CONCEPT NOTE FOR

THE WORKSHOP ON

"DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN OIC COUNTRIES"

25-26 JUNE, 2019

ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

1. Background

More than half of the globe will be connected by 2020. A digital life is now emerging rapidly, where life and culture are expanding in new spaces. New forms of life and formats of culture, economies and societies are being developed by mankind. Digital economy, e-commerce, digital ethnography and more are just new disciples of knowledge emerged recently that researches human behavior. This new extension of life, the cyberosphere (Web, social networks etc.) is providing leverage for economies as well as opening new avenues of growth. IDC forecasts a 218 Billion $ market of digital transformation on professional services.

Digitalization and the changing nature of work are rapidly transforming economies around the world. In developed countries, 47% of the workforce faces the risk of being replaced by technology. However, the risk of automation varies significantly across countries. The variance of this risk between countries is partially due to variations in sectoral structure, but mostly due to the way countries organize work and specific tasks within a given sector. While there is a multitude of studies analyzing risks of automation for developed countries, their findings cannot be uniformly applied to OIC Countries. Some countries had achieved advances in e-readiness, smart governance and managed to have a lead in transforming their communities for this new era. However, there is a need for a focused and targeted approach to understand the way digitalization will interact with the OIC Countries. In order for OIC Countries to adopt and implement a digital model of development, they need to fully comprehend the way new technologies will influence their unique economies and the relationship between digitalization, digital skills, and vocational education.

Developing skills will be crucial to harness the potential of digital transformations and equip the workforce for the future. Consequently, governments, organisations, and the private sector will need to make deliberate efforts to ensure individuals acquire market-relevant skills and prepare countries for the opportunities. SESRIC and United Nations Development Programme Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (UNDP IICPSD) jointly aim at preparing OIC Countries for the digital transformation process which requires a multi-stakeholder partnership approach with the active participation of the private sector in various roles and contexts such as industry and employer.

SESRIC and IICPSD, implementing partners of this "Digital Skills Development in OIC Countries" project, jointly developed "Best Practices Guidelines and Toolkit on Engaging the Private Sector in Skills Development" to inspire, motivate and mobilize the private sector for its active engagement in skills training for employment.

This project targets to create a platform for OIC Countries to make them better understand the impacts, challenges, and opportunities of the new concept of work, to identify best practices in digital skill development and increase the capacity of the participants attending from relevant Ministries and/or Digital Transformation Platforms of the OIC Countries via a capacity development workshop.

Human factor has a controlling role in any development. A key activity is to work on human capital development in OIC countries. A promising avenue is that we have in OIC countries scientists and professionals to international standards. It is important to keep record and develop this capital. Sustainability is achieved through a program for institutional capacity building of educational, professional governmental and regulatory institutions as well as civil society working in this space.

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The overall objective of the project is to better understand the relationships between digitalization and vocational training, identify best practices and improve digital skills development efforts in OIC Countries. With these overall objectives, the workshop will serve to create a platform for OIC Countries to help them understand the impacts, challenges, and opportunities of digital enhancement, to identify best practices in digital skill development and contribute to the capacities of the relevant Ministries and/or Digital Transformation Platforms of the OIC Countries.

One of the primary goals of this project is to facilitate best practice and knowledge sharing between OIC Countries. The project will not only provide an understanding of the impacts, challenges, and opportunities of digitalization and identify best practices of digital skills development within individual OIC Countries, but also review successful multilateral partnerships.

3. Expected Outcomes

It is expected that the workshop will accomplish the following:

- Increasing the knowledge on digitalization, digital skills and their transformation as well as their impact on vocational training,
- Ensuring the sustainability of the Expert Group Meeting on "Digital Transformation" organized by SESRIC on 11-12 September 2018,
- Elaborating the "Operations Manual for Digital Skills Planning and Development" in cooperation with the partner OIC Countries,

- Discussing the formulation of a "Digital Skills Collective Action Platform for OIC Countries".

4. Format and Structure

The workshop will enable participants to engage in interactive discussions with stakeholders, experts and policymakers in the field of digital transformation and digital skills development during a course of two days. The workshop will proceed in **English**. Simultaneous translation to **Arabic** and **French** will be provided.

5. Participants

The target participants are composed of relevant senior-level government officials from the relevant authorities and Digital Transformation Platforms of the OIC Countries. The participants will be invited among the ones who are the members of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group of the COMCEC. SESRIC will mobilize additional participants from the relavant OIC institutions, international organisations and the non-member Poverty Alleviation Working Group OIC Countries, which have a potential and interest to develop and adopt digitalization in their development plans. The programme will also be open for private sector firms, as well as CSOs/NGOs if only the cost of the attendance would be self-covered.

6. Date and Venue

The workshop will be held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 25-26 June 2019.