SESRIC
COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
Over the last four decades, SESRIC, as a subsidiary organ of the OIC, has demonstrated its ability to successfully fulfil its mandate, which was entrusted to it 40 years ago. The Centre has accumulated solid experience and successful achievements in all three areas of its mandate; i.e., statistics, research and training.

In accordance with its statutory mandate and in line with global and regional developments and challenges, the Centre has, over the last four decades, introduced various measures and methodologies and launched new approaches and programmes to strengthen its role in contributing to the efforts of the OIC and its member countries to address the challenges facing them in their development efforts.

The Centre is now considered as one of the most important subsidiary organs of the OIC in charge of promoting socio-economic development in the context of advancing intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant areas of its mandate.

At its 40th year of service, I believe that SESRIC must identify and address the challenges and gaps that persist while maintaining the positive momentum that has been built over the past 40 years. There is still a room for SESRIC to undertake more results-oriented activities and well-coordinated actions and interventions to meet the needs of the member countries in the areas of statistics, economic and social research and training and technical cooperation.
As the main statistical and information bank on and for the OIC member countries, we will strengthen our capacities to collect and disseminate high quality statistics in order to inform these countries on each other’s potentials and needs and, thus, facilitate their cooperation in various fields and through different modalities.

As the main socio-economic research body of the OIC, we will improve the quality of our policy-oriented research, particularly our regular background reports and studies which we submit to relevant OIC fora, especially to the various OIC sectoral ministerial conferences.

In this area, we will continue our efforts to enrich SESRIC’s contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism through analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to address the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation in the relevant areas.

Meanwhile, we will strive to strengthen our role in enhancing south-south cooperation within the OIC community through increasing the quality and impact of our capacity building programs in various socio-economic areas and fields of immediate interest to our member countries.

We will diversify our modalities and approaches to facilitate the transfer and exchange of knowledge, know-how and experiences among our member countries through more effective partnership and cooperation with relevant OIC, national, and international institutions while ensuring a balanced geographical distribution of our services.

Overall, it is now the time for SESRIC to follow a more focused and results-oriented approach in the implementation of its activities and target outcomes where cooperation can generate the greatest impact. For this to happen, SESRIC would have to move from scattered to targeted interventions and from activity-based to results-oriented interventions.

In this context, I would like to assure you that SESRIC will continue to introduce and implement a wide-range of new activities and programmes in its mandate areas (statistics, economic and social research and training) with a view to strengthening its role in the joint efforts towards the realisation of the noble objectives of the OIC, particularly enhancing cooperation, unity and solidarity and ensuring sustainable development, progress and prosperity of our member countries and the Islamic Ummah at large.
The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organisation after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The Organisation is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.

The Organisation was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 12th Rajab 1389 Hijra (25 September 1969) following the criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

The Organisation has the singular honor to galvanize the Ummah into a unified body and has actively represented the Muslims by espousing all causes close to the hearts of over 1.5 billion Muslims of the world. The Organisation has consultative and cooperative relations with the UN and other inter-governmental organisations to protect the vital interests of the Muslims and to work for the settlement of conflicts and disputes involving Member States. In safeguarding the true values of Islam and the Muslims, the Organisation has taken various steps to remove misperceptions and has strongly advocated elimination of discrimination against Muslims in all forms and manifestations.
The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), was founded as a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in pursuance of Resolution No. 2/8-E adopted by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), held in Tripoli in May 1977. The Centre started its activities in Ankara on 1 June 1978.

The basic mandate drawn up for SESRIC is threefold:

1. To collate, process and disseminate socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries,
2. To study and evaluate the economic and social developments in the member countries to help generate proposals that will initiate and enhance co-operation among them, and
3. To organise training programmes in selected fields geared to the needs of the member countries as well as to the general objectives of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

In the area of statistics, SESRIC serves as the main socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC countries, and hosts the most comprehensive statistical database on OIC countries. The Centre collects and disseminates the statistical data and background information that would make the OIC countries better informed of each other’s potentials and needs. In addition, SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission, plays an important role in enhancing the statistical capacities of the official statistics producing institutions of the OIC countries. In this connection, the Centre carries out statistical projects based on both South-South and Triangular Cooperation approaches to improve the National Statistical Systems of OIC countries for the development of better national strategies and policies.

In its capacity as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, SESRIC assumes the role of being a major knowledge-hub for the OIC Member States in supporting socio-economic development at country level, subregional and regional level. The Centre prepares reports and studies on a wide range of issues pertaining to the socio-economic development in the Member States, and generates policy recommendations to initiate and enhance cooperation amongst them. Moreover, by preparing or significantly contributing to the preparation of major strategic documents in various fields, the SESRIC plays a vital role in supporting policy design and implementation, addressing developmental challenges, and promoting partnership and cooperation among national development actors within the OIC region.

