

Workshop on
“Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development
Trends in OIC Member States”
11 January 2021, 12:00 PM, Turkey Time

Opening Statement

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Very Good Day to All of You

- I am pleased to welcome you all to this virtual workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC Member States”, which we organize It within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the OIC Member States (OIC-VET) Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025. Thank you for accepting our invitation and designating your valuable time to participate in this important workshop.

Dear Participants,

- We organise this important Workshop with a view to contributing and supporting the current efforts of TVET

authorities in our member countries towards mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which has seriously disrupted skills development around the world. This unprecedented situation has affected learning at all levels and caused serious disruptions in the provision of education globally.

- In particular, vocational education and training has been hit hard by the pandemic since most of TVET programmes and activities require provision of practical skills through physically learning-by-doing. During the pandemic, TVET systems challenged by various obstacles such as the lack of distance learning infrastructure and scarcity of resources and trained instructors to engage in distance learning digital tools and technologies, all of which adversely triggered the delivery of TVET.**
- Yet, in some OIC member countries, TVET institutions have witnessed some quick adaptations into digital solutions to varying degrees of success, while others are still struggling to provide the basic needs for this transformation. In most cases, the main constraints are due to the lack of ICT infrastructure, financial resources and required skills for using modern digital tools and learning technologies.**

- **Given this state of affairs, this workshop aims sharing the experiences and best practices of TVET Institutions in some OIC countries towards exploring effective strategies in tackling the negative impacts of the pandemic on TVET systems. The participants are also expected to be involved in a discussion on new trends in TVET teacher education and capacity development with special emphasis on the necessity of developing digital skills and competencies.**

Dear Participants,

- **As we all know, youth unemployment is a serious concern in many OIC countries and it is one of the persistent challenges, which needs policy makers to cope up with. According to the 2020 edition of SESRIC report, namely “OIC Labour Market Report”, in 2019, the average youth unemployment in the group of OIC countries was recorded at 14.5%. Moreover, 25.8% of the youth in OIC countries were estimated not to be in employment, education or training status.**
- **In this context, the acquisition of skills for employment of young people should be recognized as a key policy-response in reducing youth unemployment in the OIC countries. Equipping young people with the necessary knowledge and skills to enter the**

labour market is a crucial requirement for developing entrepreneurial and innovative mind-sets to become active citizens in inclusive and sustainable societies.

- **However, there are certain challenges that hinder effective provision of TVET where skills mismatch emerges as an important obstacle to employment and productivity. Therefore, there is an urgent need for adopting a demand-driven approach by ensuring efficient dialogue between relevant industries and TVET institutions in order to guarantee employment opportunities not only for young people, but also for adults and vulnerable groups.**
- **It is worth mentioning here that keeping up with the digital changes and integrating digital technologies into TVET systems emerge as another major challenge. Digital technologies have invaded every aspect of our lives and changed the work environment. A wide range of occupational fields has been affected by the digital technologies. Therefore, there is a need for identifying and introducing key digital skills and competencies as per the requirements of the changing work environment to better utilize the opportunities provided by digitalization.**

- **For TVET Institutions, this implies the need for upgrading the programmes, curriculums and qualification standards by redefining the skills to be taught for each occupational sectors. On the other hand, digital transformation requires a substantial change in teaching pedagogies and methodologies in order to integrate new technologies in the vocational education and training system.**

Dear Participants,

- **According to World Economic Forum’s “The Future of Jobs Report”, the world is faced with an urgent re-skilling and upskilling. It is estimated that next year at least 54% of all employees will require significant re-skilling and upskilling because of the transformation of the work by the new technologies, such as automation, Industry 4.0 and digitalisation.**
- **Therefore, in order to meet the changing demands of labour markets and the need for sustainable development, TVET institutions are expected to keep up with the latest digital transformations and update the skills of their staff through applying modern and technology-aided instruction methods.**

- **In fact, in addition to the challenges, the pandemic also provided the education sector with new and unique opportunities for the development of more flexible learning solutions. It is now the time to make better use of distance learning and digital technologies, which will accommodate to the changing nature of work and labour market needs. The shift to online and distance education, or in some cases blended learning in TVET and skills development is now considered as an emergency response to ensure that TVET remains relevant and demand-driven.**

Dear Participants,

- **As some of you may recall, the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, which was prepared by SESRIC in close collaboration with the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme, aims at improving the quality of TVET systems in our member countries based on best practices that have been proven globally. The document identifies a series of alternative measures to improve TVET practices with a view to developing innovative, effective and efficient actions for TVET teaching and learning.**
- **The Roadmap proposes 4 Cooperation Areas with 16 Priority Areas to develop human and institutional capacities of the TVET institutions in the OIC countries during the 5-year**

implementation plan adopted during the Sixth Meeting of the MAC of the OIC-VET Programme held in December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Dear Participants,

- **In this regard, I would like to assure you that SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, will continue to take an active role in this important domain through supporting the efforts of the member countries towards enhancing the quality of their TVET systems and overcome the emerging challenges triggered by the pandemic.**
- **Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to thank all the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme for their active participation and cooperation with SESRIC and, kindly, urge them to continue their commitment and contribution towards achieving the objectives of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.**
- **I believe that the exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences and best practices among our member countries, especially during these difficult times are needed more than ever before. Therefore, I hope that this workshop would contribute to**

our efforts towards enhancing intra-OIC cooperation and dialogue in this important domain.

- **Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and productive discussions throughout the upcoming days.**

Thank you all for your kind attention. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.