



OIC/1 Meeting/Pub.Employment/SG.MES

**MESSAGE DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. IYAD AMEEN MADANI,
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION,
AT THE FIRST MEETING ON THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES**

Ankara, Republic of Turkey
29-30 April 2014

**MESSAGE DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. IYAD AMEEN
MADANI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC
COOPERATION, AT THE FIRST MEETING ON THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES**

29-30 APRIL 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Participants,

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

I am delighted to address the First Meeting on the Public Employment Services in OIC Member Countries, which is taking place in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

I should also like to express my thanks to the Turkish Employment Agency and the SESRIC for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and for the generous hospitality extended to all participants.

This meeting is important in many respects: It is coming at a time when intra-OIC cooperation is being intensified in the domain of labour, employment, social protection and entrepreneurship, as evident in the adoption of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, as well as the Resolution on the Labour Cooperation, adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 23-26 April 2013.

The meeting is also aimed at creating an effective cooperation mechanism for regular consultations among labour experts OIC Member States in the domain of public employment. This is in view of the urgent need to address the critical unemployment situation in OIC member States, particularly among the youthful population. Statistics show that two thirds of the population of OIC Member States is below 25 years of age, while unemployment in OIC Member States is as high as 15-20%, compared to the global range of 6-7%. The World Bank says that Middle East and North Africa region needs about 100 million new jobs by 2020, against the

projected population of 680 million by 2017 for Middle East, North and Southern Africa region.

Therefore, the objective of this network is to establish an exchange of expertise, capacity building development, employment promotion, and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation within the Muslim world. This mechanism would also add to the existing network under SESRIC, namely the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), which is aimed at creating closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge and experience, and to conduct joint research projects and training programmes among the relevant institutions in the area of Occupational Safety and Health in OIC Member States.

In view of the foregoing, the task before this meeting is to recommend an effective mechanism for the implementation of the outcome of this gathering. One of the recommendations could be anchored on the need for an enduring, practical and comprehensive strategy for skills development, up-to-date cutting edge education to match the market needs. To this end, an efficient inter-agency coordination is crucial for the successful realization of our objectives. We would need to coordinate our efforts with other OIC institutions working in the relevant domains, such as education, science and technology, while the various initiatives of the Private Sector Establishments and Civil Society Organisations in the respective OIC Member States must be factored into our action plans. Such is the nature of the horizontal and vertical coordination that we must put place in order to achieve desired results.

As we embark on this laudable endeavour, let me assure of the unflinching support of the OIC General Secretariat, so that we can together scale up our cooperation in this vital socio-economic sector

I wish you a resounding success in your deliberations.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh