As a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), SESRIC has demonstrated, over the past four decades, its capacity and professionalism to successfully fulfil its mandate, which was entrusted to it 43 years ago. The Centre has accumulated solid experience and successful achievements in the three areas of its mandate, namely statistics, research and training. Over the years, the Centre has introduced various measures and methodologies and launched new approaches and programmes to strengthen its role in supporting and contributing to the efforts of the OIC and its member countries vis-à-vis the challenges they face in their development efforts. Now, the Centre is considered as one of the most active OIC institutions working in the domain of socio-economic development. It plays a significant role in promoting intra-OIC cooperation in a wide-range of relevant areas of its mandate.

As the only OIC institution mandated to work in the domain of statistics, SESRIC is the main repository of statistics and information on and for the OIC member countries. The Centre collects and disseminates high quality statistics on and for the OIC member countries in order to better inform them about each other’s potentials, capacities and needs and thus facilitate their cooperation in various fields and through different modalities. At the same time, the Centre serves as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StaCom), the only OIC cooperation fora in the field of statistics, similar to the UN Statistical Commission.

SESRIC is also considered as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC. The Centre undertakes the task of preparing regular policy-oriented technical background reports and studies as well as strategic cooperation documents on
a wide range of socio-economic issues on the OIC agenda. The Centre submits and presents these reports and documents to the various relevant OIC sectoral ministerial conferences. In so doing, SESRIC supports and contributes to the OIC high-level policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to address the challenges and enhance intra-Islamic cooperation in the relevant areas.

In the area of training and technical cooperation, SESRIC plays an increasingly significant role in enhancing south-south cooperation among the OIC member countries. The Centre has, over the years, initiating and implementing many capacity-building programs in various socio-economic areas and sectors of immediate interest to the member countries. These programmes aim at facilitating the transfer and exchange of knowledge, know-how and experiences among the member countries using different modalities and practical approaches and through effective partnership and cooperation with relevant OIC, national, and international institutions.

Overall, the centre pays special attention to strengthening its role in supporting and contributing to the development cooperation efforts of the OIC and its member countries by focusing on results-based approach in the implementation of its programmes and activities and by targeting the outcomes where cooperation can generate the greatest impact. In this context, the Centre has successfully shifted from scattered to focused interventions and from activity-based to results-oriented interventions.

In accordance with its statutory mandate and in line with global and regional developments and challenges, SESRIC will continue to initiate, introduce and implement new programmes and activities in the areas of statistics, economic and social research and training, with a view to strengthening its role in the joint efforts towards the realisation of the noble objectives of the OIC, particularly in enhancing cooperation, unity and solidarity and ensuring sustainable development, progress and prosperity in the member countries and the Islamic Ummah at large.

Nebil DABUR
Director General
The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was established in 1969, following the criminal arson on Al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Jerusalem, to galvanize the Ummah into a unified body and to actively represent the Muslims by advocating for all the causes close to the hearts of over 1.9 billion Muslims of the world. Today, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organisation after the United Nations with a membership of 57 States spread over four continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The Organisation acts as the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavours to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.

Over the past five decades, the Organisation has utilized its consultative and cooperative relations with the UN and other inter-governmental organisations to protect the vital interests of the Muslims and to work for the settlement of conflicts and disputes involving Member States. In safeguarding the true values of Islam and the Muslims, the Organisation has taken various steps to remove misperceptions and has strongly advocated elimination of discrimination against Muslims in all forms and manifestations.

The mission and agenda of the organisation has evolved over time. In the 21st century, the Member States of the OIC face many challenges. To address these challenges, the OIC in 2005 laid down a blue print called the Ten-Year Program of Action, which was succeeded by the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. The Programme of Action is anchored in the provisions of the OIC Charter and focuses on 18 priority cooperation areas with 107 goals. Among others, these priority areas include issues of Peace and Security, Palestine and Al-Quds, Poverty Alleviation, Counter-terrorism, Investment and Finance, Food Security, Science and Technology, Climate Change and Sustainability, Moderation, Culture and Interfaith Harmony, Empowerment of Women, Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action, Human Rights and Good Governance.

www.oic-oci.org
The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), was founded as a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in pursuance of Resolution No. 2/8-E adopted by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), held in Tripoli, Libya in May 1977. The Centre started its activities in Ankara on 1 June 1978.

The basic mandate drawn up for SESRIC is threefold:
1. To collate, process and disseminate socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries,
2. To study and evaluate the economic and social developments in the member countries to help generate proposals that will initiate and enhance co-operation among them, and
3. To organise training programmes in selected fields geared to the needs of the member countries as well as to the general objectives of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

In the area of statistics, SESRIC serves as the main socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC countries through hosting and updating the most comprehensive socio-economic statistical database on the OIC countries. The Centre collects and disseminates the necessary needed statistical data and background information that would make the OIC countries better informed of each other’s capacities, potentials and needs, and, thus, facilitate various cooperation programmes and frameworks among them. In addition, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission, and through the Centre’s flagship Statistical Capacity Building Programme, SESRIC plays an important role in supporting and contributing to the efforts of the member countries towards enhancing the technical statistical capacities of their National Statistical Offices (NSOs). In this connection, the Centre carries out statistical projects based on both South-South and Triangular Cooperation approaches to improve the National Statistical Systems of the OIC countries for the development of better national strategies and policies.

