**Welcoming Statement by Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya**

**Director General of SESRIC**

**At the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on**

**“Social Security Systems”**

**Ankara, Turkey, 4‐6 April 2016**

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**Distinguished Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,**

I am honoured to address the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on “Social Security Systems” which we have the pleasure to jointly organize it with Social Security Institution of the Republic of Turkey. Let me, at the outset; express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you for accepting the invitation and designating time to attend this very important event. Taking this opportunity, I also would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Turkish Social Security Institution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey for their logistic support and hosting this significant meeting in Ankara.

I believe that this knowledge sharing workshop will provide you, as directors and experts in the area of Social Security, a valuable opportunity to exchange views and experiences and develop solutions to some key challenges and problems in this important area. You are all here to share your common interest in protecting individuals and seeking solutions to improve and provide them with effective and quality social security services.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Social security, to resolve the economic and social needs of all members of society is a guarantee against the risks of today and the future. The developing idea of social security which should have the integrity of each individual is perceived with the social state since the beginning of humanity. Over time, social states have been observed as the sole practitioners of social security approach.

Social security is closely related with individuals throughout their life. The link between social security and human being starts in the womb and childhood and continues at the youth and old age. Social security is a factor that has existed for social risks. These risks that are different from any danger and threat are of importance for the purpose of social security.

According to the recent report of World Bank, today, 73 per cent of the world’s population continues to live without adequate social protection coverage. In other words, for the large majority of people the fundamental human right to social security is only partially realized or not at all. As the OIC community we need to make greater efforts in realizing this right.

The lack of access to social protection constitutes a major obstacle to economic and social development. Inadequate or absent social protection coverage is associated with high and insistent levels of poverty and economic insecurity, growing levels of inequality, insufficient investments in human capital and human capabilities, and weak aggregate demand in a time of recession and slow growth. The strong positive impacts of social security have become the pole position of the development agenda. Social security should be the key element of OIC Member Countries’ strategies to promote human development, political stability and inclusive growth.

National social security systems should comprise basic social security guarantees that ensure effective access to essential health care and basic income security at a level that allows people to live in dignity throughout the life cycle. These should include at least:

* access to essential health care, including maternity care;
* basic income security for children;
* basic income security for persons of working age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and
* basic income security for older persons.

In this respect, our Centre SESRIC, which is a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, has recently initiated of the Capacity Building Programme for Social Security Institutions in OIC Member Countries (OIC SSI-CaB), in order to enhance the institutional and human capacity of relevant authorities, and thus to contribute to the overall security of our Ummah. Accordingly, the Centre is willing organises training courses and capacity building activities for the Social Security Institutions in Senegal, Sudan and Togo with the support of the Tunisian Social Security Institution. This initiative will lead us to develop a network among the Social Security Institutions of OIC Member Countries where we facilitate the cooperation and sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices in this important area. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to become a partner in this significant initiative.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The problem of expanding social protection in the world and the strategies to develop systems that are country-led, aligned to national circumstances, reviewed in the light of population needs, and include the participation of all stakeholders should be considered with a new vision at both the individual country and inter OIC cooperation levels. In this spirit, we came together today in this event to deliberate and exchange our views and expertise on one important aspects of cooperation in the field of social security.

I would like to express our firmness to stand ready with any of collaboration initiative from member countries, exerting all efforts to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among institutions. As we look forward to the successful outcome of this knowledge sharing workshop, I wish you all the success.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Wassalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu**