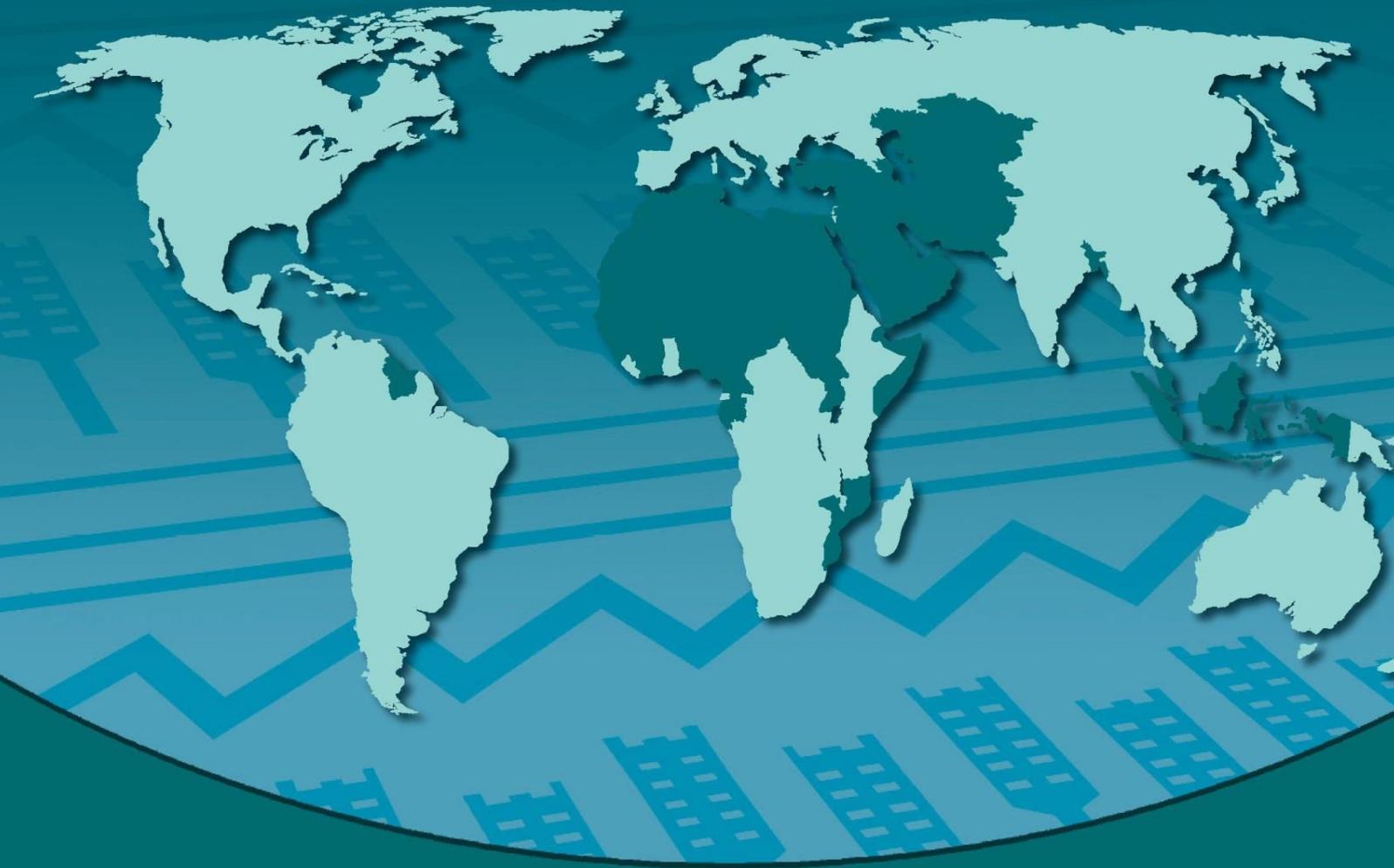


**SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**Towards the Implementation of**  
**COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy**  
**Recommendations**



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES  
(SESRIC/ANKARA CENTRE)**

**Original: English**



**REPORT OF**  
**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND**  
**TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES**  
**(SESRIC/ OIC ANKARA CENTRE)**

**ON**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND**  
**MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SUBMITTED TO**

**THE 36<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

**Agenda Item No: 4-10**

**23-26 November 2020**

## **Introduction**

This report provides a summary of the technical activities and programmes that have been conducted by SESRIC towards the implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations to be submitted to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which will be held on 23-26 November 2020, in a virtual-only format.

