



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
"Cooperation for Development"



The 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers

Address by

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Director General

SESRIC

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

*Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address your august Conference; the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers. At the outset, I avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to our host the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) for holding this important Conference.

My deep thanks and appreciation are also extended to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture and the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as to the OIC General Secretariat for their usual cooperation and support to the organization of this important Conference.

*Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As a subsidiary organ of the OIC, and within the framework of its three mandated areas of statistics, research and training, SESRIC is undertaking activities and implementing programmes on various socio-economic issues with a view to supporting the developmental efforts of the OIC and its member countries. Over the past four decades, SESRIC proved capable in guiding policy making process and achieving practical results as a response to the evolving needs of our member countries.

Like many other socio-economic sectors, SESRIC is conducting research on environmental issues in OIC countries. Lately, we started to prepare a regular edition of the OIC Environment Report as a technical background document for this august Conference. I am glad to say that this report will be catered as a permanent agenda item of the upcoming ministerial sessions in this important and challenging area.

The latest edition of the OIC Environment Report, which has been circulated to you in three languages, offers an in-depth analysis of degradation of natural resources like air, water, land and biodiversity in OIC member countries. The report also highlights the current status of environmental management capacities of the member countries with a view to addressing the increasing threat of environmental degradation.

The report reveals that the majority of OIC countries is above the medium level of environmental vulnerability with very low environmental management capacities. In fact, the environmental vulnerability of OIC countries emanates

from their geographic locations, high dependence on climate sensitive natural resources and low adaptive capacities. Existing climate models predict worsening of environmental and climatic conditions in many OIC countries; and this would pose serious social and economic consequences especially for the vulnerable and poor segments of our populations.

In fact, with strong national commitments, most of OIC member countries are active parties in the global discourse on sustainable management of natural resources. However, the progress towards a sustainable future is only possible if the OIC countries effectively utilise these existing regional and international platforms to secure the necessary technical and financial support for devising and implementing better policies and upgrading their environmental management capacities.

We hope the findings of this report will contribute to the joint efforts of our member countries to enact appropriate policies and strategies towards protection and sustainable management of environment across the Islamic world.

*Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In addition to research, the SESRIC main statistical database (OICStat), which is the first and only international official statistical database on OIC Countries hosted and updated regularly by the Centre, includes more than 750 indicators under 24 categories. Out of these indicators, 85 indicators are related to environment, water and agriculture. Within the framework of the Centre's Statistical Capacity Building Program (StatCaB), SESRIC also contributes to the

efforts of the National Statistics Offices of our member countries towards enhancing their technical statistical capacities through organizing statistical training courses and workshops on environment, water and agriculture sectors.

In the training mandated area of the Centre, SESRIC has achieved meaningful results by the successful implementation of many training and technical cooperation activities through its capacity building programs on environment, water and agriculture. These programmes and activities provided a platform to the member countries to work together and share their best practices and technical expertise with each other to enhance their environmental management capacities.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Before concluding, I would like to express our readiness and willingness at SESRIC to strengthen cooperation with all the Ministries of Environment and related institutions in our member countries. We strongly believe that together we can achieve more effective and sustainable management of natural resources and environment in our member countries.

I wish you all the success and thank you for your kind attention.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته