

Speech of H.E. Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Director-General of SESRIC  
Special Session on

**“Intra-OIC Cooperation for the Implementation of SDGs in OIC Member  
Countries”**

03 October 2016, Ankara, Republic of Turkey

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu.

I would like, at the outset, to welcome you all to SESRIC Headquarter Office in Ankara and thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this special session on Intra-OIC Cooperation for the Implementation of SDGs in OIC Member Countries.

As you know, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) officially came into effect in January 2016 at the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is an ambitious and universal agenda to support a sustainable future for the humankind by integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. The SDGs aim to attain prosperity and welfare for all people by ensuring sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Over the years, OIC Member Countries have witnessed significant progress on improving living standards and implementing the MDGs, however being a substantial part of the developing world, majority of OIC Member Countries are still characterized by slow economic growth, widespread poverty and income inequality, inadequate capacity development, fragile peace and security situation and many other major issues.

The ambitious scope of 2030 Agenda brings enormous opportunities for the OIC Member Countries to address their long-standing developmental challenges. At this initial stage of

transitioning from MDGs to SDGs, there is a widespread consensus that the implementation of SDGs in developing countries including OIC Member Countries depends largely on their ability to integrate and mainstream the SDGs in their national policies and plans; develop institutional mechanisms for coordination, management and implementation of SDGs; enhance capacities of national statistical agencies to produce necessary data for effective monitoring and evaluation of the progress; identify and channelize adequate financial resources for the implementation of SDGs; and involve all stakeholders -government authorities, academics and civil society organizations- in planning, implementation and monitoring of SDGs.

*Distinguished participants,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Over the last 38 years since its establishment in 1978, SESRIC has introduced new measures and initiated new approaches for implementing its mandate in three main areas, namely, statistics, socio-economic research, and training and technical cooperation. This is with a view to undertaking more result-oriented activities and soundly coordinated actions to address the challenges facing the member countries in their developmental efforts. In these regards, we believe that SESRIC can play a significant role in enhancing the south-south cooperation within the OIC community for the implementation of SDGs.

Over the years, the Centre has been initiating and implementing a wide-range of capacity building programs on various socio-economic areas and fields of immediate interest to the OIC member countries. In so doing, the Centre devotes a large portion of its resources to facilitate the exchange of know-how, knowledge, experience and best practices among the OIC member countries.

Currently, we have 25 sector-specific capacity building sub-programmes, including areas such as statistics, agriculture, environment, water, central banks, health, poverty alleviation, natural disaster management, social security, public employment services, tourism, railway, and others. The Centre implements these programmes in collaboration

with the relevant national, international institutions and NGOs through different modalities, including exchange of experts, training courses, workshops, study visits and networking. With a comparison, it is visible that most of these capacity building programs are quite related to the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets.

In this context, we believe that the role of SESRIC in strengthening cooperation among our member countries for the implementation of SDGs could be further enhanced through dynamic partnership and cooperation with the most relevant partners.

It is within this understanding that today you are here with us in this special session to deliberate and exchange views on new innovative ways and means of strengthening cooperation in this area among OIC member countries. Moreover, we hope that together we can explore specific modalities and approaches for enhancing the role of SESRIC in this important mandated area and look forward to come up with some scenarios for partnership in specific activities, projects and programmes for the benefit of our member countries.

Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to express our readiness at SESRIC to strengthen our cooperation and partnership with all of you in our future work. I am confident that the deliberations you will hold and the recommendations you will make will be highly instrumental in improving our work and better targeting our activities for more benefit to our member countries through the implementation of SDGs.

I thank you once again and wish you all the success in our meeting.