

# **SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy**



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



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

**ON**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY**

**SUBMITTED TO**

**33rd MEETING OF THE**  
**FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

**Agenda Item No: 4-10**

**Ankara, Republic of Turkey**  
**10-11 May 2017**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Activity Report provides a summary of the activities of SESRIC related to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC to be submitted to the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee, which will be held in Ankara on 10-11 May 2017.

In brief, since the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Center continued to play an important role in strengthening and improving the national statistical systems in the member countries 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 in enhancing the technical capacities of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the member countries by assuming the role of the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and through the Centre's flagship Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB).

SESRIC also studied and evaluated the economic and social developments in the member countries with a view to generating proposals for enhancing cooperation among them. The Center continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues set on the agenda of various related OIC conferences and meetings, particularly the OIC sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. By doing so, the Centre continued to contribute significantly to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism through analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation in the concerned areas.

During the said period, SESRIC exerted efforts to play a significant role in enhancing the technical south-south cooperation within the OIC community through implementing a wide-range of capacity building programs and training activities on various socio-economic areas and fields of immediate interest to the OIC member countries. Currently, the Centre has 25 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide-range of areas such as finance, agriculture, health, environment, water resources, poverty alleviation, natural disaster management, youth employment, tourism, which are implemented through different modalities, including exchange of experts, training workshops, study visits and networking, and in close cooperation and collaboration with a wide range of relevant OIC, national, regional and international institutions.

In the light of the above, this report highlights the activities of SESRIC according to the COMCEC Strategy under its six areas of cooperation namely; Trade, Transport and Communications, Tourism, Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation, Financial Cooperation and Private Sector Cooperation.

## AGENDA ITEMS:

### 1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of intra-OIC trade:

#### The Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

| No | Subject   | Date               | Beneficiary  | Provider                                  | Partner | Venue              |
|----|---|--------------------|--|---|---------|--------------------|
| 1  | Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics' | 29 Nov-02 Dec 2016 | Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis) | Cameroon (National Statistical Institute) | -       | Cotonou, Benin     |
| 2  | Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics' | 8-10 January 2017  | Afghanistan (Central Statistics Organization)                  | Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran)         | -       | Kabul, Afghanistan |

#### Second Workshop on Cooperation and Expertise Sharing among Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member Countries

The Second Workshop on Cooperation and Expertise Sharing among Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member Countries was held in Ankara, Turkey on 15-17 November 2016 in collaboration with the Ministry of Customs and Trade of Republic of Turkey and Ministry of Development of Republic of Turkey.

The workshop discussed the effective organisation and functioning of the trade registries, international cooperation efforts among trade registry agencies, the ways and means for enhancing the existing cooperation level between the countries which are currently implementing electronic platforms. The workshop was finalised with a project to increase the cooperation among trade registry agencies to a further level.

#### Workshop on the 'Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member Countries'

SESRIC, in collaboration with ICDT and IDB, organized a workshop on the 'Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member Countries' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 18-19 April 2017. The main of the workshop is to discuss the implications and effects of this political move around the economies of globe and particularly OIC Member Countries.

#### D-8 Economic Outlook Report 2016

This report analyses and examines the trends in major economic indicators for the D-8 member countries, as a group, during the latest five-year period for which the data are available. It investigates these trends in a comparative manner with their counterparts in the groups of the OIC, other developing and developed countries as well as with the world economy as a whole. In so doing, the report highlights a number of constraints and challenges confronting the D-8 member countries in their efforts to enhance their economic development and progress.

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

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of enhancing the role of private sector in economic cooperation.

### **Kick-Off Meeting for the SME Development and Empowerment Project**

SESRIC organised the Kick-off Meeting for the SME Development and Empowerment Project under the “Bina Initiative” in collaboration with the Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Istanbul, Turkey on 6-7 February 2017.

The main objective of the meeting was to come out with an implementation plan for building a Libyan SME Incubator Centre which will help in developing the Libyan economy through supporting entrepreneurship. The development of the Libyan SME Incubator is an essential part of the Bina Initiative which is a partnership program among SESRIC, LPRD and IDB that aims to help Libya, as a current fragile state, enhance its capabilities in certain determined areas which are mainly related with strengthening the private sector of Libya.

