

Second Network Meeting on the Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries

27-28 September 2016

Ankara, Turkey

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the representatives of relevant authorities on Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries participating in the “Second Network Meeting on the Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries” held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 27-28 September 2016;

Having been informed by the detailed presentations made by the representatives of the different participating institutions in this meeting from the OIC member countries, highlighting the occurrence of a wide range of expertise in areas critical to contribute to national strategies for reducing unemployment, including expertise in supporting capacity building, strategy development, project and programme planning or scheming, resource mobilization and mentoring capability;

Inspired by the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection adopted by the Second Session of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-26 April 2013;

Recalling that the Baku Declaration adopted during the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers urged member countries to establish networks among relevant institutions of member states and ensure exchange of experiences and best practices among them to promote development of skilled and competitive labour forces and occupational standards;

Referring to the Jakarta Declaration which was adopted by the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 28-30 October 2015 that urged to promote collaboration in reducing unemployment among OIC Member Countries through increasing capacity building, skill recognition and transparency in labour market and labour capacity information;

Being aware of the present challenges and accelerating changes belonging to higher average unemployment rates in member countries and thus of the need for the Network members to strengthen its efforts and fortify its capacity to stimulate cooperation among the member countries in the area of labour, employment and social protection;

Expressing strong satisfaction for the gained achievements with the implementation of the previous recommendations of the OIC PESNET and urging member countries to actively support the network and participate in the implementation process for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of public employment services;

Expressing thanks and gratitude to Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for organising the Second Meeting of OIC PESNET;

Inspired by the shared common views towards addressing the employment challenges in the OIC member countries; hereby make the following recommendations:

1. **Call upon** the member countries that have not done so, to designate their National Focal Points (NFPs) for the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC PESNET), which shall be a national public or governmental body with the responsibility of managing employment or implementing labour market policies;
2. **Invite** the member countries to actively participate and support the OIC Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PESCaB) and to fill out and send the questionnaire to SESRIC;
3. **Call upon** OIC-PESNET members to be strongly involved in lobbying and advocacy activities to draw attention of the international community on the deploring situation in the Muslim World in particular reference to Palestine and Syria among others;
4. **Agree upon** strengthening our capacities with bilateral & multilateral cooperation through exchange of experts, training programmes, joint projects and field and study visits in the area of public employment services;
5. **Consider** the bilateral protocols among the OIC and other international organisations such as the UN and Islamic Development Bank as important opportunities to improve human and financial assets for capacity development programmes to be offered to the OIC PESNET members;
6. **Committed** to promote technical cooperation with the Specialised Agencies of the UN on the common issues raised during the Second OIC PESNET Meeting, including informal employment, labour force participation of women, labour market information systems, information technologies, youth unemployment, labour migration, vulnerable employment and child labour;
7. **Recognise** the importance of international cooperation among public employment authorities and welcome efforts to enhance communication and experience sharing with the World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES);
8. **Appreciate** the collective work of The Gambia, Maldives, Mali and Turkey in collaboration with SESRIC to draft the Terms of Reference that highlights the modus

operandi, roles and responsibilities of all parties for the OIC PESNET, to be adopted at the upcoming Network meeting;

9. **Recall** the prudent need for development of an OIC-PESNET Web Portal, where knowledge sharing related to experiences, projects and best practices of public employment services is facilitated;
10. **Acknowledge** the need for the provision of international integrated efforts in OIC community to facilitate and harness decent work conditions for all, which means effective, healthy and safe work places and improving dispute resolution mechanisms, by means of tripartite (government, employers and trade unions) mechanisms and enhancing collective bargaining, mediations, arbitrations, social dialogue and promoting standards and equity in the OIC Labour Market;
11. **Recognise** the need to generate the OIC Labour Market Strategy for convening the right environment for the generation of decent jobs for the productive workforce in OIC region and provision of skills development initiatives that are critical for socioeconomic transformation;
12. **Promote** sustainability of the OIC-PESNET through regular annual meetings held in different countries and convene the Third Meeting of the OIC PESNET to be held in Morocco in 2017 in consultation with İŞKUR and SESRIC.