In its capacity as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, SESRIC assumes the role of being a major knowledge-hub for the OIC. The Centre prepares technical background reports and studies on a wide range of socio-economic cooperation issues at the agenda of the OIC, and generates policy recommendations to initiate and enhance cooperation amongst them. Moreover, by preparing or significantly contributing to the preparation of major strategic documents in various fields, SESRIC plays a vital role in supporting policy design and implementation, addressing developmental challenges, and promoting partnership and cooperation among national development actors within the OIC region.

In the area of training and technical cooperation, SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing the technical cooperation within the OIC community in areas, which fall within its mandate. The Centre contributes to technical cooperation among the member countries through different modalities of training and technical capacity building such as human and institutional capacity-building, technical assistance, exchange of best practices, skill development and networking on a wide-range of socio-economic issues.
Statistics and Information

SESRIC acts as the main socio-economic statistical and information bank on and for the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The Centre gives special attention to ensure the availability of the necessary needed statistical data and background information that would make the member countries better informed of each other’s capacities, potentials and needs and, thus, facilitate their elaboration of cooperation projects and integration schemes in a wide-range of socio-economic fields. In this connection, the Centre keeps and continuously updates huge statistical and information databases on and for the use of the member countries. The rate of dissemination of these data, particularly in the electronic format, has also been greatly increased over time due to the successive improvements made on the technical capacities and design features of the Centre’s website (https://www.sesric.org/).

On the other hand, the Centre contributes to the efforts of the Member Countries towards enhancing the technical capacities of their National Statistical Offices (NSOs) through its flagship Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) by organising statistical training courses, study visits, workshops, and webinars on various technical statistical aspects.

In addition, SESRIC assumes the role of the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), which is the only OIC cooperation forum in the domain of statistics, similar to the UN Statistical Commission, aiming at supporting the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of the OIC Member Countries for development of better national strategies and policies. In this respect, the Centre organizes the annual Main Sessions of OIC-StatCom in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. The website of the OIC-StatCom is regularly maintained and updated (https://www.oicstatcom.org).
The OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database is the first and only international statistics repository on the OIC Member Countries. The OICStat Database is periodically maintained to ensure the dissemination of most up-to-date data through the inclusion of new socio-economic indicators on the OIC Member Countries. Equipped with “user-friendly” features, the OICStat Database currently hosts more than 1,200 indicators under 26 categories with data dating back to 1970.

The OICStat Database can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php
SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database provides statistics and visualized data on the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccinations in the OIC member countries with the objective of raising public awareness and offering policy makers with a tool to guide their ongoing efforts in their fight against the pandemic.

The COVID-19 database hosts data on confirmed cases, deaths, recoveries, and vaccinations in the OIC countries. The data are updated on a daily basis and go back to 25 January 2020 for cases and to 23 December 2020 for vaccinations.

The SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php

Directory of National Institutions in OIC Member Countries (OIC-DIR)

The Directory of National Institutions in OIC Member Countries (OIC-DIR) hosts information profiles of a wide-range of national institutions in the OIC member countries working in the domain of socio-economic development such as Central Banks, Chambers, Development Agencies, Government-Funded News Agencies, Investment Promotion Agencies, Line Ministries, National and Sub-National Statistics Offices, Research Institutes, Think Tanks under Government Institutions, Training Institutes, Trade Unions / Employers’ Organisations, and Universities/Higher Education Institutes.

Keeping and updating such a pool of information on these institutions, the OIC-DIR aims to facilitate communication among the public institutions in OIC Member Countries and cooperation linkages among these institutions.

The OIC-DIR can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/oicdir.php
The Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) hosts profiles of professionals that work in the official statistics sector or in other sectors that deliver services contributing to the efforts of the agencies with an embedded statistical role.

ROSE is instrumental in identifying the available professionals in relevant domains of official statistics as per the taxonomy of Classification of Statistical Activities for the current and future statistical activities of the Centre. In addition, the ROSE contributes significantly to useful exchange of information and experiences among the member countries through enabling the flow of communication between the professionals and the relevant stakeholders working in the domain of statistics.

Currently hosting profiles of more than 850 statistics experts, the ROSE is accessible on: https://www.sesric.org/rose.php

Data Dissemination and Visualization Tools

Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries

SESRIC has been publishing the Statistical Yearbook on the OIC Member Countries since 1980. The content of the various editions of this important statistical publication of the Centre has been continuously updated and enriched over the years. Thanks to the online statistical database of the Centre, the OICStat, which allows for a user-friendly system of accessing online statistical data with download option in various formats, users can access to the most up-to-date data around the clock.

The Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/publications-syb.php
OIC Statistical Outlook

Since January 2019, SESRIC has been issuing the OIC Statistical Outlook Reports as a thematic statistical publication to present the performance and progress of OIC Member Countries on specific socio-economic issues.

The OIC Statistical Outlook Reports can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php

Annual Progress Report on Prioritised SDGs

SESRIC prepares and submits an annual progress report on the prioritised SDGs by the OIC member countries under the title “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries” to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

The Report covers eight prioritised SDGs (SDG 1-5, 8-9, and 13) and additional SDGs with sufficient data for progress analysis. The Report provides analyses whether the selected indicators have moved towards or away from the related targets under the SDGs covered in the Report.

The Annual Progress Report on Prioritised SDGs can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/publications-detail.php?id=512

OIC Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF)

The OIC Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF) presents the most recent available information and statistical data on OIC countries under seven sections, namely Background, Geography and Climate, Society and Demographics, Economy and Sectors, Country in Figures, Logistics, and Special Links.

The profile of each country can also be downloaded as a report. The contents of the profile page can be customised based on the preferences of the user by selecting the section or indicators to be shown in the country profile report. The OIC-CIF is accessible on: https://www.sesric.org/cif-home.php

OIC Ranker

The OIC Ranker ranks the OIC countries with respect to a selected indicator hosted in the OICStat database. The OIC Ranker is accessible on: https://www.sesric.org/oic-ranker.php
OIC Top Bottom Finder (TBF)

The OIC Top-Bottom Finder (TBF) provides the full list of indicators hosted at the OICStat database in which an OIC country is positioned at the very “Top” or “Bottom”. The OIC TBF is accessible on: https://www.sesric.org/oic-tbf.php

SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC)

The SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC) is an interactive and dynamic motion chart module and fully integrated with the OICStat Database. The SMC Module allows the users to dynamically explore the trends of several indicators hosted in the OICStat Database over time.

The charts generated by the SMC module are time series based bubble charts including two indicators that can be customised by the user to have either linear or logarithmic scale(s) with alternative bubble sizes based on the related indicators.

The SMC application module can be accessed on: https://www.sesric.org/smc.php

Did You Know?

The “Did You Know?” issues can be accessed on: https://www.oicstatcom.org/didyouknow.php

Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme

SESRIC StatCaB Programme was initiated in early 2007. It is the flagship capacity development programme of SESRIC. It aims at matching statistical needs and capacities of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries through organising various training activity modalities in order to close the statistical capacity gaps and thus contributing to the efforts of the NSOs of the member countries towards improving the NSSs of their countries.
Within the framework of the StatCaB Programme, the Centre collects information from the NSOs of OIC Member Countries through the biennial StatCaB questionnaire, assesses and matches their technical needs and capacities, and organises statistical activities between the beneficiary and provider countries.

Between 2007 and June 2021, 412 statistical activities were conducted including 259 statistical training courses, 45 study visits, 20 technical missions, 17 webinars, and 71 expert group meetings and workshops (EGM/WS).

For more information on the StatCaB Programme and SESRIC Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, please visit:

https://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php
https://www.oicstatcom.org/webinar-series.php
Webinar on ‘SDG 9 Indicators’, 18 March 2021

Statistical Training Course on ‘Gender and Special Population Groups Statistics’, 18-19 March 2021

Training Workshop on Data Collection and Analysis of Trade-in-Services among the OIC Member States, 23-25 March 2021

Webinar on ‘International Trade-in-Services Statistics’, 13 April 2021

Webinar on ‘Measurement Methods for SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda in the OIC Countries’, 31 May 2021

OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)

The OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) is a highly instrumental platform similar to the UN Statistical Commission aiming at supporting the NSSs and enhancing cooperation among the NSOs of OIC Member Countries for the development and implementation of better national strategies and policies. In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom since 2011, SESRIC continues to organise the annual sessions of OIC-StatCom in collaboration with the IsDB Group. During the annual Main Sessions of OIC-StatCom, the issues pertaining to the mainstream international statistical agenda are covered, with a focus mainly on SDGs and statistical capacity building.
Before the annual Main Session of OIC-StatCom, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat organises the Follow-Up Meetings of OIC-StatCom in the margins of UN Statistical Commission in March every year. The Follow-Up Meetings of OIC-StatCom decides on the formation of the Bureau Members, main agenda items, date and venue of the upcoming annual Main Session of the OIC-StatCom. The progress on the implementation of the resolutions of the preceding OIC-StatCom session is also reviewed and discussed during the Follow-Up Meetings.

In its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, SESRIC facilitated the development of the “Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030” in close consultation with the OIC-StatCom members. The Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 aims at facilitating and coordinating the cooperation and collaboration efforts of the OIC-StatCom members towards addressing the technical challenges facing them in improving their NSSs. Adopted by the 9th Session of OIC-StatCom on 1st October 2020, the Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 acts as a reference document for the OIC-StatCom in formulating its Programme of Action for 2021-2025 and 2026-2030.

The Programme of Action of the Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 includes the list of key actions, implementation period and key performance indicators to achieve the strategic objectives under the five strategic areas of Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030. The Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 and its Programme of Action for 2021-2025 are accessible at https://www.oicstatcom.org/strategic-vision.php

**Cooperation with International and Regional Organisations**

**TQS and TQS-Youth Integration Project**

Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) is a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), which was developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other partners to assist countries in establishing tobacco control surveillance and monitoring programs.

As per the relevant resolutions of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC facilitates the integration schemes based on the terms set forth by the CDC and CDC Foundation since 2014. A total of 15 OIC countries were selected for the first phase. Among the targeted countries, 7 member countries integrated TQS into their ongoing national surveys.
Following the initial phase, SESRIC received commitments from 7 more member countries. Among the countries approached, 13 member countries have completed the TQS integration project by sharing their TQS data collected through their relevant national surveys which can be accessed on: https://www.oicstat.com.org/tqs.php

In this context, SESRIC has also organized a number of capacity development activities in collaboration with the CDC, CDC Foundation, and WHO, such as Workshop on ‘Transforming TQS Data to Action’ organised in November 2018 and Webinar on ‘TQS and TQS-Youth’ organised in December 2020.

In addition, SESRIC facilitated study visits for the benefit of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan and BPS-Statistics Indonesia, provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities

SESRIC became a member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) in 2006. CCSA is a global body of more than 40 international and supranational organisations, whose mandate includes the provision of international official statistics in the context of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organisation and regular contacts with countries.

The Committee focuses its work on the following six main activities:

• Efficient functioning of the statistical system;
• Common standards and platforms;
• Development of methodologies;
• Inter-institutional support;
• Outreach; and
• Advocacy for statistics.