The reporting period was characterized by the continuous efforts of the Centre on the implementation of the cooperation areas of COMCEC, which focus on addressing the common development problems of the Islamic Ummah, in accordance with the mandate of SESRIC. Through its multifaceted activities, SESRIC has benefited from unwavering support and commitment of the OIC Member States, strategic guidance and synergy with the General Secretariat of the OIC, and the support of the COMCEC, which, inter alia, has contributed, to a functional and substantial correlation and coherence of the efforts in the OIC fora.

In brief, since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has studied and assessed economic and social developments in the OIC Member States with a view to generating proposals to strengthen cooperation among them. The Centre continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues on the agendas of various OIC conferences and related meetings, particularly the sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. In doing so, the Centre continued to make a significant contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions to address the challenges and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant fields.

The Centre also continued to play an important role in strengthening and improving the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in the OIC Member States with a view to producing better national statistics and thus helping policy-makers introduce better national policies and strategies. In this context, the Centre contributes significantly to the technical capacity building of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other constituents of the NSSs of the OIC Member States in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and through its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

During the period under review, SESRIC has made efforts to strengthen intra-OIC South-South cooperation, by implementing a wide range of capacity building programmes and training activities on various socio-economic fields of immediate interest to the OIC Member States. Currently, the Centre has 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide range of areas such as finance, agriculture, health, environment, water resources, poverty alleviation, disaster risk management, public employment and tourism. These programmes are implemented in close cooperation with relevant national institutions of the OIC Member States through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits.

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the Centre has undertaken the necessary and timely technical preparations in order to continue its training activities and keep

participants motivated and engaged during this time of global crisis. In this regard, the Centre has achieved to organize most of its planned activities in 2020 through newly adopted distance learning IT modalities in responding to this extraordinary situation.

Furthermore, during the period under review, SESRIC signed 4 agreements with the relevant national, regional, international and OIC institutions in order to strengthen its ties with its partners for a better implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations:

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	Islamic Organisation For Food Security (IOFS)	27 November 2019
2.	OSTIM Technical University, Ankara, Turkey	27 February 2020
3.	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics Information Service	5 March 2020
4.	Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)	5 March 2020

In the light of the above, this report highlights the implemented activities of SESRIC in accordance with the seven cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy, namely Intra-OIC Trade, Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation, Improving Transport and Communications, Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector, Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security, Alleviating Poverty, and Deepening Financial Cooperation.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1. INTRA-OIC TRADE**
- 2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION**
- 3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**
- 4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR**
- 5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY**
- 6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY**
- 7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION**

## 1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

### SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/ Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Facilitating Transit Trade with an Emphasis on WTO TFA”	20-22 November 2019	Burkina Faso (The National Committee for Trade Facilitation (CNFE) of the Ministry of Commerce, Industrial and Crafts (MCIA))	Morocco (The General Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy)	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
2	Training Course on “Supply Chain and Logistics Management – Import and Export”	03 November-01 December 2019	Palestine (the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry- Jerusalem)	OIC Representative Office to the State of Palestine and Palestinian’s Shippers Council	Al Ram, Palestine

- Trade Analysis for IsDB Study on “Building a Regional Integration Neighbourhood of the Belt and Road Initiative in the Eco Region”:** In an effort to strengthen the economic integration among the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member countries and identify the opportunities to take collective advantage of regional and global development initiatives concerning the ECO region, this report provides comprehensive analyses on trade patterns of individual ECO member countries by particularly focusing on trade complementarities among themselves.
- Trade and Investment Complementarities among the Turkic Council Member Countries:** This study investigates the current trade and investment patterns in Turkic Council Member Countries, which are also members of the OIC, namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. The study also identifies the bottlenecks in promoting trade and investment, and propose alternative policy measures on how to enhance trade and investment among the member countries of the Turkic Council.
- Workshop on “Trade in Services Negotiations Techniques in OIC Member Countries”:** The workshop, which took place on 12-13 February 2020 in Casablanca, Morocco, was organized by the IsDB and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT). It provided an opportunity for the officials and representatives from the OIC Member States to study the recent issues related to Trade in Services negotiations and enhance their capacity to promote trade in services negotiations at the WTO and OIC levels. During the event, SESRIC made a detailed presentation on the “Potentials of OIC Member Countries in Services Trade”.