### **Training on “Reforming International Investment Agreements: An Action Plan”**

SESRIC organised a training programme on “Reforming International Investment Agreements: An Action Plan” which took place in Casablanca, Morocco on 23-26 January 2017, in collaboration with Islamic Development Bank Group Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) of Islamic Development Bank Group, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and Moroccan Investment Development Agency.

The objective of the training program was to deepen the understanding of the participants on challenges in International Investment Agreements (IIA), to identify and examine issues, problems and interests and ensure that the concerns of investors are adequately addressed.

### **SESRIC Signed Declaration of Intent with IDB, TİKA and UNDP (IICPSD)**

SESRIC, UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Special Funds Department (SFD) and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) signed a declaration of intent on 15 December 2016 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in order to tackle the challenge of unemployment for disadvantaged groups and especially for victims of protracted crises and disadvantaged groups under fragility in the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The partnering institutions put their commitments to champion a joint initiative, namely, Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) for Inclusive Growth, where synergies will be tapped to bring together the partners’ complementary strengths and experiences.

### 3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of transport and communications:

#### The Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

| No | Subject  | Date                | Beneficiary  | Provider  | Partner | Venue              |
|----|--|---------------------|--|---|---------|--------------------|
| 1  | Training Course on 'Information Society Statistics'  | 28-30 November 2016 | Kazakhstan (Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economics) | Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee)                      | -       | Astana, Kazakhstan |
| 2  | Training Course on 'Transport Statistics'  | 28 Nov-01 Dec 2016  | Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)                                       | Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics) | -       | Khartoum, Sudan    |
| 3  | Training Course on 'Community Outreach Through Social Media for National Statistics Offices' | 13-14 March 2017    | Gabon (General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies)             | Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)              | -       | Libreville, Gabon  |

#### Training Course on "Cross Border Activities"

SESRIC organised a two day long training course on "Cross Border Activities" at the venue of the Bangladesh Railway on 21-22 December 2016. Two experts from the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) conducted the course, with the participation of the staffs from the Mechanical, Traffic, Railway Police and Finance Departments of the Bangladesh Railway.

The training workshop focused on the following topics: operational applications at exchange stations, delivering and sending a train at exchange station, personnel and documents exchange, oral communication at exchange stations, communication tools between two countries, pre-preparation before exchanging trains, signalling units, controlling and inspecting the rolling stocks at exchange stations, customs affairs, safety and security, passport and police applications.

#### Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on "Media Literacy"

Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on "Media Literacy" was jointly organised by SESRIC and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF) with the attendance of participants from national broadcasting regulatory authorities and governmental bodies on the side-line of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Forum which was held during 20-23 February 2017 in Indonesia.

The workshop was organised by SESRIC within its mandate to create a platform for knowledge exchange and experience sharing in the field of media literacy among relevant authorities of OIC Member Countries, in collaboration with IBRAF, which is a Forum that endeavours to meet the need for increasing cooperation among Islamic Countries Broadcasting Regulatory against the backdrop of digitalisation and convergence.

### **MoU with Anadolu Agency (AA)**

SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 3 March 2017 with the Anadolu Agency (AA) to bring about a synergy between both institutions on capacity building directed towards staff members of news agencies across OIC Member Countries, as well as enhancing exchange of information and expertise among the agencies on key issues with regards to the news industry, notably in the effort to establish an “Islamic World News Agencies Cooperation Network”.

In line with this objective, SESRIC and AA are also aiming to train well-informed journalists capable of correctly analysing the recent developments in OIC Member Countries and the rest of the world, and prepare news packages in compliance with international standards and open them to access among the OIC Member Countries.

### **State of Transportation in D-8 Countries**

State of Transportation in D-8 Countries” Report which presents objective information and analysis on the current state and challenges facing D-8 Member Countries in this vital sector. In particular, the report addresses different modes of transport including land, air and water transportation. Moreover, it elaborates on how transportation affects trade, tourism, and the environment. The report concludes with some specific policy recommendations at the national and D-8 cooperation level.

