

**SESRIC WEBINAR SERIES ON
SHARING STATISTICAL EXPERIENCES**

12 November 2020, 13:00 - 15:00 (Ankara time)

**Opening Speech of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR
Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

**H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Begalov, Chairman of State Committee on
Statistics of Republic of Uzbekistan
Distinguished Representatives of the NSOs of OIC Member
Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Good Afternoon, I wish you all a very Good Day,

- I am pleased to welcome you all and address your august gathering at SESRIC Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar on “Collection and Dissemination of SDGs Indicators: The Experience of Uzbekistan”.
- I would like, at the outset, to thank the State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan (UzStat) for their collaboration and contribution to this Webinar through sharing their valuable experience on collection, collation and dissemination of SDGs statistical indicators.
- I also thank the representatives of other NSOs who accepted our invitation and allocating their valuable time to participate in this virtual webinar.

Distinguished Participants,

- With its 17 Goals and 169 targets, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted in 2015, is a roadmap for a sustainable world with mutual prosperity for all.

- Based on the findings of SESRIC recent Report “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised SDGs in OIC Countries 2020: A Progress Report by SESRIC”, the group of OIC countries remains unlikely to meet any of the prioritised eight goals by 2030 if the current pace of progress continues. These Goals are:

- SDG 1 (No poverty)
- SDG 2 (Zero hunger)
- SDG 3 (Good health and well-being)
- SDG 4 (Quality education)
- SDG 5 (Gender equality)
- SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth)
- SDG 9 (Industry, innovation, infrastructure)
- SDG 13 (Climate action)

- Nonetheless, it is worth mentioning that some improvements were recorded on different SDG targets. For instance, the proportion of population living below the international poverty line in the OIC region decreased nearly by half, from 30.5% in 2000 to 16.7% in 2018. Substantial improvements were also achieved in reducing maternal, infant, and child mortality rates. Another improvement was also recorded in the coverage of the essential health services and children immunization. An increase in the access to electricity was also recorded.

- However, despite all the accomplishments recorded so far by many OIC countries, the achievement of SDGs has become even more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has resulted in unforeseen disruptions in the work of the NSOs, which

interrupted the flow of the necessary data for monitoring and reporting the progress on the SDGs.

Distinguished Participants,

- It is during these difficult times that the importance and the need for reliable statistics become clearly notable more than ever before. The accurate analysis of the situation and formulation of prompt and prudent policies based on reliable statistics and data have been rarely as evident as in the course of such crises.
- In such state of affairs, the ‘official statistics’ are required to adapt quickly to the fast-changing circumstances, where the NSOs may be requested to go beyond the production of traditional statistics to many new statistics even from non-traditional data sources.
- As this year marks the start of the “Decade of Action” to deliver the SDGs by 2030, the exchange of experiences and best practices concerning the statistical processes on collecting, collating, processing, and disseminating SDGs indicators is essential to support the relevant policy making mechanisms in the OIC member countries, particularly during these difficult times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In this context, the 9th Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), which was held virtually in September this year, underlined the importance of learning from the experiences and best practices of the OIC-StatCom members. It requested SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, to continue its support to the efforts of the NSOs towards the production of high-quality statistical data on SDGs indicators through facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience.
- Accordingly, we have recently initiated the SESRIC Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar series. We hope that these webinars will provide the NSOs of our member countries the opportunity to

exchange and share their experiences on the production of the SDGs statistical indicators.

- Within the framework of this initiative, this webinar is organised in collaboration with the State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan (UzStat) to share and exchange their experience in collection and dissemination of SDGs indicators.
- We will also listen to the other interested OIC countries sharing their experiences in the last session of the Webinar.
- I would like to thank you all once again and wish you all the success in your deliberations.

والسلام عليهم ورحمة الله وبركاته