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 76 indicators related to trade under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

## 2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Since the 35th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of enhancing the role of private sector in economic cooperation:

- **The OIC High-Level Public and Private Investment Conference:** The Conference, which was held on 8-9 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, under the theme “Unleashing Intra-OIC Investment Opportunities: Investment for Solidarity and Development,” was organised jointly by the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, the General Secretariat of the OIC, and Islamic Development Bank Group. On the second day of the Conference, SESRIC took part as a panellist in the session on “The Business Intelligence Ecosystem Role in Tackling the Data Revolution” and presented the risks and opportunities related to “data revolution” and how to mobilise the data revolution for sustainable development.
- **“NAMA Competition for Entrepreneurship”:** Within the framework of the SME Development and Empowerment Project of the BINA Programme, “Nama Competition for Entrepreneurs” was launched in cooperation between SESRIC, IsDB and LPRD in November 2019. The Nama Competition aimed to support entrepreneurial activities of the Arab Community in Istanbul through the BINA Incubator located in Yıldız Technopark. Subsequent to the completion of the incubation process, a “Graduation Ceremony” was held on 02 March 2020 at BINA Incubator where 10 incubated projects competed and winner projects were granted seed loans from partners and sponsors of the programme.
- **Training Course on “Pitching Skills”:** Within the scope of “SME Development and Empowerment Project” of the BINA Programme, SESRIC organised this training course on 09-10 November 2019 at Bina Incubator in Istanbul, Turkey. The training was provided by two competent experts on skills and entrepreneurship strategies and development for the benefit of short-listed project owners of the Nama Competition.
- **On-the-Job Training on “Technology Incubation and Transfer”:** SESRIC, in collaboration IsDB, TIKA, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) Marmara Technopark (MARTEK) and the Africa City of Technology (ACT), organised an on-the-job training course on “Technology Incubation and Transfer” on 9 December-01 February 2020 in Kocaeli, Turkey. The training was implemented as the second phase of the capacity-building component of the Reverse Linkage Project titled “Capacity Development of the Africa City of Technology” between Sudan and Turkey for the benefit of the technical staff from ACT. The training covered the topics such as business growth strategies, understanding market and industry, business concept development as well as business models among many others.

- **Capacity Development Training on “Technology Incubation and Transfer”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with IsDB, Uludağ University Technology Development Zone (ULUTEK) and the Africa City of Technology (ACT), organised a capacity development training on “Technology Incubation and Transfer” on 25 November - 27 December 2019 in Bursa, Turkey. The training was implemented as the second phase of the capacity-building component of the Reverse Linkage Project titled “Capacity Development of the Africa City of Technology” between Sudan and Turkey. Technical staff from ACT received instructor-led training in ULUTEK on the topics such as building entrepreneurial eco-system, intellectual property management, technology clustering and incubation.
- **Second edition of the Nama Competition:** This edition was launched in May 2020 with the aim of supporting entrepreneurial activities of the Arab Community in Istanbul. The competition targets to provide seed capital funds to successful start-ups after 3 months of incubation process in the BINA Incubator and pitching their business ideas to the jury panel at the end of the programme.
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 109 indicators related to private sector in economic cooperation under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

### 3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on improving transport and communications:

#### SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics”	21-24 July 2020	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE))	Senegal (National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSDD))	Virtually through distance learning

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 27 indicators related to transport and communications under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

#### 4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

##### SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Halal Tourism”	10-12 December 2019	Kyrgyzstan (Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism)	Malaysia (Islamic Tourism Centre)	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
2	Training Course on “Strategic Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development”	29 June-03 July 2020	Togo (Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Leisure)	Benin (Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Arts)	Virtually through distance learning
3	Training Course on “Developing Multi Destination Tourism Corridors”	23-27 August 2020	Qatar (National Tourism Council)	Turkey (Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Department of Tourism Management of Istanbul University)	Virtually through distance learning
4	Training Course on “Tourism Development”	09-13 November 2020	Uzbekistan (State Committee for Tourism Development)	Turkey (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkish Standards Institute), Bangladesh (National University Gazipur), SESRIC, SMIIC, ICCIA	Virtually through distance learning

- **Training of Trainers Course on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness”**: SESRIC organized a training of trainers (ToT) course on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” on 08-12 June 2020 in its efforts to commemorate Gabala, as the OIC City of Tourism 2020. The training was provided by experts from different institutions, namely the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the Agricultural and Rural Development Support Institution of Turkey (TKDK), the Bursa, Eskisehir, Bilecik Development Agency (BEBKA) and the UNDP Istanbul International Centre for

Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) for the benefit of participants from the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

- **International Tourism in the OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges 2020:** This report analyses the trends in major tourism indicators for OIC member countries. The report also discusses the niche markets of Islamic and health tourism, which are very promising, sub-sectors for the development of sustainable tourism industry in OIC countries.
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 13 indicators related to tourism under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

## 5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security:

### SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Myth of GM Technology to Combat Pest Losses of Cotton”	17-19 December 2019	Uganda (Cotton Development Organisation)	Pakistan (Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology)	Kampala, Uganda
2	Training Course on “Application of Advanced Technology for the Enhancement of Cotton Productivity”	27 April - 01 May 2020	Mozambique (Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM); Cotton Research and Seed Multiplication Centre of Namialo (CIMSAN))	Pakistan (Centre for Excellence in Molecular Biology)	Virtually through distance learning
3	Training Course on “Food Safety Analysis”	10-14 August 2020	Maldives (Maldives Food and Drug Authority and the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture)	Malaysia (Ministry of Health)	Virtually through distance learning
4	Training Course on “Water Saving and Management in Agriculture Sector”	24-28 August 2020	Benin (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries)	Tunisia (Ministry of Agriculture, Sea Fishing and Water Resources)	Virtually through distance learning

5	Training Course on “Integrated Water Resources Management”	12-16 October 2020	Jordan (Ministry of Water and Irrigation)	Lebanon (North Lebanon Water Establishment/ Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanese University)	Virtually through distance learning
6	Statistical Training Course on “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics”	9-13 November 2020	Cote d’Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics (INS))	Morocco (High Commission for Planning (HCP))	Virtually through distance learning

- **Agricultural and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2020:** This report analyses the current state as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in OIC member countries. The report also includes a special chapter on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food security in OIC member countries.
- **OIC Water Report 2020:** This report analyses the current status of water resources and their management in OIC member countries. The report also discusses the nexus between water and energy and food security along with the impacts of climate change on water resources in OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with IsDB, TIKA, Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Turkey and Cotton Development Board (CDB) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh, organised a training course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments” on 19-30 January 2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training course was organized within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project titled “Cotton Varieties Development” between Bangladesh and Turkey” and provided by experts from CRI of Turkey.
- **SESRIC Participated in the Virtual Workshop on Development of National Gene Banks in OIC Member Countries:** This workshop was organised by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) on 5-6 July 2020 under the chairmanship of United Arab Emirates. The workshop, which was attended by experts and representatives from OIC Member States, OIC institutions and international organizations, examined and elaborated on the various issues relating to the development, conservation and exchange of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in all their ramifications.
- **Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management” for Lake Chad Basin Countries:** This workshop was jointly organised by SESRIC and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) on 19-27 October 2020 for the benefit of the staff from the national water resources management institutions of the Lake Chad Basin

countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan. The workshop provided insights on how to analyse, formulate, and implement water policies, plans and programmes by using an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach. It also provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views and experiences on how to overcome the technical know-how gaps in the domain of water governance and discuss ways and means of increasing cooperation between the national water resource institutions.