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

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of tourism:

### **The Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)**

| <b>No</b> | <b>Subject</b>                                   | <b>Date</b>         | <b>Beneficiary</b>                       | <b>Provider</b>                        | <b>Partner</b> | <b>Venue</b>         |
|-----------|--|---------------------|--|--|----------------|----------------------|
| 1         | Training Course on ‘Inbound Tourism Statistics’  | 21-22 November 2016 | Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee) | Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute) | -              | Baku, Azerbaijan     |
| 2         | Training Course on ‘Outbound Tourism Statistics’ | 23-24 November 2016 | Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee) | Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute) | -              | Baku, Azerbaijan     |
| 3         | Training Course on ‘Tourism Satellite Account’   | 14-16 February 2017 | Suriname (Suriname Tourism Foundation)   | Malaysia (Department of Statistics)    | -              | Paramaribo, Suriname |

## **Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries**

Considering the importance of Islamic tourism, the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 21-23 December 2015 adopted a Resolution on Tourism Development among the OIC Member Countries, under which the ICTM decided to establish a Working Group on Islamic Tourism, which comprises of the Republic of Indonesia (Coordinator), People's Republic of Bangladesh, SESRIC, SMIC and IUT and welcomed the offer of SESRIC to carry out a project on "Strategic Plan for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries".

As per this mandate, SESRIC has prepared and submitted the first draft of the document to the OIC General Secretariat. The Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries is a framework providing a systematic approach to planning in this area for development and allocating essential resources for anticipated changes. It also outlines a guideline for the future development of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries via Islamic tourism standards and quality control drafts in management, operations and implementation.

Moreover, it sets a stage for cooperation among OIC member countries, OIC Institutions and relevant international organizations in the field of Islamic tourism. The Strategic Roadmap identifies five key specific thematic areas of cooperation in the domain of Islamic tourism namely data and monitoring, policy and regulation development, marketing and promotion, destination and industry development, and capacity development in order to enhance cooperation at intra-OIC level as well as to improve Islamic tourism ecosystem in OIC Member Countries.

## **Workshop on "The Future of Tourism Development in Konya"**

SESRIC, ICDT and Konya Metropolitan Municipality jointly organised a two days long workshop on "The Future of Tourism Development in Konya" in Konya, Republic of Turkey on 15-16 November 2016. With respect to the rich cultural and touristic resources of Konya, this event was a good opportunity for the participants from different national and international organisations to discuss and debate on different aspects and dimensions concerning the tourism development and its future ahead in this city.

The objective of the workshop was to provide the participants an opportunity to deliberate and to exchange views, knowledge and expertise with a view to determining ways and modalities for future development of tourism in Konya.

## **Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries**

The project on "Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries", was announced among the total of 15 successful projects under the COMCEC PCM, the main implementation instrument of the new COMCEC Strategy, on 7

February 2017. The project was awarded by COMCEC to receive 70,800 USD grants and be implemented during 2017.

The main activities of the project is a three-day training program and the study visit in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge on development and promotion of MFT in COMCEC Member Countries by sharing the Malaysian, Turkish and United Arab Emirates experience in developing successful MFT policies, regulations, standards and marketing strategies.

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

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of agriculture sector and sustaining food security:

### Workshop on “Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organised the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda on 22-23 February 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The Workshop was attended by 40 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and line ministries of 19 OIC Member Countries and 7 international organisations. The objective of the Workshop was to develop capacities of officials of the selected National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to advocate with national government leaders for the inclusion of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and food consumption modules in national surveys for monitoring SDG target 2.1. During the Workshop, the participants were informed both about the Prevalence of Undernourishment (POU) and the FIES methodologies, as well as the steps to implement them and the relevance of the information they provide for food security policy. The Workshop also included a data analysis session in which the participants found the opportunity to carry out analysis on FIES data.

### The Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

| No | Subject                                      | Date                | Beneficiary  | Provider   | Partner | Venue             |
|----|--|---------------------|--|--|---------|-------------------|
| 1  | Study Visit on ‘Agriculture Statistics’      | 2-4 November 2016   | Kyrgyzstan (National Statistical Committee)                    | Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)           | -       | Ankara, Turkey    |
| 2  | Training Course on ‘Environment Statistics’  | 21-24 November 2016 | Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)                   | Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics)             | -       | Dhaka, Bangladesh |
| 3  | Training Course on ‘Agricultural Statistics’ | 31 Jan-3 Feb 2017   | Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis) | Cote d’Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics) | -       | Cotonou, Benin    |

| No | Subject                                      | Date              | Beneficiary  | Provider   | Partner | Venue            |
|----|--|-------------------|--|--|---------|------------------|
| 4  | Training Course on 'Agricultural Statistics' | 27 Feb-1 Mar 2017 | Chad (National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies) | Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics) | -       | N'Djamena, Chad  |
| 5  | Training Course on 'Environment Statistics'  | 20-22 March 2017  | Qatar (Ministry of Development Planning & Statistics)                        | Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)           | -       | Doha, Qatar      |
| 6  | Training Course on 'Agricultural Statistics' | 18-20 April 2017  | Algeria (National Statistics Office)   | Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics) | -       | Algiers, Algeria |