Subgroup on Gender Statistics

SESRIC became a member of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST) of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific coordinated by the UN Women (Secretariat of the Subgroup) and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) (Secretariat of the Network) on 15 November 2018.
The main objective of the Subgroup is to ensure data users and producers in Asia and the Pacific have the necessary skills to produce, disseminate and use gender statistics widely, including for SDG monitoring.

Since 2018, SESRIC has contributed to the work of the subgroup by attending several SGGST meetings and providing inputs for the repository of gender statistics training experts and training curriculum on gender statistics.

**Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)**

The Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) was established by 15 founding members, including SESRIC, in early 2018 with the overall objective to facilitate collaboration among members of the network in the delivery of trainings on statistics in a more harmonised and standardised manner as well as to improve effectiveness of these trainings through maximizing their outreach.

Since 2018, SESRIC attended several GIST meetings and provided inputs for GIST task team on ‘Addressing NSO Needs’.

**ISWGNA/BOPCOM Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance**

The Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) was formed in April 2020 to conduct further research, and develop consistent methodology and guidance on the treatment of Islamic finance in national accounts and external sector statistics.

In order for the Task Team to draft the Final Joint Guidance Note (ISWGNA /BOPCOM) to be presented at the 2021 AEG and BOPCOM meetings, sub-task teams have been formed. On 17 September 2020, SESRIC became a member of “Topic D: Sectorization of Islamic Banks with Multiple Activities and Islamic Windows”.

**Inaugural Meeting of the ISWGNA/BOPCOM Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance (IFTT), 10 September 2020**
Assuming the role of the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, SESRIC is considered as a major knowledge hub for the OIC member countries, which supports socio-economic development efforts at the national, regional and international level. The Centre regularly studies and evaluates economic and social developments in OIC member countries with a view to generate proposals that can initiate and enhance cooperation among them. Through preparing or significantly contributing to the preparation of major OIC strategic documents in various socio-economic fields, SESRIC plays a vital role in supporting OIC policy design and implementation, addressing developmental challenges, and promoting partnership and cooperation among national and regional development actors. Through conducting research on various socio-economic challenges of the OIC member countries, the Centre contributes significantly to the OIC policy dialogue through monitoring, analysing and reporting of the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-OIC cooperation in the concerned areas. As an outcome of its research activities, the Centre produces different types of reports, strategic documents and periodicals. Moreover, it organises and participates in various events to share the research outcomes with various stakeholders.

Over the years, SESRIC has paid special importance to cooperation with national, regional and international organisations as well as academia. A call for OIC economies to become more integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive has been at the heart of socio-economic research activities of SESRIC.

Today, the Centre continues to provide various stakeholders with information that helps to understand the socio-economic trends, identify issues and shape future policy for the benefit of the OIC member countries. Although the number, scope and depth of the research
activities conducted by the Centre are constantly growing, it is adopting innovative tools, mechanisms and systems to provide better services to the Member States in line with its mandate.

Regular Technical Background Reports and Research Studies

The Centre prepares regular technical background reports and research studies on several socio-economic issues placed on the agenda of various OIC Ministerial Conferences and other high level forums. These reports are mainly prepared to facilitate the policy debate and dialogue process during the sectoral Ministerial Sessions attended by the Ministers and high level policy makers. They are instrumental in promoting exchange of innovative solutions and policies among Member States that are on similar development pathways by identifying and featuring success stories, best practices and opportunities for cooperation. At present, the Centre is regularly preparing technical background reports for 12 sectoral Ministerial Conferences, ranging from Agriculture development, Health, Education, and Tourism to Family Values, Women and Youth related issues.
The Centre prepares or significantly contributes to the preparation of various OIC strategic plans, cooperation frameworks, and programmes of actions in various subjects related to its mandate upon requests by various Ministerial Conferences and OIC bodies. These strategic documents provide excellent roadmaps for promoting intra-OIC cooperation and streamlining national and regional policies to spearhead the implementation of national, regional and international development agendas like OIC-2025 Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

Strategic Plans and Programmes of Actions

To this end, so far, SESRIC has lead the preparation or substantially contributed to the preparation of OIC programmes of action in the domain of Health (adopted in 2013); Women (2016); Labour (2017); Islamic Tourism (2018); Youth (2018); Elderly (2019) and Family (2019). Furthermore, the Centre is currently working with other relevant OIC institutions on two strategic plans focused mainly on social issues, including, welfare of children and wellbeing of people with disability and special needs.

SESRIC is also actively involved in monitoring and evaluating the implementation status of these strategies and programmes by conducting online questionnaires and surveys to collect primary data and information from the national focal points in the member countries. The findings of these surveys are very informative and instrumental in documenting the progress, understanding the opportunities and challenges and charting out a more efficient way forward.
Ad-hoc and In-house Research

Upon requests by OIC General Secretariat, Member States, relevant OIC meetings and bodies and based on the independent evaluation of the research team, the Centre prepares reports in various fields of interest to the Member States. Although these reports are not prepared on a regular basis, they can be occasionally revised to keep them updated. Examples of such research include the Centre’s studies on Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic, Urban Development, Managing Natural Disasters in Afghanistan and Achieving Peace and Security in a World of Turmoil.

Joint Research

SESRIC collaborates and shares expertise with other OIC, national, regional and international organisations to conduct joint research on topics that are of mutual interest. Over the years, the Centre has jointly conducted reports with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and the Developing-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation (D-8).