- **OIC Portal on Water Resources:** During the period under review, SESRIC reactivated the OIC Portal on Water Resources in order to enable OIC member countries to share news, statistics, success stories, initiatives, innovative techniques and new mechanisms on water-related issues in a regular basis. The portal is available at <https://oicwater.sesric.org/>
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 80 indicators related to agriculture under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

## 6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

### SESRC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Local Economic Development in the State of Palestine”	20-21 November 2019	Palestine (Ministry of Local Government and the Municipal Lending Fund in the State of Palestine)	OIC Representative Office to the State of Palestine, Turkey (Union of Municipalities), Jordan (Ministry of Municipal Affairs)	Ramallah, Palestine
2	Training Course on “Occupational Safety and Health Structures”	29 June - 03 July 2020	Togo (Ministry of Public Service, Labour, Administrative Reform and Social Protection)	Tunisia (Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI))	Virtually through distance learning
3	Training Course on “Skills and Entrepreneurship Development”	08-17 July 2020	Senegal (Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training and Handicrafts; Ministry of Civil Service and Public Service Renewal; Ministry of	Tunisia (National Agency for Employment and Independent Work (ANETI))	Virtually through distance learning

			Labour, Social Dialogue, Professional Organizations and Relations with the Institutions)		
4	Training Course on “Inspection Services for Occupational Safety and Health”	13-21 July 2020	Djibouti (National Social Security Fund (CNSS); Inspection of Labour and Social Laws of the Ministry of Labour in charge of Administrative Reform)	Tunisia (Occupational Safety and Health Institute (TOSHI))	Virtually through distance learning
5	Technical Mission on “SDG 4 Indicators” for the Benefit of Qatar	27-29 July 2020	Qatar (Planning and Statistics Authority of Qatar (PSA))	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat))	Virtually through distance learning
6	Statistical Training Course on “SDG 13 Indicators”	19-22 October 2020	National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Oman, Palestine and United Arab Emirates	Jordan (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Virtually through distance learning

- **OIC Health Report 2019:** This report evaluates the health performance of OIC member countries by analysing the trends in major health indicators concerning the six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.
- **Education and Scientific Development in OIC Countries 2019:** This report investigates the current state of education and scientific development in OIC member countries by looking into major indicators on education sector and science and technology. In so doing, the report highlights a number of constraints and challenges confronting the member countries in their efforts to foster their educational and scientific development.
- **People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries:** This report analyses the situation of people with disabilities and special needs in a comparative perspective. The report particularly highlights the needs of this group for healthcare services, specialized rehabilitation services and other community services from transport to education.
- **Human Rights Standards and Institutions in OIC Countries:** SESRIC in cooperation with the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) prepared this report to examine human rights norms, standards and intuitions in OIC countries and address the growing human rights concerns and efforts of the OIC Member States.

- **Urban Development in OIC Countries: Towards Sustainable Urbanization:** This report examines the urban landscape in OIC member countries by highlighting major issues and challenges to attain sustainable urban development in member countries. The report provides many ideas on how to plan OIC cities, manage them and strengthen the urban governance structure and institutions in OIC member countries.
- **State of Youth in OIC Member Countries 2020: Enhancing Economic Participation of Youth:** This report provides a detailed assessment of the state of youth in OIC member countries in a comparative perspective and identifies key challenges faced by them in social and economic life. The report specifically focuses on the entrepreneurship and participation of youth in economic activities in OIC member countries.
- **OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Family and Marriage Institution:** This strategic document provides a rationale, framework, strategy and guidelines for OIC member countries to enhance further their efforts and achievements in the areas of family and marriage institution strengthening, development and empowerment.
- **Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges:** This study provides a detailed analysis of socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in OIC countries by looking into major social and economic development indicators. The study also highlights national best practices in public health safety measures, economic policy response and social policy measures taken by OIC countries to counter the negative effects of COVID-19.
- **Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme:** SESRIC convened this meeting on 19-20 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey where the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme as well as the relevant OIC institutions attended the meeting. The meeting discussed and agreed on the modalities of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, as well as the mechanism of its implementation for the upcoming five years.
- **Workshop on “Issues and Challenges of Rapid Urbanization in OIC Member States”:** The workshop was jointly organized by the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and the General Secretariat of the OIC on 28-29 January 2020 in Islamabad, Pakistan. During the meeting, SESRIC presented the main findings of the Centre’s new report in the area urbanization titled “Urban Development in OIC Countries: Towards Sustainable Urbanization”, which explores urbanization trends and examines the current OIC urban landscape.
- **Symposium on “Working Together for a Water-Secure Future”:** The symposium was organized by the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM) on 09 February 2020 in Amman, Jordan. SESRIC participated in the symposium and contributed by presenting the main findings of the Centre’s “OIC Water Report” which explores the current state of water resources and associated risks and challenges as well as how to transform these risks and challenges into opportunities for cooperation to build national capacities and attain water security in OIC member countries.