### **Training Course on “Diversification of Agro-Forestry and Reforestation”**

SESRIC organised a training course on “Diversification of Agro-Forestry and Reforestation” within the framework of the Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) in Male, Maldives on 14-15 November 2016.

The course was provided by Dr. Muhammad Zubair, Associate Professor at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Pakistan. The target group of this training course was the experts from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Faculty of Science Maldives National University, Environment Protection Agency and Mangroves for the Future Project / UNDP Maldives, Blue Peace Environmental NGO Maldives and Commerce, Development and Environment (CDE) Consulting Maldives.

### **Practical and Theoretical Training Course on “The Use of Advanced Technology in Cotton Production”**

SESRIC organised a five days training course on “The Use of Advanced Technology in Cotton Production” within the framework of the OIC Cotton Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CTP) in Lahore and Multan, Pakistan on 12-16 December 2016.

### **Training Course on “Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural/Community Development”**

SESRIC organised a training course on “The Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural Development” within the framework of the Environmental Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) in Banjul, Gambia on 13-15 December 2016.

### **MoU with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 17 March 2017 with the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) to enhance cooperation among

OIC Member Countries (OIC MCs) in the field of food, agriculture and livestock by means of establishing joint programmes and initiatives.

### **Training Course on “Integrated Pest Management and Crop Management”**

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Integrated Pest Management and Crop Management” within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Program (OIC-CTP) on 25-27 April 2017 in Kampala, Uganda.

### **Project on “Strengthening Capacities of Rural Imams in Uganda Towards Better Community Service Delivery”**

SESRIC, IUIU and Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock initiated a project namely “Strengthening Capacities of Rural Imams in Uganda Towards Better Community Service Delivery” which aims at enhancing the capacities of Imams in rural areas of Uganda to provide better services to the community through;

- Training the Imams selected from the pilot area in practical skills in the area of counselling and communication such that they in their role of community leaders and advisors help in the fight against extremist tendencies. Additional training will incorporate the Imam trainees learning basic concepts of inter-religious tolerance and faith.
- Train the Imams in modern agricultural methodologies to enhance their capacities. This involves giving them tips on greenhouse (shading) farming methods and basic agrobusiness skills in faith that the knowledge gained would then be transferred to the community through demonstration farms, cause financial independence on the part of the Imams and better service delivery for the community.

### **The State of Agriculture and Food Security in the Member Countries of D-8**

This report investigates the recent trends as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in D-8 countries. It explores major issues such as agricultural production and productivity, trade in agriculture commodities, agricultural population and land use in agriculture, water resources and their use in agriculture, production and trade of food, food aid, and prevalence of undernourishment. The report also sheds light on the importance of promoting investment in the agriculture sector and proposes some policy recommendations for enhancing D-8 cooperation in this important area.

## **6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY**

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of poverty alleviation:

### **Project Consultation Meeting on “Global Muslims Diaspora”**

SESRIC organised a consultation meeting on “The Global Muslim Diaspora Project” (GMD) at its headquarters on 28 March 2017 to inform the participants about the scope, methodology and outputs of the project, and collected the comments and suggestions from the audience.

The Global Muslim Diaspora Project (GMD) aims at mapping the societal, economic, and legal presence and influence of Muslim communities in predominantly non-Muslim societies. The research study combines a vigorous review of statistical and academic secondary sources on Muslim diasporic groups all around the World with primary data collection through various methods and data collection techniques including focus group meetings, quantitative questionnaires, and detailed interviews. The ultimate objective of the Global Muslim Diaspora Project (GMD) is to create a comprehensive and reliable empirical data source on Muslim diasporic communities around the globe as well as to provide an in-depth analysis of today and prospects for the future.

