification and Accreditation Programme for Statistical Professionals was established in 2011. This working group has developed conceptual and methodological background of this proposed accreditation program in its first year of action. Within this context, the Terms of Reference (TOR) specific to the accreditation/certification process including setting up the accreditation criteria and the way of measurement of these accreditation/certification criteria have been prepared. During the Second Session of OIC-StatCom the report which has been describing the procedural details of the accreditation process was exhaustively discussed and approved by the delegates.

The approved TOR of Accreditation Programme, set forth the four different levels of accreditation according to the knowledge and experience of the currently employed statistical professionals in the national statistical offices and relevant government departments in the following categories; Basic, Intermediate, Advanced Level-1 and Advanced Level-2, for which application requirements vary in each level.

Consequently, the Second Session of the OIC-StatCom endorsed the establishment of a Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) to follow up the procedural details of the OStat Programme that will be led by the Central Informatics Organisation in Bahrain. Furthermore, delegates agreed on the establishment of a task team under the auspices of SESRIC to undertake necessary activities for the execution of the Basic Level Accreditation at the initial stage to identify the challenges to be faced and, way out for ensuring effective implementation of the full Programme.

Objective:

The main objectives of this TCE are to follow-up the procedural details of the accreditation programme in order to ensure its full implementation at the OIC level in line with the International Accreditation Forum's (IAF) standards and guidelines - which is the international body setting the standards for the bodies certifying individuals - and, to assist the task team which will be established for initial implementation of the OStat Programme.

Taks:

The TCE will undertake to:

- detail assessment on the applicability of the proposed accreditation programme by considering different circumstances of each member country as well as IAF's requirements
- review the procedural details of the proposed accreditation programme according to the existing/foreseen circumstances and requirements of both countries and internationally accepted procedures
- assist the Task Team that will be established under the auspices of SESRIC regarding the Implementation of Basic Level Accreditation including preparation of the overall OStat program framework, establishment of the Accreditation Committee as well as execution of the required exams in accordance to the " FINAL REPORT OF OIC-StatCom WG3 CERTIFICATION

AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS PROFESSIONALS” and on the basis of the elaborate Guidance document of the International Accreditation Forum.

- prepare a report that will be presented in the upcoming Session of the OIC-StatCom addressing the main issues and challenges to be faced during the implementation phase, including recommendations

Expected Outputs:

- Interim/final reports

Tentative Time Table:

By considering the above mentioned tasks, the TCE will carry out its activities in accordance with the below tentative time table by defining each activity

| No | Task | Responsible/s | Deadline |
|----|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Participation in the The 28th Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) | CIO Bahrain, SESRIC and IDB | October 2012 |
| 2 | Organisation of Task Force Meeting on the Implementation of OSTAT Programme with participation of the basic stakeholders involved in the process (CIO Bahrain, IDB and SESRIC) | CIO Bahrain and SESRIC | October 2012 |
| 3 | Consultation with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) on the procedures to be followed for preparation of the related guidelines and standards necessary for the accreditation process | CIO Bahrain and SESRIC | February 2013 |
| 4 | Identification of the cost requirements for establishment of the Programme General Secretariat and full-implementation of the OStat Programme | CIO Bahrain and SESRIC | February 2013 |
| 5 | Submission of the Progress Report to the Third Session of OIC-StatCom | CIO Bahrain | End of March 2013 |