Commissioned Studies

Depending on the availability of technical resources, the Centre occasionally provides paid consultancy services to other OIC institutions and regional and international organisations. Within this framework, the Centre has conducted research studies and sectoral policy analysis for the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Turkic Council and Libyan Program for Reintegration and Development.
In an attempt to enhance the efforts of the Centre to provide the necessary and up-to-date information and knowledge that would make the OIC member countries better informed of each other’s capacities and needs as well as challenges and potentials towards higher economic integration, the Centre prepares short outlook reports on various socio-economic development issues concerning the OIC member countries. Using the Centre’s main database OICStat, these reports present statistical information and analytical investigations as well as some policy implications on the topics in question.

**Journal of Economic Development and Cooperation (JECD)**

JECD is an academic journal published quarterly by the Centre since 1979. It is a journal of applied research in development economics and aims primarily at enhancing cooperation among the member countries of the OIC. JECD publishes original papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the developing countries. It gives special attention to those papers, which deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Journal is indexed/abstracted in SCOPUS, JEL/Econlit, i-Journals, i-Focus and i-Future. Please visit our website (https://www.sesric.org) to see and download our publications in English, Arabic or French.

**Knowledge Sharing Events**

**International Meetings and Conferences:** The Centre regularly contributes to the regional and global policy discourse by actively participating in various national, regional and international conferences, workshops and expert group meetings. The Centre also collaborate with the relevant OIC institutions and international organisations to jointly organise international events to discuss the current challenges and opportunities faced by the OIC member countries by bringing together academicians, practitioners, experts and policymakers from Member States and elsewhere.

**Research Seminars:** The Centre also organises research seminars to share the outcomes and the findings of its latest studies and reports with the policymakers, academics and experts from government agencies, universities, national institutions and international organisations to facilitate policy dialogue and discussion and enhancing knowledge sharing among them.
In the area of Training and Technical Cooperation, SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing south-south cooperation within the OIC community by initiating and implementing various capacity building training activities on a wide range of socio-economic fields of interest to the OIC member countries. In this regard, SESRIC has currently 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes realised through different implementation modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits. Through these programmes, the Centre provides training opportunities to an increasing number of staff in various national institutions of the OIC member countries with a view to contributing to the efforts of these countries towards enhancing the institutional and human resources capacities of their institutions.

Moreover, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), SESRIC organises capacity building activities in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for the benefit of the national TVET Institutions of the OIC member countries. The Centre also monitors and evaluates the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, which provides the strategic framework for cooperation among the national TVET Institutions to improve the quality and performance of TVET systems in the OIC member countries.

Besides, SESRIC implements various technical cooperation projects and activities to facilitate technical assistance, exchange of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking among the OIC member countries. To this end, the Training and Technical Cooperation Department undertakes solid and close cooperation with the relevant national, international and regional institutions, the General Secretariat of the OIC and relevant OIC organs to implement technical cooperation projects and activities developed for the benefit of the OIC member countries.
SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes is a flagship initiative of SESRIC that aims to enhance the human resources capacities of the national institutions of OIC member countries in various socio-economic fields and areas through matching the needs and capacities of these institutions. Currently, SESRIC has 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes, which serve to the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action in general and capacity building needs of the OIC member countries. In this regard, the Centre regularly circulates questionnaires of these programmes, then analyses the needs and capacities based on the responses received from the relevant national institutions in the member countries. Accordingly, SESRIC provides training opportunities by facilitating transfer and exchange of know-how, knowledge and experience between the beneficiary and provider countries.

The Centre continues to conduct its training activities despite the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic through distance learning IT modalities. An increasing number of trainees continue to benefit from various capacity building activities, including training courses and workshops on wide-ranging fields and areas.

The list of the SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes is as follows:

1. Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB)
2. Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB)
3. Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB)
4. Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB)
5. Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB)
6. Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB)
7. Treasury Capacity Building Programme (Treasury-CaB)
8. Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB)
countries in particular. In this regard, the Centre regularly circulates questionnaires of these programmes to the relevant national institutions in the member countries, then, based on the received responses, analyses the needs and capacities. Accordingly, SESRIC provides training opportunities by facilitating the transfer and exchange of know-how, knowledge and experience between the beneficiary and provider countries.

The list of SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes is as follows:

1. Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB)
2. Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB)
3. Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB)
4. Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB)
5. Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB)
6. Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB)
7. Treasury Capacity Building Programme (Treasury-CaB)
8. Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB)
9. Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB)
10. Social Security Institutions Capacity Building Programme (SSI-CaB)
11. IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB)
12. Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB)
13. Postal Services Capacity Building Programme (PS-CaB)
14. Railway Capacity Building Programme (RW-CaB)
15. National Organisations for Civil Registration Capacity Building Programme (NOCR-CaB)
16. Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB)
17. Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB)
18. Sustainable Urbanization Capacity Building Programme (SU-CaB)
19. Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB)
20. Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB)
21. University Capacity Building Programme (UNI-CaB)
22. Public Audit Capacity Building Programme (PAU-CaB)
23. Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB)

For more details regarding SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes, please visit [https://www.sesric.org/tcd-cab.php](https://www.sesric.org/tcd-cab.php)
Training Course on “Local Economic Development”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB) and in collaboration with the OIC Representative Office to the State of Palestine, Ministry of Local Government and the Municipal Lending Fund in the State of Palestine, organised a training course on “Local Economic Development” on 20-21 November 2019, in Ramallah, State of Palestine. The training course was provided by two competent experts from Jordan and Turkey for the benefit of 37 trainees from different municipalities, municipal councils, and the Ministry of Local Government of Palestine.

Training Course on “Conflict Resolution and Mediation for OIC Junior Diplomats”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB), organised a training course on “Conflict Resolution and Mediation for OIC Junior Diplomats” on 26-28 November 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey. The training course was organised in partnership with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey with the participation of 34 diplomats from 28 OIC member countries.
Training Course on “Myth of GM Technology to Combat Pest Losses of Cotton”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB), organised a training course on “Myth of GM Technology to Combat Pest Losses of Cotton in Uganda” on 17-19 December 2019, in Kampala, Uganda.

