

**SPEECH OF KENAN BOZGEYİK,
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL POLICY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE STRATEGIES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
(Ankara, December 12, 2011)**

Dear Minister,

The Representatives of OIC Member Countries,

The Representatives of SESRIC,

IRTI and

GD of Social Assistances,

Dear Academic,

Dear Guests,

I present you my best regards. We have started our workshop meeting by listening to the Holy Quran. As we have started with the remark of Allah, I wish that this workshop will be continuing with Allah's blessing.

Justice is the most stressed concept used to describe the human relations in the Islam faith with no doubt. Justice has been the centre of the social life in the civilization of Islam. Justice cannot be mentioned in such a society where poverty, unfairness and persecution exist. The establishment of justice depends of the realization of social solidarity and assistance.

On the other hand, an important segment of the world population cannot meet their fundamental physical and social needs. We live in a world where more than one billion people live under an income of 1 US dollar. The percentage of the people that even cannot meet their basic requirements is equal to the loss of human capital of the whole manhood.

That's why we should develop a strategy which considers all areas that poverty has impacts on. Social assistances have to be the most important instrument of this strategy.

Dear Guests,

As a result of the politics of stability developed by our government and the pleasant progresses in the macroeconomic field; important steps were taken in the field of social policies as well. With the principle that our every citizen deserves an honest, peaceful life; we gave special attention to the Project supports with the theme of health, education, income generating production and employment. The resources were mobilized to reach the poorest segment of the society.

Our government has done many achievements since 2003 such as;

Decreasing the percentage of people living under a daily income of 4, 3 USD from 30, 3 % to 4, 35 %. But it is not enough for us; so our goal is to decrease it to level of 0%.

Our next mission is to avoid the existence of a poor segment that lives under a Daily income of 4.3 USD by adopting a model of “Minimum Income Support” which provides a regular payment of social assistances in the basis of a “right”. This model will be supported with other social assistance programmes on education, employment, accommodation, heating etc.

Another priority of ours is to increase the number of social accommodation to 100.000 till the year of 2023. In this way, the right of accommodation appropriate for human dignity will be realized not only in rhetoric but in reality.

Our two projects called Integrated Social Assistance Services and Scoring Projects will be the infrastructure of the “right based system” in social assistances. In addition to this we will be completing our efforts on determining the standards of human resources in Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations.

Our distinguished Guests,

As poverty has become a global issue in today's, we believe that the experience sharing of OIC member countries will provide a positive synergy for reminding whole world that our religion is the heart of a the heartless world.

In this context;

I would like to thank OIC institutions, personnel of SESRIC, IRTI and GD of Social Assistances and other contributors who made this workshop possible.

I also would like to thank academics, institution representatives and our guests who attended here to have information and make contribution.

I wish that this workshop will be fruitful for all the parties dealing with the case of poverty.

I believe that this meeting won't be limited for just this occasion but will be going on by the aid of future efforts of all members.

I present you my best regards. Thank you for attending.