### **Workshop on “The Impact of Post-2015 Development Agenda on Education Statistics”**

The Workshop on “The Impact of Post-2015 Development Agenda on Education Statistics” was organized by SESRIC in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 29-30 November 2016. The overall objectives of the Workshop are to share the current systems of OIC Member Countries on the collection, collation and dissemination of education statistics; exchange the experiences of OIC Member Countries from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period; raise awareness of the capacity of key stakeholders from OIC Member Countries concerning the effective integration of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #4 indicators into their relevant education systems; and explore the effective coordination for a better education statistics capacity within the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of OIC member countries.

### **Integration of the “Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS)” into the National Surveys in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member Countries**

Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) was created so that globally standardized tobacco questions could be included in ongoing national and international surveys. The subset of key questions from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) is meant to improve comparability of tobacco data over time by harmonizing tobacco surveillance activities across various ongoing surveys. TQS is a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), which was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other partners to assist countries in establishing tobacco control surveillance and monitoring programs. Up to now, SESRIC has received commitments from 16 OIC member countries, namely Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti,

Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, and Togo. Eight of them, namely Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo, have fully completed the project. In order to increase the level of participation of OIC Member Countries in the TQS integration project, 3 additional member countries including Gabon, Libya, and Suriname have also been approached.

### **Follow-Up of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Survey on the Priorities Assigned to SDGs**

In line with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Centre is closely following up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) processes. In this respect, the Centre attended to the Inter- Agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) meetings held in June 2015 in New York, in October 2015 in Bangkok, and in March 2016 in Mexico City. Being aware of the increased demand for detailed and timely data to monitor progress on the goals and targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Centre had circulated a survey (also accessible under <http://www.sesric.org/activities-announcements-detail.php?id=386>) to identify the priorities of OIC Member Countries with respect to 17 SDGs, 169 goals, and 230 SDGs indicators in August 2016. Additionally, in line with the relevant Resolutions of the 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Session Committee Meeting of COMCEC, SESRIC was designated to be the focal point, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, at the OIC level for following up the SDGs indicator framework, currently being developed by the international statistical community, to monitor the SDG progress in the OIC member countries via surveys, field visits, etc., to conduct capacity needs assessment regarding SDG targets and to report regularly the progress recorded in the finalization of the SDG indicator framework and to monitor the to the upcoming sessions of COMCEC.

### **The Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)**

| No | Subject                                     | Date                | Beneficiary   | Provider   | Partner | Venue                   |
|----|---|---------------------|---|--|---------|-------------------------|
| 1  | Training Course on 'Health Statistics'      | 25-29 December 2016 | Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)                        | Palestine (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics) | -       | Khartoum, Sudan         |
| 2  | Training Course on 'Gender Statistics'      | 17-18 January 2017  | Djibouti (Department of Statistics and Demographic Studies) | Morocco (Department of Statistics)                   | -       | Djibouti City, Djibouti |
| 3  | Training Course on 'Gender Statistics'      | 29-31 January 2017  | Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)                | Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)                 | -       | Dhaka, Bangladesh       |
| 4  | Training Course on 'Labour Cost Statistics' | 6-7 March 2017      | Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)                        | Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)               | -       | Jakarta, Indonesia      |

| No | Subject  | Date             | Beneficiary  | Provider   | Partner | Venue           |
|----|--|------------------|--|--|---------|-----------------|
| 5  | Training Course on 'Population and Migration Statistics' | 28-30 March 2017 | Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis) | Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demographics) | -       | Cotonou, Benin  |
| 6  | Training Course on 'Education Statistics'                | 2-4 May 2017     | Educational Center of ISESCO in Chad                           | Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)                     | -       | N'Djamena, Chad |

### **Technical Training Workshop on “Confined Spaces”**

In collaboration with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOHS) operating under the Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia, SESRIC organised the practical and technical training course on "Confined Spaces" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7-11 November 2016. The event aimed to form a basis for mutual knowledge and experience sharing among member countries, and brought together 18 technical experts of 10 Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) authorities of the OIC Member Countries, namely, Albania, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Jordan, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda.

This practical and technical training course on "Confined Spaces" was intended to provide engineers and safety personnel who are engaged in supervising confined spaces work with the essential techniques of risk assessment and proper control measure.