- **Workshop on “Spreading the Family Bank Experience in the G5 Sahel Countries”:** The workshop was organised by the General Secretariat of the OIC in coordination with the ICCIA on 19-20 January 2020 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Workshop brought together delegates of the G5 Sahel countries with representatives from international organizations, OIC institutions, academics and private sector to discuss the positive experience of the Family Bank in Sudan, and the ways and means in which the Family Bank practice can be effectively expanded to the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger). During the workshop, SESRIC made a presentation about the social impact of microfinance for the development of the OIC Member States with a focus on the G5 Sahel countries.
- **Training of Trainers Courses on “Sewing”, “Woodcraft” and “Jewellery Design”:** Three consecutive training of trainers courses on “Sewing”, “Woodcraft” and “Jewellery Design” were organised by SESRIC in collaboration with Altındağ Public Education Centre affiliated to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey on 11-15 November 2019 in Ankara, Turkey for the benefit of trainers from Afghanistan, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Senegal and Uzbekistan.
- **Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health on COVID-19 Pandemic:** The extraordinary meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health (SCH) on the novel Coronavirus was held on 9 April 2020, in a virtual-only format. The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Health, members of the OIC-SCH, along with representatives of OIC institutions and a number of international organizations. During the meeting, SESRIC briefed the members about its efforts and initiatives in responding the needs of OIC Member States during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of ICESCO Member States:** SESRIC participated in the “Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) Member States”, which was virtually held on 17 June 2020 under the theme of “Sustainability of Cultural Action in the Face of Crises (Covid-19)”. During the conference, SESRIC highlighted the nexus of culture and tourism and underlined the importance of cooperation in developing tourism potentials in the OIC Member States.
- **Webinar on “Best Practices of TVET Centres amid the Covid-19 Pandemic”:** This webinar was organized by SESRIC on 25 June 2020 within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET). During the Webinar, high-level representatives of the national TVET authorities from different OIC Member States namely; Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Turkey shared their institutions’ best practices and success stories during the pandemic.
- **Webinar on “Economic Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on OIC Countries”:** This webinar was organized jointly by SESRIC, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM), and OSTIM Technical University and Istanbul University on 06 July 2020. High-level

speakers from various background discussed the economic impacts of COVID-19 from different perspectives.

- **Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Systems during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response”:** This webinar was organised by SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of Turkey, on 12 August 2020 within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). During the Webinar, high-level representatives of the national OSH authorities from different regions of the OIC shared and exchanged the OSH experiences and practices that their respective countries have adopted during the Pandemic.
- **Interdisciplinary Conference on Family:** SESRIC participated in the “Interdisciplinary Conference on Family” which was organized by the Memur-Sen Confederation of Public Servants Trade Unions and the Social Sciences University of Ankara (ASBU) on 14-16 August 2020. During the conference, academicians and representatives of various national and international organizations discussed the current and future threats to the family institution in Turkey, the Islamic world and beyond. SESRIC made a presentation on the “OIC and Family Policies” during the conference.
- **Webinar on “Regional, Sub-regional and Interregional Organizations in the Global South as Actors in Responding to COVID-19”:** The webinar was jointly organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre’s on 15 July 2020. Panellists from SESRIC, g7+ Secretariat, COMSATS, African Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay presented their organizations’ efforts in ensuring global coordination needed to recover from the global crisis due to COVID-19.
- **4th Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET):** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey, organized the 4th Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET on 07-08 October 2020. During the meeting, high-level representatives of OSH Authorities from the OIC member countries, the National Focal Points of the Network and relevant OIC Institutions discussed and adopted the new “Rules of Procedures” and the two-year Work Plan (2021-2022) of the Network.
- **Webinar on “Collection and Dissemination of SDG Indicators: Experience of Uzbekistan”:** This webinar was jointly organised by SESRIC and the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (UzStat) on Statistics on 12 November 2020. During the Webinar, experts at the UzStat shared their knowledge and experience in collecting, collating and disseminating the SDG indicators.
- **SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries:** SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database provides statistics, visualized data, and cartographic representation through a map on the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the OIC member countries with the objective of raising public awareness and offering policymakers with a tool to guide their ongoing efforts in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The database hosts data concerning confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recovered patients