The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology in Pakistan for the benefit of experts from the Cotton Development Organisation of Uganda.

Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management” for Lake Chad Basin Countries

SESRIC, within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) and in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), organised a virtual training workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management” on 19-22 October 2020. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the North Lebanon Water Establishment of the Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon and Lebanese University for the benefit of the experts from the national water resource institutions of the Lake Chad Basin countries.

Training Workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) and in collaboration with the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), organised a virtual training workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment” on 30 November - 03 December 2020. The training workshop was provided by a competent expert from Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) for the benefit of experts from the Ministries of Environment of Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.
Training Workshop on “Institutional Capacity Building for Effective Labour Market Information Systems”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised a virtual training workshop on “Institutional Capacity Building for Effective Labour Market Information Systems” on 01-04 February 2021. The training workshop gathered 94 participants from the public employment agencies/authorities and relevant national institutions of 23 OIC member countries.

Training Course on “Formulating Monetary Policy”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), organised a virtual training course on “Formulating Monetary Policy” on 22-25 February 2021. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Central Bank of Turkey for the benefit of experts and executives from the Central Bank of Iraq, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestine Monetary Authority.

Training Course on “Packaging, Labeling and Pictorial Health Warnings on Tobacco Products”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB), organised a virtual training course on “Packaging, Labeling and Pictorial Health Warnings on Tobacco Products” on 15-17 March 2021. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Tobacco and Alcohol Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey for the benefit of tobacco control experts from the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority.

Workshop on “Competition vs. Regulation and the Appropriate Organisational Structure of a Competition Agency”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CAB) and in collaboration with the Turkish Competition Authority (TCA), organised a virtual workshop on “Competition
vs. Regulation and the Appropriate Organisational Structure of a Competition Agency” on 06-07 April 2021. The workshop brought together 78 experts and executives from national and regional competition authorities of 18 OIC member countries.

Training Course on “International OSH Regulations”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), organised a virtual training course on “International OSH Regulations” on 4-22 April 2021. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) and the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) of the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia for the benefit of 82 experts and executives from national OSH Authorities of 28 OIC member countries.

The Commemoration Programme for Dhaka, the OIC City of Tourism 2019 and the International Seminar on “Development of Muslim Friendly Tourism in the Dhaka City”

SESRIC, within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), conducted a one-day commemoration programme for Dhaka, the OIC City of Tourism 2019 on 15 October 2019, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The event comprised of the International Seminar on “Development of Muslim Friendly Tourism in the Dhaka City” and the “Award Ceremony for the best Tour Operators in Dhaka”.

Technical Cooperation

SESRIC and UNOSSC Launched the Joint Report on “South-South in Action: Transforming Potentials into Shared Prosperity”

SESRIC and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched the joint report on “South-South in Action: Transforming Potentials into Shared Prosperity” during a side event of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, on 15 September 2020.

This joint publication celebrates SESRIC’s accumulated experience over the last four decades and provides new insights into the field of South-South Cooperation. The report presents selected programmes and best practices initiated by SESRIC in line with its triadic mandate in the domain of statistics, research and training to support and enhance socio-economic development in OIC member countries.
Reverse Linkages
Reverse Linkage is a technical cooperation mechanism introduced by the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise, as well as sharing of best practices among partnering national institutions of the OIC member countries. In an effort to develop the capacities of the OIC member countries and devise solutions for their autonomous development, Reverse Linkage is considered as a valuable peer-to-peer South-South cooperation modality with win-win arrangements for all partnering institutions.

Within the framework of this modality, SESRIC, in collaboration with IsDB and relevant national institutions, has engaged in the following Reverse Linkage projects:

- Reverse Linkage for Uganda: Capacity Development of Vocational Training Centre at the Islamic University in Uganda
- Reverse Linkage for The Gambia: Capacity Development of the School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences of the University of The Gambia
- Reverse Linkage for Bangladesh: Cotton Varieties Development
- Reverse Linkage for Pakistan: Earthquake Seismological Research
- Reverse Linkage for Sudan: Capacity Development of the Africa City of Technology

Within the framework of these Reverse Linkage projects, some of the activities organised by SESRIC, in collaboration with IsDB and other partners, are as follows:

Reverse Linkage Project between Bangladesh and Turkey: Cotton Varieties Development

The main aim of the project is to enhance the local cotton production in Bangladesh, particularly in less productive agricultural land, through improving the research capacity of the Cotton Development Board (CDB) of Bangladesh in cotton varieties development and ameliorating its production practices. The project partners are SESRIC, IsDB, Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Turkey, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) of Turkey, and Turkish Airlines.

A Study visit of technical staff of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (CDB) to Turkey on “Enhancing Capacity in Cotton Varieties Development” in November 2019. The study visit was organised by SESRIC, in cooperation with IsDB and Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Turkey, as the first activity of the Reverse Linkage Project between Bangladesh and Turkey aiming at familiarizing the Bangladeshi participants about the work, strategies, methodologies and techniques used at different organisation and institutions in Turkey as well as private companies involved in cotton research and development.

Training course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments” in January
2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Bangladeshi and Turkish experts conducted joint research with a view to generating and exploring new cotton varieties that are appropriate for the agro-ecological conditions of Bangladesh.