In the area of training and technical cooperation, SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing the technical cooperation within the OIC community in areas which fall within its mandate. The Centre contributes to technical cooperation among the member countries through different modalities of training and technical capacity building such as human and institutional capacity-building, technical assistance, exchange of best practices, skill development and networking on a wide-range of socio-economic issues.
In its capacity as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, SESRIC assumes the role of being a major knowledge-hub for the OIC Member States in supporting socio-economic development at country level, sub-regional and regional level. The Centre prepares reports and studies on a wide range of issues pertaining to the socio-economic development in the Member States, and generates policy recommendations to initiate and enhance cooperation amongst them. Moreover, by preparing or significantly contributing to the preparation of major strategic documents in various fields, the SESRIC plays a vital role in supporting policy design and implementation, addressing developmental challenges, and promoting partnership and cooperation among national development actors within the OIC region.

Over the years, the SESRIC has invested considerable efforts in ensuring that its development agenda resonates with the evolving trends in the various sectors and, in parallel, remained focused on the areas where an impact can be ensured and sustained. It has paid special importance to cooperation with national, regional and international organizations as well as academia. A call for OIC economies to become more integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive has been at the heart of socio-economic research activities of SESRIC.
Today, as a main research organ of the OIC, the SESRIC continues to provide the stakeholders with information that helps to understand the socio-economic trends, identify issues and shape future policy for the benefit of the member countries. Although the number, scope and depth of the research activities embarked by the Centre are constantly growing, it is adopting innovative tools, mechanisms and systems to provide better services to the member countries in line with its mandate. Currently, it is structuring its research activities around four main research areas; namely, (i) economic development studies, (ii) human and social development studies, (iii) infrastructure development studies, and (iv) resilience building studies.

## RESEARCH AREAS AND TOPICS

### Economic Development Studies

The first pillar of the research agenda of SESRIC is economic development studies. It involves seven thematic areas: (i) agriculture and rural development, (ii) trade, finance and investment, (iii) productivity, growth and competitiveness, (iv) labour market and employment, (v) poverty and inequality, (vi) tourism, and (vii) regional cooperation and integration.

SESRIC, through its economic development studies, investigates important issues of concern for OIC Member States. The aim is to understand the immediate challenges mutually faced by OIC countries and provide information that serve to alleviate these issues. It does this by analysing the trends in major economic indicators for the OIC Member States as a group and investigates these trends in a comparative manner with their counterparts in the groups of developed and non-OIC developing countries as well as with the world average. Within the economic development studies, SESRIC research explores various areas of concern for OIC Member States such as poverty alleviation, finance and development, productivity and growth amongst many others.

### Human Development Studies

The second pillar of the research at SESRIC is human/social development studies. It involves seven thematic areas: (i) health, (ii) education and skills development, (iii) social protection and progress, (iv) population and migration, (v) youth, (vi) women and family welfare, and (vii) elderly, children and people with special needs.

Human development studies of SESRIC focusses on a wide range of issues in OIC Member States ranging from demographic shifts and migration to the state of children, youth and elderly across the member countries. The studies in this field aim to understand the development
of individuals across the lifespan within the context of education, family, religion and culture, and contribute to the knowledge base of the OIC to enhance cooperation and collaboration between Member States to increase the welfare of their populations.

**Infrastructure Development Studies**

The third pillar of the research at SESRIC is infrastructure development studies. It involves six thematic areas: (i) transportation and connectivity, (ii) energy, (iii) water, (iv) science, technology and innovation, (v) urban development, and (vi) environment and environmental sustainability.

Infrastructure development studies concentrate on the material conditions in OIC countries. It looks at the transportation systems, the energy consumption and needs, the domain of water and related issues and the science, technology and innovation indexes along with research on the urban development across the OIC. The goal is to draw out a holistic picture of the issues and problems that OIC countries face in the contemporary period and will face in the coming years. Through identifying these diverse yet most often-common challenges, SESRIC aims to provide practical action points for OIC countries to enhance their infrastructural development and prepared for future issues that will become of great importance to the Member States.

**Resilience Building Studies**

The fourth pillar of the research at SESRIC is resilience building studies. It involves six thematic areas: (i) natural disasters and disaster risk management, (ii) conflicts, peace and security, (iii) radicalism and violent extremism, (iv) Palestine and Al Quds Al Sharif, (v) displacement and forced migration, and (vi) diaspora and minorities.

Building resilience, particularly in times of prolonged crisis, natural disasters or forced migration, is an important process of improving an individual or community’s capacity to cope with and recover from conditions that risk worsening their situation or slowing their emergence from crisis. OIC countries tend to experience higher rates of conflict, displacement and forced migration along with many other issues that require strong resilience to cope with such concerns. SESRIC prepares reports with the goal to provide information and possible pathways to build the resilience of the OIC countries in combatting a variety of issues that are posing a challenge to the OIC Member States.
By conducting its research activities, the Centre contributes significantly to the OIC policy dialogue through monitoring, analyzing and reporting of current situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation in the concerned areas. As an outcome of its research activities, the Centre produces different types of reports, strategic documents and periodicals. Moreover, it organizes various events to share the research outcomes with various stakeholders.

