



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation  
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES  
*"Cooperation for Development"*



## **Brainstorming Workshop on the OIC Medical Corps**

Opening Remarks by

**the Director General of SESRIC**

**H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur**

17-18 July 2019  
Ankara, Turkey

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Distinguished Participants,  
Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

**Assalamu Alaykum, Very Good Morning every one**

It is a pleasure for me to join the OIC General Secretariat in welcoming you to this Brainstorming Workshop on the OIC Medical Corps. I am happy to see distinguished participants here and we at SESRIC are really delighted to be hosting this meeting at our Headquarters here in Ankara. Thank you all for coming.

At the outset, allow me to highlight the excellent cooperation between SESRIC and the OIC General Secretariat, which had been crucial to put in place this important meeting.

The OIC countries have a history of devastating disasters, conflicts and emergencies that have caused heavy human and economic losses in many of them. Often these threats, which transcend borders, overwhelm the management capacity of the health system. In OIC countries, capacities for emergency preparedness,

prevention and response vary from country to country. In general, weak health and disaster risk management systems, deteriorating peace and security situation and lack of access to resources and technology are among the major factors underpinning low health capacities in many OIC countries.

Bearing in mind these challenges, the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, held in December 2017 in Jeddah, invited the OIC countries to counter the health risks resulting from emergencies and disasters by strengthening health cooperation among the member countries and in collaboration with other international partners. Therefore, the OIC countries are expected to rapidly introduce both OIC and global best practices and, thus, reduce their capacity gaps in disaster and health emergency mitigation, preparedness and response.

In this context, the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of Council of Foreign Ministers requested SESRIC in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat to convene this meeting and discuss the operationalization of the OIC Medical Corps initiative.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

The OIC Medical Corps initiative aims at improving the medical capacities of the OIC countries by offering training, health care, medical assistance and rapid response to emergency situations, in partnership with national and international organizations, including civil society organizations. By combining the expertise, know-how, networks and resources of all stakeholders, the OIC Medical Corps can contribute to improving of the public health systems in many member countries, and bring them back to self-sufficiency.

Using this opportunity, I would like to say that as a subsidiary organ of OIC, SESRIC is ready to facilitate the work on the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of existing emergency and response services of the public health

systems in OIC countries, as well as to organize capacity building events with the aimed of improving quality provision of health and strengthening governance of the health sector.

**Dear Participants,**

The agenda of this meeting was circulated to you in advance and it is already with us. We are expected to collect ideas for the operationalization of this important initiative and finalize its “Rules of Procedures”. In this regard, your valuable views and comments contributions will be essential for the success of the meeting.

During these two days, you will be sharing your thoughts related to the structure, governance and working mechanisms of the OIC Medical Corps. You are also expected to discuss the membership procedures, roles and expectations from the potential members, coordination and communication and funding mechanisms, as well as the next steps for the enhancement of the initiative.

The outcome document of this meeting will be submitted to the Steering Committee on Health (SCH) for further elaboration, as well as to the next Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, to be held in December 2019 in Abu Dhabi.

Before I conclude, I want to say that I am very encouraged by the potentials of this meeting. I would like to assure you that SESRIC will do whatever it can in order to ensure a successful operationalization of the OIC Medical Corps.

Now, I would like to kindly invite the representative of the OIC General Secretariat, Brother Abdunur Sekindi, to take the floor and deliver his opening remarks.

Thank you for your attention! **Wassalamu Alaykum.**