### **Consultation Meeting for the OIC Maternal Health and Child Survival Project**

In line with Thematic Area 3 on “Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition” of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA), the Consultation Meeting for the OIC Maternal Health and Child Survival Project on “mobilisation of resources for scale-up interventions to improve maternal, new-born, and child care” was held in Casablanca, Morocco on 30 November-01 December 2016.

The project aimed at supporting the countries that conducted the Bottleneck Analysis (BNA) in order to take the next steps toward improving MNCH care and reduce maternal and child deaths. Bottleneck analysis was based on the availability of MNH interventions and their consistency with WHO guidelines, focusing on the main bottlenecks for health system building blocks at country level and identification of feasible and effective strategies and solutions to prevent maternal and neonatal deaths among the participating countries.

### **Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania: “Support for Legislation Development: Study Visit to Mauritania”**

SESRIC organised in collaboration with the General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) operating under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (MoLSS) a study visit to the National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) in

Nouakchott, Mauritania on 19-23 December 2016. The aim of this project was to improve Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) legislation structure of the state by utilizing the expertise of the DGOHS, as a resource centre.

### **Knowledge Sharing Workshop on “Tobacco Control Policies for OIC Member Countries”**

SESRIC jointly organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Green Crescent Society the “Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Tobacco Control Policies for OIC Member Countries” in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-16 December 2016.

The workshop gathered experts from the Ministries of Health and Ministries of Finance in OIC Member Countries, who are responsible for evaluating, drafting, enforcing, and implementing tobacco control policies; and represented a platform for sharing knowledge on the essentials of comprehensive tobacco control policies and best practices for the tobacco policy implementation. Furthermore, the workshop aimed to encourage cooperation and sharing expertise in tobacco-related problems among OIC Member Countries.

### **Study Visit and Training Course on “Occupational Safety: Risk Assessment”**

SESRIC organised a training course on “Occupational Safety” in Kampala, Uganda on 09-12 January 2017. The training course was provided by the OSH experts at the General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey with the attendance of participants from the Occupational Safety Department of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda.

The training course was followed by a study visit of experts to allow them the opportunity to get to know and compare the experience, strategies and practices utilised at the Occupational Safety Department of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda. Furthermore, a need assessment analysis towards a knowledge sharing process by specific projects and trainings was made.

### **Training Course on “Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies”**

SESRIC organised a training course on ‘Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies’ in collaboration with the Tunisian Occupational Safety and Health Institute (TOSHI), at the Ministry of Labour, State of Palestine in Ramallah, Palestine on 9-13 January 2017. The training course was provided by Mr. Abdelmajid Hidri, Director of Safety Department and Mr. Sassi Mohsen, Safety Expert of TOSHI with the attendance of relevant safety experts from the Ministry of Labour, State of Palestine.

### **Training on “Emergency Obstetrics and C-Section in War”**

Under Thematic Area 3 on Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition and Thematic Area 5 on Emergency Health Response and Interventions of the Strategic Health Programme

of Action (SHPA), SESRIC organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey (MoH) and the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations (UOSSM) an on-site training on Emergency Obstetrics and C-Section in War for a period of two weeks between 17 and 31 January 2017 for the benefit of 2 Syrian doctors and 4 midwives in Istanbul Zeynep Kamil Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital.

### **Capacity Development Training for Syrian NGOs in Istanbul**

SESRIC, Ilke NGO Academy, Ensar Vaqf, OIC Humanitarian Affairs Department (OIC ICHAD) and Syrian Associations Platform organised a training course on “NGO Management” in Istanbul, Turkey on 27-29 January 2017. The training course was delivered by academicians from the universities of the Republic of Turkey with the participation of relevant members of the Syrian NGOs.

### **Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member Countries: Sudan Study Visit**

Under Thematic Area 5 on Emergency Health Response and Interventions of the Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA), SESRIC organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey a study visit of 5 delegates from the Ministry of Health of Sudan on 6-8 March 2017 in the cities of Ankara and Izmir, Turkey.

The study visit aimed to present the health emergencies facilities of the Ministry of Health of Turkey in Ankara and Urla, Izmir and discuss ways and means for developing a project on “Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member Countries” to improve health status of Ummah in health emergencies.