**Publications**

**Regular Reports:** The Centre prepares regular technical background reports and research studies on several socio-economic issues placed on the agenda of various OIC ministerial conferences such as economic and commercial cooperation, agriculture and food security, health, education, labour market, water, women, youth and international tourism. These reports are prepared on a regular basis to be submitted and presented at the regular relevant OIC fora, such as the OIC ministerial conference and the annual sessions of the various OIC standing committees. The OIC Economic Outlook report is the flagship report of the Centre that is being published annually since 2006.

**Strategic Plans and Programmes of Actions:** The Centre prepares strategic plans and programmes of actions in various subjects related to its mandate upon requests by various ministerial conferences and OIC bodies. Some strategic documents led by SESRIC are prepared in partnership with other relevant OIC and international organizations and some others led by other OIC institutions involve contributions from SESRIC.

To this end, so far, the SESRIC has lead the preparation or substantially contributed to the preparation of OIC programmes of action in the domain of Health (adopted in 2013); Women (2016); Labour (2017); Islamic Tourism (2018); and Youth (2018). Furthermore, the Centre is currently working with other relevant OIC institutions on at least five strategic plans focused mainly on social issues, including, welfare of children; empowerment of institution of family; gender policy; wellbeing of elderly; and wellbeing of people with special needs. SESRIC is also playing an active role in facilitating the implementation of these strategic plans.
Independent Reports: Upon requests by OIC General Secretariat, relevant OIC meetings and bodies and based on independent evaluation of the research department, the Centre prepares reports in various fields of interest to the member countries. Although these reports are not prepared on a regular basis, they can be occasionally revised to keep them updated.

Joint Reports: The Centre collaborates with other national, regional and international organizations to prepare studies on subjects that are of mutual interest to the collaborating institutions.

OIC Outlook Reports: In an attempt to enhance the efforts of the Centre to provide the necessary and up-to-date information and knowledge that would make the member countries better informed of each other’s capacities and needs as well as challenges and potentials towards higher economic integration, the Centre prepares short outlook reports on various socio-economic development topics related to the OIC member countries (OIC Outlook Series). Using the Centre’s main database OICStat, these reports cover various socio-economic categories and present statistical information and analytical investigations as well as some policy implications on the topics in question.

Journal of Economic Development and Cooperation (JECD): JECD is an academic journal published quarterly by the Centre since 1979. It is a journal of applied research in development economics and aims primarily at enhancing cooperation among the members of the OIC. JECD publishes original papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the developing countries. It gives special attention to those papers which deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Journal is indexed/abstracted in SCOPUS, JEL/Econlit, i-Journals, i-Focus and i-Future.
Projects and Initiatives: The Centre embarks on comprehensive and long-term projects to generate knowledge and information in specific areas. These projects may be subcontracted to competent individuals, institutions and firms. The Centre may also undertake commissioned or subcontracted research activities for the benefit of the member countries.

Advisory and Consultative Studies: Depending on the availability of technical resources, the Centre provides advisory and consultative services on various issues for the benefit of member countries and other regional organizations. In this framework, SESRIC produces a number of sectoral reports for the D-8 organization and in process of producing other reports for other regional organizations.

Please visit to see and download our publications in English, Arabic or French.
http://www.sesric.org/publications-index.php
Knowledge Sharing Events and Initiatives

The Centre organizes various events to promote policy dialogue and knowledge sharing among development partners. In order to promote knowledge sharing among researchers, a catalogue is developed for concerned researchers to engage with SESRIC researchers.

**SESRIC Research Seminars:** SESRIC organizes Research Seminars to share the outcomes and the findings from the latest SESRIC studies with external stakeholders, and to bring together policymakers, academics and experts from government agencies, universities, national institutions and international organizations to facilitate discussion and further knowledge sharing among them.

![Research Seminar Image]

**Catalogue of Economic and Social Researchers (CESR):** SESRIC embarks on a wide range of research activities related to the social and economic developments in OIC member countries and the number and diversity of research are constantly rising. Given also the increasing demand by external researchers to be part of the research activities and contribute to the solutions provided by SESRIC on different socio-economic challenges faced by the member countries, the Centre established a catalogue of researchers in order to benefit from the expertise and knowledge being accumulated outside of the institution and better utilize and reflect these capacities in the research activities. For further information and registration to the catalogue, please visit [http://cesr.sesric.org/](http://cesr.sesric.org/).

**Knowledge Sharing Series:** In order to facilitate the accumulation of knowledge in social and economic areas for the member countries and enable knowledge sharing among different stakeholders, the Centre is in the process of selectively publishing the analytical studies that are conducted by external researchers in an online platform.

**International Meetings and Conferences:** SESRIC occasionally organizes, in cooperation with its partners, international events to discuss the current challenges and opportunities faced by the OIC member countries by bringing together academicians, practitioners, experts and policymakers from the Member Countries as well as relevant OIC institutions and international organizations. The Centre recently organized an International Symposium on Financing for Development under the theme of “Thinking Innovative Solutions to Persistent Development Challenges in OIC Countries” with participation of around 100 participants from more than 30 countries/organizations.
The accurate, timely, reliable and consistent statistical data is of utmost importance for policy making and strategy development in any country. Based on the well-known DIKW Hierarchy (Data-Information-Knowledge-Wisdom), correct and contextualised application of knowledge (wisdom) requires gathering parts as data, connecting them as information and forming a whole as knowledge.