in 56 OIC member countries. The data is updated on a daily basis and go back to 25 January 2020 which can be accessed through [https://www.sesric.org/sesric\\_covid\\_19.php](https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php)

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 898 indicators related to poverty alleviation (497 of them are SDGs indicators) under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.
- **OIC Statistical Outlook (OSO):** Related to poverty alleviation, SESRIC has published one OIC Statistical Outlook Report on “COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries” available at <https://www.sesric.org/files/article/717.pdf>. This report sheds light on the pandemic in the OIC member countries by considering three main indicators; namely, confirmed cases, deaths, and recoveries. The report uses the data from the SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database, which is updated on a daily basis.

## 7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Since the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

### SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Workshop on “Islamic Banking and Finance for Central Banks”	25-28 November 2019	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (Central Banks of the CIS Countries and Afghanistan)	International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and Istanbul School of Central Banking (ISCB)	Istanbul, Turkey
2	Training Course on “Islamic Financial Instruments”	22-26 June 2020	Uzbekistan (Central Bank of Uzbekistan)	Indonesia (Central Bank of Indonesia)	Virtually through distance learning
3	Training Course on “Islamic Banking and Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments”	13-17 July 2020	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan (Central Banks of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)	Indonesia (Central Bank of Indonesia)	Virtually through distance learning

4	Training Course on “Stock Exchange Awareness”	13-21 July 2020	Brunei Darussalam (Bursa Brunei Darussalam (BNX); Ministry of Finance and Economy (MOFE); Dynamic Technologies (DT); Monetary Authority of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD))	Turkey (Borsa Istanbul-the Secretariat of OIC Exchanges Forum)	Virtually through distance learning
5	Training Course on “Financial Audit”	21-25 September 2020	Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Turkmenistan, and the national institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan)	Turkey (Turkish Court of Accounts)	Virtually through distance learning
6	Statistical Training Course on “Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics”	17-19 November 2020	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (JPES))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoSM))	Virtually through distance learning

- OIC Economic Outlook 2020 – Trade and Integration Challenges amid Rising Uncertainties:** This report provides the SESRIC’s annual analysis of the major economic trends and prospects in the OIC Member States. The report presents a wide range of useful comparative statistics and analyses on the macroeconomic performance of the OIC Member States as a group. The 2020 edition of the report also highlights trade and integration challenges amid global uncertainties due to rising protectionism and the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum:** This meeting was organised by the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey on 07 October 2020 under the theme of “Recovering Our Economies in Times of Covid-19”. High level representatives of Central Banks and policy makers from OIC member countries came together to discuss the current global and OIC economic outlook and policy measures that were taken to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and also evaluate the post-pandemic challenges and opportunities. During the Meeting, SESRIC made a presentation on the main findings of SESRIC’s research on “*Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges*”.
- International Forum on Islamic Digital Economy:** SESRIC and Bank Indonesia in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) jointly organized a virtual

International Forum on “Islamic Economic Digitalization and Inclusion: Policy Development and Implementation in the OIC Countries” on 29 October 2020. The Forum brought together high level policy makers, economists and finance industry experts from OIC member countries and institutions to discuss the impacts of the digitalization on the economic and financial development, especially in the wake of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting 81 indicators related to finance under OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.