### **Joint Planning Meeting for the Second Regional Networking Forum and Capacity Development Training for Technical Cooperation Agencies**

The Joint Planning Meeting for the Regional Networking Forum and Capacity Development Training for Technical Cooperation Agencies were hosted by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Istanbul Office on 13-14 February 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. Together with SESRIC, the meeting was attended by the Astana Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (RHCS), Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MNE), and the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB).

The main aim of the meeting was to initiate necessary preparations for the planned Second Regional Networking Forum and the capacity building training which will be held in Astana on the side lines of the Astana Economic Forum in Kazakhstan, scheduled for June 2017. During the two days discussions, the representatives of the partnering institutions reviewed and discussed the details of the Second Regional Networking Forum and the capacity development training, and principally agreed on the overarching themes, focus, and structure of the sessions of the Second Networking Forum and the subjects of the capacity development training program.

## **Humanitarian Crises in OIC Member Countries: Drivers, Impacts and Current Challenges**

This report reviews the current humanitarian crises in the OIC countries as well as in non-OIC countries involving Muslim communities. It highlights the main drivers and impacts of humanitarian crises in a broader perspective. The report focuses on four main drivers as the root causes of humanitarian crises. These are armed conflicts, occupation and oppression; political and economic stability and governance; climate change and natural hazards; and epidemics. While studying the major consequences of humanitarian disasters, five key areas for the assessment of the impacts are reflected in this report. These are human deprivation; state fragility; economic collapse; human rights violation; and migration and displacement. The overall objective of this report is to develop a diagnostic approach on the major humanitarian crises in the OIC countries through promoting joint initiatives on strengthening resilience to humanitarian crises and advocating collaborative actions for strengthening the institutional capacities of the countries that experience/d devastating natural disasters and man-made crises.

## **Natural Disasters in Afghanistan: Risks, Vulnerabilities and General Guidelines**

This report provides an overview of the past natural disasters in Afghanistan and evaluates the risks and vulnerabilities in the country. Based on these assessments, the report offers some general guidelines in preventing and mitigating the potential disasters in Afghanistan. It also includes analyses of the effective approaches in response to and recovery from these disasters and provides relevant recommendations. This report is requested by the 39th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS).

## **Understanding Terrorism and Violent Extremism in OIC Countries**

This report has been prepared by SESRIC upon a request by the OIC General Secretariat. The objective of this report is to enhance the overall understanding of radicalism and violent extremism in OIC member countries, which in turn may contribute to developing more effective strategies to combat radicalism and violent extremism. The report first highlights the trends of radicalism and violent extremism in OIC member countries and the narratives used by terrorist organization. It also examines the root causes of radicalism in OIC countries with an emphasis on socio-economic root causes. The report then highlights the economic and social impacts of terrorism in OIC countries. The final section of the report is devoted to de-radicalization and the models and approaches for countering and preventing radicalism. It also provides general policy recommendation pertinent to the issue of de-radicalization.

## 7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

The following activities were *implemented* by SESRIC under the agenda item of financial cooperation:

### Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

| No | Subject  | Date              | Beneficiary  | Provider                             | Partner | Venue                       |
|----|--|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Training Course on 'Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics' | 28-30 Nov 2016    | Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development) | Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia) | -       | Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei |
| 2  | Training Course on 'Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics' | 6-8 Dec 2016      | Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)             | Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia) | -       | Dhaka, Bangladesh           |
| 3  | Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance, and Financial Statistics'            | 8-11 January 2017 | Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)             | Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran)    | -       | Dhaka, Bangladesh           |

### Developing Islamic Financial Industry Database (IBFStat) of OIC Member Countries

This project aims at identifying the set of possible indicators to be hosted in the initial phase, develop a standardized methodology including the templates for data collection, and collaborate with national, regional and international stakeholders to collect, compile, perform quality assurance, and disseminate data on Islamic financial industry. Within the project framework, the Centre has circulated a survey (also accessible under <http://www.sesric.org/activities-announcements-detail.php?id=397>) to gather a preliminary insight about existing data collection, compilation and dissemination concerning Islamic finance practices in OIC member countries.

### Training Course on "Organisational Development"

SESRIC organised the training course on "Organisational Development" at the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG) on 19-20 October 2016. The Training Course was conducted by Mr. Kora LILIOU, Director of Management Control Department of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) with the participation of 21 officials from the BCRG.