As the main socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC countries, the Centre gives special attention to increase the data and information on and for these countries and to contribute to the improvement of their national statistical systems (NSS).

The Statistics and Information Department (SID) of the Centre comprises of two units:

1. Data and Information Management Unit (DIMU) and
2. Statistical Outreach and Projects Unit (SOPU).

**DATA & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT UNIT (DIMU)**

The DIMU takes care of the management, updating, and publication of the online databases, applications, and statistical reports.

**Statistical Databases and Applications**

**OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database**

The DIMU collects, collates, processes and disseminates socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the OIC countries.

The OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database serves as the primary online statistical source for the users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries. The OICStat is regularly updated and enriched on the basis of information collected from/provided by two main sources:

1. International statistical sources and

The option for the dissemination of data from the national statistical sources is available as long as the countries feed data to the OICStat. Currently, the OICStat hosts more than 600 socio-economic indicators dating back to 1985 under more than 20 categories for the 57 OIC countries.

The OICStat Database can be accessed on: [http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php](http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php)
**OIC Ranker**
The OIC Ranker ranks the OIC countries with respect to a selected indicator hosted in the OICStat database. The OIC Ranker is accessible on: [http://www.sesric.org/oic-ranker.php](http://www.sesric.org/oic-ranker.php)

**OIC Top Bottom Finder (TBF)**
The OIC Top-Bottom Finder (TBF) is useful for extracting the full list of indicators hosted at the OICStat database in which an OIC country is positioned at the very “Top” or “Bottom”. The OIC TBF is accessible on: [http://www.sesric.org/oic-tbf.php](http://www.sesric.org/oic-tbf.php)

**OIC Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF)**
The OIC Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF) presents the most recent available information and statistical data on OIC countries under nine sections; namely, Background, Geography and Climate, Society and Demographics, Government and Politics, Economy and Sectors, OIC Member Countries in Figures, International Partnerships, Logistics, and Special Links.

The profile of each country is downloadable as a report. The contents of the profile page can be tailored based on the preferences of the user by selecting the section or indicators to be shown in the country profile report.
The OIC-CIF is accessible on: [http://www.sesric.org/cif-home.php](http://www.sesric.org/cif-home.php)

**Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE)**
The Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) serves for hosting the profiles of professionals that work in the official statistics sector or in other sectors that deliver services contributing to the efforts of the agencies with an embedded statistical role.

By establishing a pool of relevant expertise, the ROSE facilitates the identification of the available professionals in relevant domains of official statistics as per the taxonomy of Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA) for the current and future statistical activities of the Centre.

In addition, the ROSE facilitates the exchange of information and experiences within the Islamic world through enabling the flow of communication between the professionals and the relevant stakeholders.

Currently hosting profiles more than 900 statistics experts, the ROSE is accessible on: [http://www.sesric.org/rose.php](http://www.sesric.org/rose.php)

**SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC)**
The SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC) is an interactive and dynamic motion chart module and fully integrated with the OICStat database. The SMC Module allows the users to dynamically explore the trends of several indicators hosted in the OICStat Database over time.
The charts generated by the SMC module are time series based bubble charts including two indicators that can be customised by the user to have either linear or logarithmic scale(s) with alternative bubble sizes based on the related indicators. The SMC application module can be accessed on: [http://www.sesric.org/smc.php](http://www.sesric.org/smc.php)

**SESRIC Statistical E-Learning Platform (SEP)**

The SID also hosts the Statistical E-Learning Platform (SEP) accessible on under the web presence of the OIC-StatCom to make available online all study materials received from all statistics related activities of SESRIC and other study manuals prepared by partner institutions which can be accessed on: [http://www.oicstatcom.org/study-materials.php](http://www.oicstatcom.org/study-materials.php)

### Statistical Publications

**Statistical Yearbook (SYB) on OIC Member Countries**


**SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries**

The Prospects and Challenges of OIC Member Countries: SWOT Outlook series has been initiated by SESRIC to provide quick facts across multiple socio-economic sectors to shed light on the performances and potentials of OIC countries as a group based on the most recent available data and consequently inform the readers about the possible cooperation opportunities among the OIC countries.

The Prospects and Challenges of OIC Member Countries series uses the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) methodology for describing the state of OIC countries from these four perspectives by comparing the OIC countries group with the World, non-OIC Developing Countries, and Developed Countries.
The Strengths and Weaknesses sections reflect current capabilities and limitations of OIC countries, while the Opportunities and Threats sections present the major areas that require immediate policy interventions for converting opportunities into strengths and avoiding threats before becoming weaknesses that may slow down socio-economic progress. The SWOT Outlook can be accessed on: [http://www.sesric.org/publications-swot.php](http://www.sesric.org/publications-swot.php)