**Reverse Linkage Project for Sudan: Capacity Development of the Africa City of Technology**

The main objective of this project is to contribute to the efforts of the Republic of Sudan towards developing the capacity of the Africa City of Technology (ACT) in the area of technology incubation. The project aims to establish an incubation centre and technopark model, including developing competent human capital, which will contribute to the country’s scientific advancement and economic growth. The project’s partners include SESRIC, IsDB, Uludağ University Technology Development Zone (ULUTEK) and Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Marmara Technopark (MARTEK), Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency (TIKA), and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Sudan.

Eight technical staff from ACT received a Capacity Development Training on “Technology Incubation and Transfer” in June-July 2019 delivered by experts from Uludağ University Technology Development Zone (ULUTEK) in Bursa, Turkey.

Eight technical staff from ACT received on-the-job Training on “Technology Incubation and Transfer” in December 2019 - February 2020 at the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Marmara Technopark (MARTEK) in Kocaeli, Turkey.

For more details regarding Reverse Linkage Projects, please visit [https://www.sesric.org/reverse-linkage.php](https://www.sesric.org/reverse-linkage.php)

**Networks**

In an attempt to bring together national institutions from the OIC member countries working in various socio-economic domains, SESRIC implements a networking cooperation modality with the main aim of establishing closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and conducting joint initiatives, projects and programmes. Every year, the Centre analyses the needs for such networks and holds networking meetings in close cooperation with the National Focal Points of the relevant national institutions. Currently, SESRIC hosts two main networks:

**OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)**

OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) aims to establish an international network for systematic sharing of information and experience in the domain of OSH among the national OSH institutions of the OIC member countries to improve the quality of the OSH services and standards of these institutions.
The Network was launched with a kick-off meeting, jointly organised by SESRIC and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Republic of Turkey on 16-17 May 2011 in Ankara, Turkey, with the participation of representatives of national OSH institutions of 15 OIC member countries. The establishment of OIC-OSHNET was welcomed by the First Session of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held during the 19th World Congress on “Safety and Health at Work” on 10 September 2011, in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

Preparatory Senior Experts Meeting for the 4th Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET, 11-13 April 2018 in Ankara, Turkey. The Meeting brought together senior experts from the OSH authorities of 16 OIC member countries.

The 4th Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) jointly organised by SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of OIC-OSHNET, and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, on 07-08 October 2020. 52 high-level representatives and National Focal Points (NFPs) from 37 OIC member countries attended the online Meeting in which two main documents of the Network were discussed and adopted: The Rules of Procedures and the Work Plan for the two-year 2021-2022.

OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET)

The OIC-Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) was established with a view to enhancing the technical cooperation among public employment services institutions in the OIC member countries through facilitating sharing and exchanging of experiences and best practices in this important domain and, thus, contributing to their efforts towards enhancing employability and reducing unemployment in their countries. The OIC-PESNET is an initiative of SESRIC based on the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to establish a Forum for public employment institutions among the OIC member countries. It is a platform for systematic sharing of information and experience among public employment authorities to enhance the quality and
effectiveness of the public employment services in the OIC member countries. SESRIC assumes the role of the Secretariat of the OIC-PESNET.

The 3rd Meeting of the OIC-PESNET was jointly organised by SESRIC and Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) on 02-03 June 2021 with the main aim of reactivating the work of this important Network, which was established in 2014. The Meeting brought together 70 senior-level representatives from the national public employment services institutions/agencies of 36 OIC member countries. The participants discussed and adopted two important documents of the Network; namely the “Rules of Procedure” and the “OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022”. These two documents aim at ensuring more functional and effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation in public employment services within the framework of the OIC-PESNET.

For more details regarding SESRIC Networks, please visit: https://www.sesric.org/tcd-networks.php

Portals

SESRIC develops and maintains thematic web portals in line with the decisions taken at OIC Fora with a view to strengthening communication, cooperation, and knowledge sharing among the relevant national institutions in these fields. The portals act as the main information sharing platform in the particular areas, facilitate coordination of activities and also serve as a library for publications and reports related to these areas. Currently, SESRIC website hosts the following portals:

OIC Health Portal
www.oichealth.org

OIC Portal on Water Resources
oicwater.sesric.org

Tobacco Free OIC Portal
tfo.sesric.org
Over the years, SESRIC has signed a significant number of Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements with various relevant national, regional, OIC, and international institutions. These agreements frame bilateral and multilateral arrangements for cooperation with a view to enhancing the Centre’s technical cooperation with these institutions for the benefit of the OIC member countries.

SESRIC and IOFS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27 November 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey, to strengthen the collaboration and partnership in areas of food security, agriculture, and rural development. The MoU was signed by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, and H.E. Mr. Yerlan A. BAIDAULET, Director General of IOFS, on the sidelines of the 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Turkey.

SESRIC and OSTIM Technical University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27 February 2020, in Ankara, Turkey, to facilitate and strengthen technical cooperation in the areas of common interests. The MoU was signed by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, and Prof. Dr. Murat YÜLEK, Rector of OSTIM Technical University.
**MoU between SESRIC and Department of Statistics Malaysia**

SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) to further the cooperation between the two institutions concerning activities on statistical capacity development for the benefit of OIC member countries. The MoU was signed by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, and H.E. Dr. Uzir MAHIDIN, Chief Statistician of DOSM, in New York on the sidelines of the 51st Session of the UN Statistical Commission on 5 March 2020.

**OIC-VET Programme**

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an initiative of SESRIC. The Centre developed and designed this Programme with a view to supporting and contributing to the efforts of the OIC member countries towards addressing the current challenges and limitations faced in the area of TVET. In addition, the programme also aims to enhance the quality of TVET systems in the OIC member countries, which in turn contribute to the development and competitiveness of their economies.

