

Fifth Session of OIC Statistical Commission

12-14 May 2015, Ankara – Turkey

RESOLUTIONS

Expressing their appreciation to SESRIC and the IDB for their efforts in co-organising the Fifth Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), thanking Prof. Savas Alpay, former Director General of SESRIC, for his efforts towards promoting cooperation among National Statistical Offices (NSOs) during his office term and congratulating H.E. Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya for his appointment as the Director General of SESRIC, and conveying their thanks to all speakers for their presentations, at its Fifth Session in Ankara, Republic of Turkey held on 12-14 May 2015 with the participation of 34 National Statistical Offices (NSOs), OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, IDB, COMCEC Coordination Office, EuroStat, FAO, ILO, OPHI, PARIS21, UNESCWA and UNSD, the Members of the OIC-StatCom have agreed on the following decisions:

1. **Noting with satisfaction** the activities undertaken, the OIC-StatCom **thanked** the former Members of the Bureau for their service during the biennium 2013 and 2014 and **elected** the following countries as the Members of the OIC-StatCom Bureau for the biennium 2015 and 2016: Indonesia (Chair), Kuwait and Senegal (Vice-Chairs) and Palestine (Rapporteur).
2. **Having examined** the documents and presentations on the “**Implemented and Planned Activities of the OIC-StatCom**”; the OIC-StatCom
 - a. **expressed their satisfaction to** the OIC-StatCom Secretariat for the preparation of the progress reports with respect to the implemented and planned activities of the OIC-StatCom in line with its Executive Work Plan;
 - b. **offered its gratitude** to SESRIC for the tremendous efforts exerted throughout the implementation of the project titled “*Enhancing National Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics*” carried out under the COMCEC Project Funding Programme, **noted** the NSOs for their valuable cooperation on sharing the information on the methodologies they used in poverty measurement through the Questionnaire, designed and circulated by SESRIC, **appreciated** the comprehensive report “*Measurement of Poverty in OIC Member Countries*” prepared as the final output of the project and **called for** the member countries to take part in the second phase of the project involving country trainings and a regional workshop;

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- c. *welcomed* the affirmative results obtained at the end of the project titled “*Improving Statistical Capacities of Tourism Sector in Mediterranean and Gulf Regions*” carried out under the COMCEC Project Funding Programme , *called upon* member countries, which have not done so thus far, to submit the previously circulated ‘Questionnaire on Training Needs and Capacities in Tourism Statistics’ for the second phase of the project designed to organise country specific capacity building activities, and *called upon* the OIC-StatCom Secretariat to maintain its partnership with relevant regional and international stakeholders in order to facilitate the organisation of a more in-depth Regional Workshop on Tourism Satellite Accounts;
- d. *expressed* its satisfaction to SESRIC and the IDB concerning the establishment of the Certification Advisory Board (CAB) and Examination Committee (ExCom) to facilitate the certification of the expertise and knowledge on the professional conduct of statistical work by official statistics professionals in the member countries through the *OIC Accreditation and Certification Programme for Official Statisticians (OIC-CPOS)*, *reiterated its resolve* for the implementation of the first phase of the OIC-CPOS prepared by the OIC-StatCom Secretariat, and *encouraged* all the NSOs of the member countries to actively promote among their early-career official statisticians the Basic Level Certification Examination (CertEx-Basic) planned to be held during the first half of 2016;
- e. *took note* with satisfaction of the active role of SESRIC for initiating the cooperation activities with the relevant stakeholders to develop the capacities of the OIC-StatCom Members in health statistics under the aegis of the project titled “Integration of the ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS)’ into the National Surveys in OIC Member States” and *invited* the NSOs of the member countries to actively partake in incorporating the relevant modules of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), namely TQS, into ongoing national surveys in order to succeed crucial steps on public health issues and tobacco control at the national level; and
- f. *appreciated* SESRIC, IRTI, and the World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center for their efforts to establish a comprehensive and standardised Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics (IBFStat) database through implementing the project on the *OIC Islamic Financial Industry Database* and *requested* the active collaboration among the relevant stakeholders in the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) including the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of member countries as well as the Islamic Financial Services Board

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(IFSB) and other relevant national and international organisations for the development of IBFStat database.

3. **Fully aware** of the increasing role of the information and communication technologies (ICT), along with novel approaches in the modernisation of the NSSs and the raising power of emerging channels to establish a *rapport* with the data users and contribute in higher visibilities of NSOs, and **referring** to the presentations on “*Modernisation of NSSs of OIC Member Countries through Innovative Approaches and Effective Usage of Alternative Channels in Communicating Official Statistics*” made by ILO, UNESCWA, Gambia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Oman, and Turkey; the OIC-StatCom
- a. **acknowledged** that the NSOs, with their vast knowledge and experience on statistical processes, can play a significant role in informing and guiding the relevant stakeholders about the modernisation of the NSSs and **urged** all the member countries to consider the NSOs as the leading actor in coordinating efforts in this perspective;
 - b. **emphasized** the need for well-founded strategies in order to effectively manage the dissemination and communication processes with the data users and **asked** the OIC-StatCom Secretariat to establish a Working Group which will work towards the compilation of a Communications Toolkit with a focus on the social media tools in an official statistics setting.
4. **Mindful of** the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems to better plan and coordinate the future strategies of NSOs, and **having listened to** the presentations on “*Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (Peer Assessment) for Official Statistics towards a More Efficiently Functioning National Statistical System*” delivered by EuroStat, Cameroon, Egypt, Tunisia, and Turkey; the OIC-StatCom
- a. **affirmed** the dire need to depict the current situation of the NSSs of member countries and to assess the compliance status to the international codes and standards;
 - b. **welcomed** the collaboration of SESRIC and EuroStat to work on the project towards establishing a sound mechanism for peer assesment of the NSOs of member countries; and
 - c. **encouraged** member countries to benefit from the project through volunteering as candidate countries in order to objectively learn the strengths and weaknesses of their NSSs and get effective recommendations to improve.

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- 5. Having considered** the presentations on “*Strategic Priorities for National Actions to Transform NSSs to Embrace Post-2015 Development Agenda*” made by FAO, OPHI, PARIS21, UNSD, Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia; the OIC-StatCom
- a. urged** the NSOs of member countries to thoroughly discuss all aspects of post-2015 development framework and to actively engage in the process of formulating SDG indicators by utilizing the experiences they gained during the MDG monitoring and reporting period;
 - b. called** the member countries that will be a member of the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to actively voice the common concerns and interests of the NSOs of member countries; and
 - c. underlined** that the Post-2015 Development Agenda would result in an increase in the data production of the NSOs by expanding their activities into new domains and **called for** the active involvement of international and regional agencies with relevant expertise to contribute in the capacity development efforts of member countries.
- 6. Congratulating** the presidency of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the General Assembly of the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS) for the term 2015-2017, the OIC-StatCom **encouraged** the NSOs of member countries to actively participate in the 15th Conference of the IAOS to be hosted by United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi on 6-8 December 2016.
- 7. Referring** to the report of 25th Meeting of the COMCEC Sessional Committee held in 24 November 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey, the OIC-StatCom **requested** SESRIC to thoroughly examine and evaluate the incorporation of the member countries as a group in the statistical databases of the relevant international organizations and to report the findings in the Sixth Session of OIC-StatCom.
- 8. The OIC-StatCom decided** to have their next Session in (country) on (DD1-DD2 Month 2016).

The Members of OIC-StatCom

Ankara, 13 May 2015