



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES



TRAINING COURSE ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION & MEDIATION FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES JUNIOR DIPLOMATS

26-28 November 2019
Istanbul, Turkey

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR
Director General of SESRIC

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Dear Prof. Mesut ÖZCAN, Director of the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله

Very Good Morning, and

Welcome to SESRIC Training Course on “Conflict Resolution & Mediation for
OIC Member Countries Junior Diplomats”.

This year marks the third iteration of our training program for junior diplomats from OIC Member States, which we have launched in 2017. This year we are especially excited about this training program due to some novelties that we have introduced to the program.

This year we are organizing the training program in partnership with one of our Member Countries. We are proud that this year our partner is the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey (the host country of our Centre). We are very grateful to them for their support to us in organizing this training; Prof. Mesut ÖZCAN and his team at the Academy.

With this year's program we have also shifted the focus and content of the program from general awareness training towards acquiring real skills, which will benefit our Junior Diplomats throughout their careers and will enhance their diplomatic competency. For this reason, this year's program comes with the theme "Conflict Resolution and Mediation".

Fuelling our excitement further this year is the fact that we have been able to assemble a total of 36 talented junior diplomats from 29 OIC Member States to benefit from this training. In addition, we have been able to attract 4 outstanding practitioners and world renowned trainers in the field of conflict resolution and mediation to deliver the training.

Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The selection of "Conflict Resolution and Mediation" as a theme of this year's training is not a co-incidence. It is a conscious and deliberate consideration in

response to the most immediate challenge that is facing the OIC, which is the state of conflicts in a great number of our Member States.

Currently, more than 60% of all conflict in the world takes place in OIC countries. The consequences of the extreme violence and conflict in many OIC countries have been destructive. It is a human tragedy that has taken its toll on people's lives.

More than 80% of global conflict fatalities have taken place in OIC countries. Millions of people have been forced to leave their homes. Two third of the world refugees originate from OIC countries. The economic consequences of conflicts in OIC countries are estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars, money that could have been spent on economic and social development.

This state of affairs has pushed the noble OIC goal of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world to the top of the OIC agenda. As such, the OIC Council of Foreign Minister (CFM) passed a resolution mandating the OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions to organize training courses on mediation for young diplomats from the Member States.

Our training course this year is in line with the CFM resolution. The training course this year offers training in conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation. The primary focus of the training is on preventing and resolving disputes throughout the OIC region. The trainees will have the opportunity to participate in discussions on the latest knowledge and practice in the domain of mediation and conflict resolution.

The trainees will have the opportunity to enrich their knowledge on how disputes begin, escalate and resolve. Case studies of conflict situations will be analysed to develop an understanding of the issues, obstacles and problems that take place in the OIC region. The course also offers interactive engagement and simulation to advance the skills needed to carry out effective mediation and conflict resolution.

Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's Training Course for OIC Junior Diplomats is not the only initiative that SESRIC is undertaking in the area of conflict resolution and mediation. In this context, I am proud to inform you that SESRIC, in close collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat, is also currently working on developing a Mediators Guideline "Code of Conduct" Focusing on Culturally Sensitive Mediation Approaches.

This task is being undertaken in response to a resolution entitled "Strengthening the Mediation Capacity of the OIC" adopted by the latest two sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), which mandated the OIC General Secretariat to prepare a Code of Conduct for mediators "including culturally sensitive mediation approaches" and in line with the road map suggested by the OIC Contact Group of Friends of Mediation for the implementation of the CFM resolution.

I am confident that once finalized, the Mediators Guideline "Code of Conduct" Focusing on Culturally Sensitive Mediation Approaches will have a significant contribution to the literature and the field of mediation at the OIC Level.

Such a document will prove useful for the practitioners in the field of mediation and conflict resolution and to the trainees that are assembled here in our training course.

Before concluding, I would like to welcome the Junior Diplomats from the OIC Member States to our 2019 Training Course on Conflict Resolution and Mediation. I hope that the skills and knowledge they will acquire during this training course will enhance their diplomatic skills and help them to become successful and effective mediators to contribute to the OIC efforts towards promoting peace and conflict resolution in the OIC geography and in the world as a whole.

Thank you for your kind attention.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله