

# **FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

05 March 2020, New York-USA

## **WELCOMING REMARKS OF H.E. MR. NEBIL DABUR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SESRIC**

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**

Distinguished Delegates of the NSOs of OIC Member Countries,  
Distinguished Representatives of the Regional and International Institutions,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته**  
Very Good Morning

I am pleased this morning to welcome you all and thank you for accepting our invitation to this Follow-up Meeting of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom). I would like also to thank the UNSD for their continued support in facilitating the organization of our meetings on the margins of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) Sessions. Our thanks and appreciation are also extended to the Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom, Malaysia, H.E. Dr. Mohd Uzir MAHIDIN, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics Malaysia.

As you know, the OIC-StatCom has been established in accordance with the Istanbul Declaration adopted by the Meeting of NSOs of the OIC Member Countries in 2010. Our Centre, SESRIC, which is the only OIC institution mandated the work in the domain of statistics, has been undertaking the role of the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom since its establishment in 2010.

The OIC-StatCom is a unique platform within the framework of the OIC since it is the only OIC cooperation fora in the domain of statistics. As the Secretariat of this important OIC forum, we, at SESRIC, have so far succeeded to organize 8 Sessions of the OIC-StatCom, where representatives of the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries and relevant regional and international

organizations came together every year to deliberate on specific technical statistical agenda with a view to exchanging knowledge and best practices related to the subjects of this agenda items.

**Distinguished Members of the Commission,  
Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you may recall, the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom, which was held in October last year at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, decided that SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of this Commission, shall organize a Follow-up Meeting of the OIC-StatCom every year on the margins of the UN Statistical Commission.

The aim of this Follow-up Meeting is to brief the Members of the Commission on the progress of the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the annual main Sessions of the Commission as well as to discuss and exchange views on the proposed provisional agenda of the upcoming Session.

In this context, we have circulated a Note Verbale on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January this year to the Members of the Commission seeking their feedback on our proposal for the composition of the bureau members, draft agenda items, date and venue of the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom.

The proposed composition of the Bureau Members of the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session reflects the geographical distribution of the three official groups of the OIC; namely, the Arab, the African and the Asian groups as follows:

- Chair: Gambia (Africa)
- Vice-Chair: Morocco (Arab)
- Vice-Chair: Uzbekistan (Asia)

- Vice-Chair: Palestine (permanent)
- Rapporteur: SESRIC (permanent)

In this context, all the responses that we have so far received (from 25 countries) indicated that they agree on the proposed composition of the Bureau Members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom.

As for the proposed draft agenda items of the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom, all the responses that we have so far received indicated that they accept the following three agenda items to be covered during the Session:

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): *Monitoring and Reporting SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators*
2. 2020 Round of the World Population and Housing Census Programme: *Generating SDG Indicators from Census Data*
3. Statistical Capacity Development: *Emerging Approaches for Strengthening Capacities of National Statistical Systems*

However, the NSO of Palestine proposed to amend the theme of the second agenda item related to generating SDGs indicators to cover in addition to Population and Housing Censuses the Agricultural Censuses as well.

Also, Palestine and Saudi Arabia proposed to include a fourth agenda item on the theme concerning the utilization of non-traditional data sources in official statistics (such as big data). On the other hand, Qatar requested the inclusion of statistical dissemination methods, developing a roster on SDGs indicators experts, and consideration of Doha Declaration on Modernisation of Official

Statistics in Support of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as a reference document of the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom.

Concerning the date and venue of the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session, the majority of the member countries agreed on the proposed two days of 30 September and 1<sup>st</sup> October of this year at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara.

**Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear Colleagues,**

As a follow up on the implementation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session resolutions, I would like here to brief you on the following:

Concerning SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB), I am pleased to inform you that we have completed the matching process of the needs and capacities of the responded member countries to the questionnaire for the two-year period 2020-2021. To a large extent, we tried to take into account the equitable geographical distribution and the statistical areas relevant to the OIC fora including the 8 prioritised SDGs by our member countries and the 6 strategic areas of the COMCEC.

We have already started our communications with both the beneficiary and the provider countries for the preparation of the training activities, which are planned to be organised in the second quarter of this year. The progress on these activities will be reported to the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.

On the other hand, and in close collaboration with the Department of Statistics Malaysia, we are working hard towards the finalization of the new Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 and Programme of Action for 2021-2025. A draft version of the Strategic Vision 2030 document and its

Programme of Action have been so far prepared based on the inputs received through the survey previously circulated to all members and the feedbacks received during the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom. The final draft of these two documents will be shared with all the member countries in a timely manner before submitting them for adoption during the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom.

Last but not least, I am glad to inform you that SESRIC's project proposal titled "Enhancing Food Security through National Food Balance Sheets" has been accepted this year to be co-financed by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC). This project aims at supporting the efforts of our member countries towards building and enhancing their national technical capacities in agriculture and food security statistics. In particular, on the compilation of food balance sheets, which provide comprehensive information on patterns, levels and trends of different agricultural products.

Within the framework of this project, a statistical training workshop is planned to be organised in June with the objective of introducing the FAO's newly developed Food Balance Sheet (FBS) modules and imputation methodologies, country compilation tools, and draft a work plan for the national compilation of the FBS templates.

**Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear Colleagues,**

I would like to stop here. And, now we may take 10 minutes for receiving additional views and comments or questions from the representatives of the NSOs of our member countries, if any, on our preparations for the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom. My colleagues from SESRIC will take note of that. Then, after that, we will move to the second part of the meeting where our colleagues

from CDC and CDC Foundation as well as my colleagues from SESRIC will brief you on our long-running project of “Integration of Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS-Youth into the National Surveys of OIC Member Countries”.

I would like to thank you all once again for coming to our meeting and designating this part of your valuable time today to share with us your views and comments. I am confident that your cooperation with us as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom will be instrumental in improving our work and better targeting our activities and programs for more benefit to our member countries.

Thank you.