



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



Training Session on Guidelines for Preparing, Drafting and Submitting Progress Reports on Implementing the OPAAW

Welcoming remarks by

The Director General of SESRIC

H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Participants,
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalamu Alaikum, Very Good Morning,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to this Training Session on guidelines for preparing, drafting and submitting progress reports on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW).

We at SESRIC are really delighted to be hosting this training session at our HQs here in Ankara. Thank you all for coming.

I would like, at the outset, to express my thanks and appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat (our sister, Ms. Maha Akeel, Director of Social and Family Affairs and her team) for their active cooperation with SESRIC in the preparation for this Training Session.

My thanks are also extended to the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family of Burkina Faso for their tireless efforts as the Chair of the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development in the OIC Member States.

We are proud at SESRIC to support the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women - a program which is dedicated to enhancing empowerment and status of women in our member countries. Over the last two decades, the OIC and its member countries have been increasingly including the gender issues in their priority policy agenda.

As a result, we have recently witnessed some progress in the role of women and gender equality in OIC societies. Today, there is a greater awareness on the role of women in achieving the sustainable development goals.

The establishment of the OIC Women Development Organization, the OIC Women Consultative Council, the OIC Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development and the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women are all proof of that awareness.

Yet, despite the progress made so far and our commitments to secure further improvement, recent statistics still show that women prospects in education, health, politics and economy are far from being equal to those of men in many OIC countries.

For example,

- The average women literacy rate in OIC countries is estimated at 70% while that of men at 81%.
- The average female labour force participation rate in OIC countries is estimated at 38% compared to 76% for male.
- The average female adult mortality rate of the OIC group is estimated at 158 per 1000 adult female compared to the world average of 140.
- In OIC countries, women are still less represented in politics. While women politicians in OIC countries accounted on average for 16% of the members of Upper Houses or Senates, the world average stands at 24%.

For that reason, we at SESRIC give special attention to the issues of gender and family in our member countries and continue to contribute to the developmental efforts of the OIC and its member countries in this important domain.

We regularly collect and update reliable statistics and produce evidence-based research for gender-policy improvement. We also contribute to the capacity building efforts of the relevant national institutions working in the domain of gender in our member countries, like the example of this Training Session.

To be more concrete;

- Our main statistical database (OIC-Stat Database) is currently contains 33 indicators in the domain of gender and family. Our Centre also organizes Statistical Capacity Building Programmes (StatCaB) in order to improve the technical statistical capacities of the National Statistical Offices in our member countries on gender and family related statistics.
- We have also achieved meaningful results following the successful implementation of many other capacity development activities on gender issues. These activities provided a platform to the OIC member countries to work with each other and share their best practices in promoting the role of women in the development process.
- On the research side, our Centre remains dedicated to further develop and support effective gender policies. In this context, I would like to mention, as an example, the OIC Women and Development Report, which is being prepared by SESRIC on a regular basis to serve as the main technical background document for the OIC Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development.

Distinguished Participants,
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Coming to the subject of this training session, I am proud to inform you that SESRIC has also prepared the concept paper titled “OIC Guidelines for a Unified Reporting and Measurement of OPAAW” that was adopted by the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development in the OIC Member States. The concept paper offers a framework for preparing a unified national progress reports on the implementation of the OPAAW, and provides standards for filling out the OPAAW survey.

Today, we came together with the intention to assist our member countries which have committed to incorporate the report drafting methods and criteria outlined in the “OIC Guidelines for a Unified Reporting and Measurement of OPAAW”. The results and outcomes of these efforts will be reported to the upcoming 8th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women, which will be held in Egypt next year.

I am confident that this training and the consequences submission of the national progress reports and responses by our member countries to the OPAAW survey will give a new impetus to the OIC efforts towards the advancement of the role of women in our societies.

I thank you once again for coming to SESRIC premises in Ankara to attend this training session and wish you a fruitful engagement during these two days of the training.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu