

The Launching of the 2020 Edition of the report on
“State of Youth in the OIC Member States”

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

H.E. Mr. Taha Ayhan, President of ICYF

Distinguished participants, Distinguished Press Members, Ladies and
Gentlemen

السلام عليكم

Very Good Morning

Let me, first, express my deep thanks and appreciations to H.E. Mr. Taha Ayhan, President of ICYF, and his team for organizing this virtual meeting on the launching of the 2020 edition of the “State of Youth in the OIC Member States” Report.

I would like also to thank President Ayhan and his team at ICYF for the excellent cooperation between ICYF and SESRIC in the common issues of interest for the benefit of the most crucial segment in the societies of our member countries and in the Islamic world in general, which is the youth and the young people.

The Report on the “State of Youth in the OIC Member States” is a report, which is prepared by SESRIC, in collaboration with ICYF, every two years to be submitted to the Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sport Ministers.

The 2020 edition of the Report on the “State of Youth in the OIC Member States” with the theme “Enhancing Economic Participation of Youth” was assumed to be submitted to the 5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sport Ministers, which was initially scheduled to be held in Jeddah in March this year and subsequently postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Distinguished Participants,

Currently, the 57 OIC Member Countries are home to over 338 million young people aged 15-24, which makes 18% of their total population. With this, OIC countries host 28% of the world’s total youth, and this number is projected to reach 30.7% by 2030.

The Report attempts to provide answers to questions like who are those young people in the OIC countries? What are their visions, hopes and dreams? What are the efforts of their countries towards helping them build brighter futures and become active citizens in their societies through finding their right place in the labour market?

It is with these questions in mind that we prepared the 2020 edition of the Report on the “State of Youth in the OIC Member States”. Overall, the report provides a detailed picture and outlines the current state of young people in the OIC countries. It highlights major challenges and

offers evidence-based recommendations to empower and strengthen the youth across the OIC geography.

In general, the main findings of the report indicate a noteworthy progress in the condition of youth in the OIC countries. On average, at the OIC country group level, improvements have been recorded in the field of economy, education, health and social participation.

Many OIC countries have put into practice policies, programmes and initiatives designed to improve the overall status of young people in their countries. Equally important, the report finds that many OIC countries have taken concrete steps to implement the OIC Youth Strategy, which was adopted by the 4th OIC Conference of Youth and Sport Ministers in Baku in 2018.

However, notwithstanding the progress that has been achieved at the average OIC country group level, the report underlines that many OIC countries are still lagging behind where significant improvements are need to close the gap with the world averages on numerous indicators.

Issues such as low-economic participation, unemployment, youth inactivity and limited political and social participation combined with conflict, migration and displacement constitute serious obstacles hindering young people's productive contribution to the development in their countries.

The report also highlights the prevalence of gender disparities in a number of the socio-economic indicators related to youth. In many OIC countries, female youth are still behind males in many important indicators, including, but not limited to, labour force participation, educational attainment, health and wellbeing.

In fact, an in-depth understanding of the situation of youth is a crucial factor that can help the OIC countries put forward effective and sustainable development strategies and policies, which leverage on the full utilization of the vast potential of their youth population.

It is through a comprehensive understanding of their needs, capacities and challenges that appropriate solutions and policies can be formulated and implemented for youth.

In this context, I believe that this report will prove to be an excellent source to understand the hopes and dreams of youth in the OIC countries and develop policies and programmes to meet their economic and social needs.

I would like to stop here and thank you once again.