**OIC Statistical Outlook (OSO)**

Since January 2019, SESRIC has been issuing the OIC Statistical Outlook (OSO) series as a fortnightly thematic statistical publication which merges as a final compendium at the end of each year as the “Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries”. Each OSO covers one of the categories hosted at OICStat Database. It provides not only the data for all OIC countries with the OIC and World level aggregate values, where applicable, but also brief analysis with figures reviewing the performance and progress of the OIC countries in the covered thematic category. The OSO can be accessed on: [http://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php](http://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php)

**Did You Know Module (DYK)**

The “Did You Know?” reflects striking facts about OIC countries in a simple and user friendly way. It aims to highlight the current situation of OIC countries on a specific socio-economic variable in a one-page snapshot format. The content is enriched with different indicators. The DYK can be accessed through: [http://www.oicstatcom.org/didyouknow.php](http://www.oicstatcom.org/didyouknow.php)

**SESRIC Statistics Newsletter**

The annual SESRIC Statistics Newsletter has been prepared by the Statistics and Information Department since 2010. The Newsletter covers the most remarkable SESRIC activities in the area of statistics. These encompass foremost activities associated with the OIC Statistical Commission, selected capacity building programmes, and projects undertaken. The SESRIC Statistics Newsletter can be accessed on: [http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-oicstat.php](http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-oicstat.php)
The SOPU is mainly responsible for supporting and coordinating activities and projects towards enhancing the NSSs of OIC countries. To this end, the SOPU mainly engages with the NSOs, statistical departments of line ministries, central banks, and related stakeholders for coordination, capacity development, and statistical outreach projects.

OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)
Since 2011, SESRIC assumes the role of the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom). In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC continues its efforts to organise the regular sessions of OIC-StatCom in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The Commission is a highly instrumental platform similar to the UN Statistical Commission aiming at supporting the NSSs and enhancing cooperation among the NSOs of OIC countries for the development and implementation of better national strategies and policies.

OIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme
The OIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme for the constituents of the NSSs of OIC countries tries to identify statistical needs and capacities of the official statistics producing institutions of the OIC countries in order to enhance the NSSs of member countries. Initiated in early 2007, the StatCaB Programme has facilitated the conduct of more than 400 statistical activities including workshops, meetings, short-term statistics courses, study visits and technical missions for the benefit of thousands relevant experts for OIC countries. For more information on the OIC StatCaB Programme, please visit: [http://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php](http://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php)

Other functions of the SOPU include:
- develop projects geared towards improving NSS of OIC countries
- establish collaborative relationships with statistical departments of national, regional and international organisations
- maintain continuous and direct contacts and networks with the constituents of NSS agencies.

The following are projects undertaken by SESRIC in collaboration with international organisations grouped under relevant themes.
Integration of the “Tobacco Questions for Surveys” (TQS) into the National Surveys in OIC Member Countries

Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) is a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), which was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other partners to assist countries in establishing tobacco control surveillance and monitoring programs.

As per the relevant resolutions of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC facilitates the integration schemes based on the terms set forth by the CDC and CDC Foundation from 2014. Several OIC countries affirmed their commitment to integrate TQS into their ongoing national surveys and also ensure its regular implementation.

Since 2016, SESRIC has held regular workshops in collaboration with the WHO, CDC and CDC Foundation.
Based on the resolutions of OIC-StatCom, SESRIC initiated this project aimed at identifying the set of possible indicators to be hosted in the initial phase, develop a standardized methodology including the templates for data collection, and collaborate with national, regional and international stakeholders to collect, compile, perform quality assurance, and disseminate data on Islamic finance industry.

As an initial attempt to construct the database, the indicators basically on Islamic finance industry size and structure are integrated into OICStat database under the “Islamic Banking and Finance” category.

Through collaboration with various stakeholders at national and international levels such as having joined in the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) Task Force on Islamic Finance initiated by UNSD with the participation of other relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, the Secretariat closely follows up the developments in the Islamic finance statistics arena and strengthens the synergy to improve the Islamic finance data quality and sound infrastructure for better data production and dissemination.

Development Finance Statistics in OIC Member Countries
In 2017, SESRIC joined the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Task Force coordinated by the OECD and continues the organisation of statistical capacity building activities to foster the collection, collation, processing, and dissemination of development assistance statistics in OIC countries.

Besides and in accordance with the resolutions of OIC-StatCom, SESRIC has prepared and circulated to OIC countries the survey on “Mapping the Landscape of Development Assistance and Cooperation in OIC Member Countries”. Through the collaboration of SESRIC and OECD, a joint workshop was held in 2017 with the objective to introduce the key concepts and methodologies on development finance statistics, identify existing obstacles and challenges in integrating development finance statistics into NSSs of OIC countries and data reporting, and exchange experiences and good practices among participating countries.

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Follow-Up of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Tendency Survey on the SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries**

Being aware of the increased demand for detailed and timely data to monitor progress on the goals and targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, SESRIC circulated a survey to identify the priorities of OIC countries with respect to 17 SDGs, 169 goals, and 232 SDGs indicators in August 2016.

Based on the responses received, SESRIC prepared a report titled “Results of the Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries”. In light of the responses, more than half of the respondents assigned “High” priority to 8 SDGs in the order of No Poverty, Good Health & Well-Being, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, and Climate Action.

Additionally, subsequent resolutions of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to prepare an annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the aforementioned eight prioritized SDGs to be submitted to the Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.

SESRIC, in this regard, will be reporting to the annual sessions of the COMCEC the SDG progress of OIC countries across the 8 prioritised SDGs based on the available data at the Global SDG Database of the UNSD and continue organising statistical capacity activities with a focus on SDGs for the benefit of the constituents of the NSSs of OIC countries within the framework of its OIC StatCaB Programme.
In the area of training and technical cooperation, SESRIC undertakes strong and close cooperation with the relevant international, regional and national institutions with a view to providing high level training opportunities for the benefit of OIC Member States. In this context, the Centre facilitates exchange of experience and expertise among the OIC Member States while aligning its cooperation agenda with the OIC-2025: Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, the Centre plays a constructive role in facilitating OIC level south-south cooperation so that intra-OIC knowledge sharing as well as functional exchange of useful experiences among national institutions have become one of the critical modality of cooperation within the OIC. This role is conducted in different modalities such as training, study visit, technical assistance, exchange of best practices, skill development and networking on a wide-range of socio-economic areas.

**HEALTH**

**IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme**

SESRIC developed the IbnSina Health Capacity Building (IbnSina-HCaB) Programme in early 2010 in order to improve the health service delivery and practices in OIC member countries. Within the framework of IbnSina-HCaB, the Centre is organising short-term training courses and workshops regarding needs and capacities of the Ministries of Health in the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The Centre analyses these needs and capacities through the responses of the related surveys and sends health experts among these countries to perform the needed training programmes.

**Ibn Sina Health Alliance of NGOs**

The OIC Ibn Sina Health Alliance of NGOs was established during a workshop organized by SESRIC on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023 (SHPA)”, on 7-8 April 2014 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey as one of the means to contribute to the achievement of the vision of the “Healthy OIC Community”.

The OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA) had foreseen several action points to be potentially undertaken by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the implementation of the OIC-SHPA. In this connection, the Alliance brings together representatives of NGOs working in health related areas in OIC Member Countries. For more information: www.oichealth.info

**Reproductive, Maternal, New-Born and Child Health Network (OIC RMNCH Network)**

The OIC Network on Population and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health is composed of interdisciplinary experts from OIC regions who engage in collective efforts to
generate, share and use knowledge for the achievement of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023 (OIC SHPA) and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This network was mandated by a resolution of OIC 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in Jakarta in October 2013. In response, UNFPA partnered with the OIC Secretariat and SESRIC in establishing this network.

ENVIRONMENT & WATER

Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB)

SESRIC developed the Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) with the aim of enhancing capacities of human resources in the Member States. Water-CaB also aims to play an active role in facilitating exchanging the knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of water among the member countries and thus contributing to the implementation of OIC Water Vision.

Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB)

As environment is one of the priority topics on the agenda of the OIC, the Environment Capacity Building Programme has been developed by SESRIC in order to promote environmentally sustainable lifestyle changes and thereby improve the state of the environment in OIC member countries. To achieve its projected goals of encouraging OIC member countries to be environmentally aware, the Centre organizes short-term environment training activities starting from 2011 based on the needs and capacities of the environment authorities of the OIC Member Countries.

Online Network of OIC Water Centres of Excellence (OIC Water Network)

OIC Water Network facilitates and encourages joint research, knowledge sharing, and exchange of experience through connecting centers of excellence within the OIC in water science, policy, management and technology development in order to identify solutions to water challenges in the national and international agendas of OIC leaders. The members of this Network are Centres of Excellence from OIC Member States selected according to the accumulated experience in the focus areas and the track record of publications and/or coordination of relevant research.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

The role of agriculture in world’s economy cannot be denied. Agriculture not only provides food and raw material but also employment opportunities to a very large proportion of population. However, while some countries enjoy the new technological improvements and mechanical capabilities in agriculture, and decrease its proportion of the labour force accordingly; some of them, which are experiencing extreme hunger and poverty, still face problems of efficiency in the agricultural sector due to the lack of useful and efficient
agricultural techniques to increase fertility. In order to enhance the capacities in the agriculture areas in OIC Member Countries, SESRIC initiated the Agriculture Capacity Building Programme (OIC-AgriCaB) and OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP).

**Agriculture Capacity Building Programme (OIC-AgriCaB)**

SESRIC, with its experience in contributing to the “Ministerial Conferences of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Food Security and Agricultural Development” has initiated the Agriculture Capacity Building Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-AgriCaB). OIC-AgriCaB is expected to enhance the capacities of the related institutions in OIC Member Countries in wide range of areas such as efficient techniques of land, water and livestock management, fisheries and aquaculture and food security. Besides, a platform where best practices can be shared will be created.

**OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP)**

OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP) has been developed by SESRIC within the framework of the implementation of the OIC 5-Year Action Plan on Cotton to organise short and long term training courses in close collaboration with the Centres of Excellence specialised in cotton research and training in OIC Member Countries.

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**LABOUR & SOCIAL SECURITY**

**OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET)**

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme originally designed and developed by SESRIC in order to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the public and private sectors with the aim of supporting and enhancing the opportunities for individuals in the Member Countries to develop their knowledge and skills and thus to contribute to the development and competitiveness of the economies and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge between OIC Member Countries.

The Programme supports the activities of the OIC Member Countries by improving the competencies and skills of the people according to the needs and priorities of labour markets through intra-OIC partnerships at institutional level. The Programme focuses on increasing accessibility and raising the quality of VET, and provides an opportunity for organizations involved in VET to build OIC partnerships, exchange best practices, increase the expertise of their staff and develop the skills and competencies of the participants. The Programme covers the training areas included in the national training programmes in the Member Countries by introducing a transnational perspective in conformity with national priorities of the Member Countries.

More details on the OIC-VET are available at: [http://www.oicvet.org](http://www.oicvet.org)

**Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB)**

Hazard control and prevention strategies have been on the agenda of OIC Member Countries to assure healthful workplace conditions and security for all workers. In this regard, the Occupational
Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB) has been initiated to address the outstanding needs and ways for improving workplace safety and health in OIC Member Countries.

**OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET)**

OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET) is a transnational network created to establish closer cooperation for sharing knowledge, experience and new technologies, conduct joint research and training, exchange of good practices and to organize new initiatives, projects and programmes in the field of Occupational Safety and Health among similar local, national and regional institutions, OSH researchers and practitioners, national authorities, policy makers, social security institutions and employers’ and workers’ organizations active in this field in the OIC Member Countries.

**OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC PESNET)**

Due to the recent developments and mobilisation in labour market and working life at national and international level, cooperation among countries has become critical in order to share wide range of expertise in areas crucial to contribute to national strategies for reducing unemployment, including expertise in supporting capacity building, strategy development, project and program planning, resource mobilization and mentoring capability.

In this context, the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) aims to improve public employment services in member countries in line with the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection adopted during the Second Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held on 23-26 April 2013, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

**OIC Intern International Internship Program (OIC Intern)**

OIC Intern is an international internship program aimed at guiding young people in professional career planning by reinforcing academic knowledge gained during their studies with practical application. The purpose of OIC Intern is to contribute to the development of knowledge and skills of young people, facilitate their entrance into the labor market, enhance the quality of the labor force in the long-term and to promote economic competitiveness member countries’ economies.

For more information on the program: [http://www.oicintern.org](http://www.oicintern.org)
ECONOMY, FINANCE & TRADE

Capacity Building Programme for Central Banks (CB-CaB)

As part of efforts towards enhancing the level of cooperation and coordination among the institutions to mitigate the negative impacts of global financial crises and shocks in international financial markets on the economies of the OIC Member States, the Capacity Building Programme for Central Banks was initiated in early 2009 by SESRIC. Within this framework, the Centre is organising short-term training programmes regarding needs and capacities of the Central Banks in the member countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). On finance and trade related issues, SESRIC also designed various other capacity building programmes, such as:

- OIC Capacity Building Programme for Stock Exchanges (OIC-SEP),
- OIC Capacity Building Programme for Competition Authorities (OIC-CA-CaB),
- OIC Treasury Capacity Building Programme (OIC-T-CaB), and
- OIC Capacity Building Programme for Multilateral Trading Systems (MTS-CaB).

DIPLOMACY

Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB)

Diplomacy has come to be known as the key instrument in fulfilling the foreign policy objective of influencing countries and groupings to secure their support through all means. It has a significant role for guiding international relations through the mediation of professional diplomats with regard to issues of peace-making, war, trade, environment, economics, culture, and human rights. Hence, SESRIC has initiated training courses related to diplomacy to develop a strong relationship among the diplomacy stakeholders especially the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of OIC Member Countries.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TRANSPORTATION

In todays world, where communication and information technologies develop extraordinarily, an on-going radical period of change which affects all countries and economies without depending on their level of development, carries the flow of information to the international level and requires redetermination of the world balances. It is also important that the expected quality standards have to be reached by using the latest technology for communication goals to meet all kinds of multilateral service needs of our day.

Postal Services Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PSCaB)

SESRIC has launched the Postal Services Capacity Building Programme (OIC-Post-CaB) to increase cooperation in the postal sector among OIC Member Countries by ensuring the exchange of postal items more regularly, reliably and fast with maximum service quality, increasing the diversification of offered services, realizing the transfer of technology, system and expertise in order to ensure sharing of best practices, supplying on-site-training of personnel of postal administrations and contributing to the cultural interaction among countries.
**Expert Group on Digital Transformation (DT)**

Within the framework of the OIC Science and Technology Agenda 2026 adopted during the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017, the thought contribution of Expert Group on Digital Transformation is to form a Pan-OIC think-tank to report on current status of ICT development in OIC countries and to propose, advise on and explore future avenues on Digital Transformation (DT), to search for best practices and capacities in OIC countries and initiate activities within OIC scope and mandate to share those success stories.