The OIC-VET Programme was launched and adopted by the member countries at the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 9 November 2009. SESRIC was entrusted with the role of Executing OIC Organ of the Programme.

**OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025**

SESRIC and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO) coordinated the preparation of the “OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025” in collaboration with the National Focal Points of OIC-VET Programme through four thematic working group meetings and two consecutive workshops held during the period 2017-2018. The Strategic Roadmap aims at developing tangible projects and activities to be executed in close cooperation with the national TVET institutions as well as the relevant international and OIC institutions. Various implementation modalities were set in the Roadmap under the following four main cooperation areas:

- Legislative Framework, Governance and Promotion
- TVET Teacher Education
- Occupational Standards and Qualification & Quality Assurance System
- Certification and Modular Training Programs
The objectives set in the Roadmap are geared towards improving the competencies and skills of TVET learners and teachers according to labour markets’ needs and priorities through intra-OIC partnerships at the institutional level in line with the OIC-2025 Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which was held on 25-28 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, welcomed the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 and requested SESRIC to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap within the framework of its Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) and submit the progress report to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

For more details regarding the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, please visit https://www.sesric.org/files/article/693.pdf

**Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC)**

Since the inception of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the Programme, organised six meetings of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC). The last meeting was held on 19-20 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, where the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme as well as representatives of the relevant OIC institutions, attended the meeting. The sixth meeting discussed and agreed on the modalities of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, as well as the mechanism of its implementation for the upcoming five years.

The Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) is responsible for drafting and adopting the rules and regulations and monitoring the overall implementation of the OIC-VET Programme. The committee is comprised of representatives from National Focal Points of the OIC member countries and relevant OIC institutions, namely, IsDB, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO).

**OIC-VET Programme’s Activities**

Since the inception of the OIC-VET Programme, more than 30 activities have been implemented covering various topics through workshops, training of trainers (ToT) courses, study visits, and seminars for the benefit of TVET Authorities of the OIC member countries. The conducted activities facilitated the enhancement of knowledge and competencies of TVET instructors in addition to youth and women empowerment.

**Examples of the activities carried out within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme:**

**Training of Trainers (ToT) on “Sewing, Woodcraft and Jewellery Design”**

SESRIC, within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Sewing, Woodcraft and Jewellery Design” on 11-15 November 2019 in Ankara, Turkey.
The ToT course was provided by the competent trainers from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey for the benefit of participants from Afghanistan, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Senegal and Uzbekistan.

Workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC Member Countries”

SESRIC, within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, organised a virtual workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in the OIC Member Countries” on 11-14 January 2021. The workshop brought together 73 TVET professionals from 26 OIC member countries to discuss efficient ways and means in tackling the emerging challenges and capacity development issues facing TVET Institutions.

Webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development”

SESRIC, within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, organised a webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development” on 11 February 2021. The webinar hosted panellists from the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

Training Course on “Advancement and Empowerment of Women’s Entrepreneurial Skills”

SESRIC, within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, organised a virtual training course on “Advancement and Empowerment of Women’s Entrepreneurial Skills” on 08-11 March 2021. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the National Agency for Employment and Independent Work (ANETI) of Tunisia for the benefit of experts and executives from the relevant Ministries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, and Senegal.
Online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services”

SESRIC, within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, organised a virtual Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services” on 29 March-02 April 2021. The ToT course was provided by a competent expert from the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education of the Ministry of National Education of Turkey for the benefit of trainers from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia, and Turkmenistan.

OIC-VET Programme Identified as a Good Practice for Sustainable Development

The published report focused on the challenges that face the TVET systems particularly in the OIC region, and the establishment of the OIC-VET Programme as a solution that supplements the international efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs, primarily goal 4 “Quality Education”.

The OIC-VET Programme was highlighted considering its essential role in scaling up South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC and TrC), and knowledge exchange through innovative and holistic approaches among the relevant national TVET authorities of the member countries. Special emphasis was given to the Roadmap of the programme and the activities listed under the Implementation Work Plan, which embrace the fundamentals of SSC such as mutual understanding, exchange of expertise and experiences, peer-to-peer learning and capacity development.

For more details regarding the OIC-VET Programme activities, please visit https://www.oicvet.org/
**Internship Programmes**

**OIC International Internship Program (OIC INTERN).**

The OIC INTERN is an initiative of SESRIC. It is an international internship programme that aims at guiding young people through professional career planning by reinforcing academic knowledge gained during their studies with practical applications. The programme gives young people the opportunity of experiencing a professional working environment and consequently improving their work ethics, work discipline and other skills. While giving the opportunity to get vocational and technical experience, it also enables interns to acquire cultural interaction and intercultural communication skills.

In 2019, 800 students were interviewed within the framework of OIC Intern, of whom 600 have completed their internships in 55 public and private sector institutions in Turkey.

Like other programmes, the OIC INTERN has also been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on life and business. Despite this challenging situation, in 2020, the OIC Intern Programme achieved to place 36 students from 18 different OIC member countries as interns in various institutions of Turkey.

**SESRIC Internship Programme**

The SESRIC offers internships to highly motivated and successful young people interested to learn more about the economic and social issues which affect OIC member countries and Muslim communities around the World. The program provides opportunities for university students from the OIC member countries studying in Turkish Universities to obtain hands-on experience at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, as well as to improve their skills and knowledge of working in an international environment.

The program is open to students who are either nationals of the OIC member countries or belong to a Muslim Community. Candidates must have completed an undergraduate degree and be enrolled in a full-time graduate study program pursuing a Master’s or a PhD degree.