The training course focused on the following topics: challenges of central banks, cases of other central banks, new methodological approach for strategic planning, key innovations of the new methodological approach, organizational arrangement, main steps of the strategic

planning process at the BCEAO, the control mechanism of the strategic plan, project monitoring device, management tools, control review.

### **Training Workshop on “Macro Prudential Analysis & Policy Framework”**

SESRIC organised, in collaboration with the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Central Bank of Malaysia, the Training Workshop on “Macro Prudential Analysis & Policy Framework” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 31 October-4 November 2016. 25 middle level officials from central banks and regulatory agencies involved in assessing financial system risk and maintaining financial system stability have participated in the programme.

14 subject-matter experts facilitated the twelve sessions through presentations, case studies and group exercises. At the end of the programme, participants gained substantial knowledge on the linkages between micro supervision, macro analysis and policy responses in managing financial stability; tools and key indicators in assessing the risks to financial stability; risks and red flags that may affect financial system stability; and possible policy intervention measures.

### **On-site Training on “System of Predicting Financial Crisis based on Macroeconomic Indicators”**

SESRIC organised an on-site training on “System of Predicting Financial Crisis based on Macroeconomic Indicators” in the case of the Kyrgyz Republic in collaboration with the Istanbul School of Central Banking (IMB) of Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT) on 01-18 November 2016.

The on-site training was a blend of empirical studies and methods of applied in the CBRT and the expert from CBKR worked in close relation with competent experts of CBRT from the relevant department on a daily basis. At the end of the programme, the participants gained knowledge to demonstrate understanding of key considerations and challenges in predicting financial crisis based on macroeconomic indicators where applicable to monetary policy of CBKR and was able to find out valuable recommendations for the methodology of modelling transmission mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **Training Course on ‘Valuation of Start-up Companies’ in Azerbaijan**

SESRIC organised the training course on "Valuation of Start-up Companies" at Baku Stock Exchange (BSE) of Republic of Azerbaijan on 7-8 November 2016. The training course was conducted by Borsa İstanbul A.Ş. of Republic of Turkey with the participation of relevant officials of BSE and the representatives of investment and start-up companies from private sector.

### **Training Workshop on “How to Develop, Operate and Sustain Islamic Microfinance Institutions”**

SESRIC organised a training workshop on “How to Develop, Operate and Sustain Islamic Microfinance Institutions” in Nairobi, Kenya on 10-11 November 2016 in collaboration with

AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE) and Akhuwat-Islamic Microfinance, as a post event of the Sixth Global Islamic Microfinance Forum held during 8-9 November at the same venue which was attended by more than 100 participants.

The training workshop was attended by relevant microfinance institutions from 9 OIC Member Countries as well as other non-member countries throughout Africa and relevant international organisations such as Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) of IDB Group, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) among others.

### **Training Course on ‘Formulation of Monetary Policy’ in Jordan**

SESRIC organised a five-day training course on “Formulation of Monetary Policy” at Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on 20-24 November 2016. The training course was conducted by the senior experts of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) with the participation of relevant officials from Open Market Operations & Public Debt Department and Research Department of the CBJ.

### **Workshop on “Sukuk and Islamic Liquidity Management”**

Workshop on “Sukuk and Islamic Liquidity Management” was jointly organised by SESRIC, Istanbul School of Central Banking (IMB) and the World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Centre (GIFDC) on 12-14 December 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Specialists from the General Directorate of Banking and Financial Institutions and the General Directorate of Markets of Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT) provided information to the participants about the short-term sukuk issuances realized by the International Islamic Liquidity Management Company (IILM) and the private sector sukuk market as well as CBRT’s liquidity management practices.

### **Training Workshop on “Ensuring Effective Regulations of Islamic Banks”**

SESRIC in collaboration with the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Central Bank of Malaysia, organised a training workshop on “Ensuring Effective Regulations of Islamic Banks” within the framework of the OIC Central Bank Banks Capacity Building (CB-CaB) on 17-21 April 2017, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### **Training Workshop on “Conversion Process towards Becoming an Islamic Financial Institution”**

SESRIC in collaboration with the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Central Bank of Malaysia, organized a training workshop on ‘Conversion Process towards Becoming an Islamic Financial Institution’ within the framework of the OIC Central Bank Banks Capacity Building (CB-CaB) on 15-17 May 2017, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**11 April 2017.**