**TOURISM**

International tourism has become one of the main economic activities and an important role of job creation and economic growth in many countries. It has therefore been given much attention in the national development strategies of many developing countries and placed on the agenda of many recent international conferences on sustainable development. Failing to include tourism in these strategies is to overlook the fact that it presents one of the biggest and, undoubtedly, the most diversified and creative economic activity of all.

**Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tr-CaB)**

Considering their rich and diverse natural, geographic, historical and cultural heritage assets, the OIC countries, as a group, have in fact a high potential for the development of a sustainable international tourism sector. However, considering the modest share of the OIC region in the world tourism market and the concentration of the tourism activity in only a few OIC countries, it seems that a large part of the tourism potential of the OIC region remains unutilised. In order to enhance the sector and share experience regarding tourism and the challenges involved, SESRIC has initiated Tourism Capacity Building Programme.

**TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

SESRIC plays a central role in enhancing cooperation networks among the relevant institutions in OIC Member States. To this end, it undertakes strong and close collaboration with the most relevant international and regional organisations with a view to provide high-level fora for respective institutions to generate dynamic partnership with various stakeholders for systematic sharing of developmental knowledge and experience through different means. In this regard, SESRIC has been taking active part in different OIC and international fora in order to better coordinate with stakeholders its activities and identify its interventions in the pursuit of assisting to governments’ efforts in change management for their developmental efforts.
Dialogue Meeting of Technical Cooperation Agencies

The Dialogue Meeting of Technical Cooperation Agencies of the OIC Member Countries aims at reinforcing the collaboration among the technical cooperation agencies through scaling up and enhancing partnerships for sustainable results. The dialogue meeting allows participants to share their actual and potential contribution on south-south and triangular cooperation for the benefit of the member states and to agree on joint projects and innovative practical solutions that might be implemented bilaterally, multilaterally and within the diverse institutional partnerships and networks so as to best contribute towards the implementation of the OIC 2025 Programme of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. SESRIC, as a longstanding partner and technical contributor of the platform, provides technical and substantive support for the meeting and the implementation of the Roadmap.

Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions

Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) is a platform for providing an opportunity for the OIC Institutions to strengthen their performance as well as fostering closer coordination and synergy among them. During its regular meetings, institutions review and evaluate the status of implementation of joint actions agreed update matrix of programs and projects to be implemented for the upcoming period. SESRIC participates and contributes to the meeting by submitting its report of implemented activities and proposing new initiatives and projects to be realized in partnership with the relevant OIC Institutions.

OIC-UN Coordination Meetings

OIC – UN General Coordination Meetings are held every two years to promote and enhance cooperation between OIC Institutions and related UN Agencies. SESRIC participates therein in its capacity as the OIC focal point for technical cooperation activities with a view to promote and enhance cooperation with the related UN Agencies to organise joint activities that would add to the specialisation efforts of experts in general and play an important role in the improvement of human capital in the OIC Member States.

Regional Networking Forums

The Regional Networking Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Arab States, Europe and CIS (RNF) was launched in 2016 under the stewardship of the UNOSSC and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). SESRIC, as a long-standing partner and SSC contributor, has provided technical and substantive support to the RNFs so far.

MoUs & Agreements

SESRIC signs Memoranda of Understanding with numerous institutions including national and international institutions, relevant OIC institutions and NGOs. These documents specify arrangements for bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the interests of the Member Countries covering areas such as technical cooperation, capacity building and implementation of programmes and projects.
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

SESRIC attaches great importance to conduct and contribute to the region and country specific programs where South-South Cooperation is the main collaboration instrument among the beneficiary and provider countries. Moreover, SESRIC puts its efforts by co-financing and providing technical assistance to the projects developed towards the benefit of the OIC Countries such as Gambia, Uganda, Pakistan, Sudan, Bangladesh, Mauritania and Libya where local and international partners and stakeholders jointly involve in achieving expected results.

BINA Initiative
With a view to supporting the national efforts of Libya towards fulfilling socio-economic restoration, the Centre executes BINA Program in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) in order to achieve the expected results of the sub projects developed for addressing the need of the State in different areas.

Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies
Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member States was launched in 2017 to promote cooperation in health emergencies area among OIC Member States. Through collaboration of Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan, Ministry of Health of Turkey, SESRIC and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), this project presents an opportunity for strengthening coordination and capacity building on preparedness and response for health emergencies in OIC Member States.

Improving Occupational Safety and Health in Mauritania
The main objective of the Project on “Improving Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Mauritania” is to improve the capacity of National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) of Mauritania and its dispensaries in the field of OSH and to develop OSH legislation structure in the country.

Technopark Capacity Development
The overall goal of Developing the Capacities of the Africa City of Technology of Sudan is to contribute to the efforts of the Sudan Government in developing capacity of Africa City of Technology (ACT) in technology incubation. The main outcome of the project is to establish an incubation center and techno-park model, including the competent human capital, which will contribute to the scientific advancement and economic growth of Sudan.

SPEED Project
SESRIC, together with its partners jointly launched “Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship Development – SPEED” Project during the 33rd Ministerial Session of COMCEC. The project underlines the partnering institutions’ mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts that will serve as the driver of economic empowerment and resilience of youth living in an environment of continuous fragility, violence or conflict.