

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

**34th MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

Agenda Item No: 4-10

**Ankara, Republic of Turkey
09-10 May 2018**

Introduction

This Activity Report provides a summary of the activities that have been implemented by SESRIC towards the implementation of COMCEC Strategy to be submitted to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC, which will be held in Ankara, Turkey on 09-10 May 2018.

In brief, since the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC 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 placed 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.

The Center, also 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 introducing 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).

During the said period, SESRIC exerted efforts to play a significant role in enhancing 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 27 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.

Furthermore, during the period under consideration, the Centre signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding and Partnership Agreements in order to strengthen its ties with its partners for better implementation of COMCEC Strategy in different areas and subjects as the following:

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	IDB, AFAD, TRC, TOBB, KGF, WAFAA and UNDP (Speed Project)	22 November 2017
2.	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)	27 November 2017
3.	Union of News Agency (UNA-OIC)	06 December 2017
4.	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) of Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Republic of Turkey (Mauritania Occupational Safety and Health Project)	08 December 2017
5.	Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	16 January 2018
6.	Islamic Chamber Research and Information Centre (ICRIC)	16 January 2018
7.	Turkish Red Crescent	05 February 2018
8.	The General Directorate of Higher Education Credit and Hostels Institution	06 February 2018
9.	Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA)	26 February 2018
10.	Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT)	03 April 2018

In the light of the above, this report highlights the activities of SESRIC according to the COMCEC Strategy under its seven areas of cooperation 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

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

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Venue
1	Statistics Course on 'Foreign Investment Survey'	20 – 22 November 2017	Kuwait (Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau (CSB))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Kuwait City, Kuwait
2	Statistics Course on 'International Trade Statistics'	25 – 27 March 2018	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS))	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	Khartoum, Sudan
3	Workshop on 'Operational Readiness for E-Commerce Project: Quality of Service Fund (QSF) and Remuneration for the Arab Region'	02-06 April 2018	OIC Member States (Arab Region)	Universal Postal Union (UPU) The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and La Poste Tunisienne	Tunis, Tunisia

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to trade, OICStat of SESRIC includes 30 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **The State of Investment in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Prospects:** SESRIC contributed to the report of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) namely “The State of Trade and Investment in OIC Member Countries and the Role of Multilateral ECAs” by preparing and submitting a chapter on “The State of Investment in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Prospects”. The chapter assessed the investment climate in OIC Member Countries and examined the major challenges faced by investors (private, public and foreign). This report was submitted by the ICIEC to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 20-23 November 2017.

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:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Venue
1	Study Visit to Turkey from Indonesia on University Teknoparks	06-10 November 2017	Indonesia (KOPERTIS, LPNK, BAPETEN, BATAN, BPPT, BSN, LAPAN, LIPI)	Turkey (METU Teknopark, Hacettepe Teknopark, ITU Arı Teknopark, Istanbul Teknopark, Yıldız Teknopark and TUBITAK Marmara Research Center (MRC))	Ankara & Istanbul, Turkey
2	Technical Mission on 'Mining, Manufacturing, Construction Statistics'	13-15 December 2017	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	Putrajaya, Malaysia
3	Study Visit on 'Energy Statistics'	19-21 December 2017	Libya (Libyan Bureau of Statistics and Census (LBSC))	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	Cairo, Egypt
4	Statistics Course on 'Economic Accounts'	18-20 December 2017	Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Islamabad, Pakistan
5	Statistics Course on 'Construction Statistics'	25-27 December 2017	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS))	Iraq (Central Statistical Organization (CSO))	Khartoum, Sudan
6	Statistics Course on 'Energy Statistics'	5-7 February 2018	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee (SSC))	Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI))	Baku, Azerbaijan

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to private sector in economic cooperation, OICStat of SESRIC includes 18 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **Workshop on Introducing “Engage Platform” and “Transform Fund”:** SESRIC and Islamic Development Bank Group Regional Hub in Turkey jointly organized a workshop to introduce the recently launched “Engage Platform” and “Transform Fund” on 13 February 2018 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey. Engage” platform aims to connect innovations with market opportunities and funding. To support the functioning of

this Platform, the IDB has established a special fund called “Transform”, which provides seed money for innovators, startups and SMEs to develop their ideas and compose strong business proposals. Through “Engage” and “Transform”, innovative ideas will be translated into real development solutions that will address development challenges and empower the communities and youth in particular in realizing their full potential.

3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Workshop on ‘Electronic Postal Payment Services for the Arab Region’	13-14 December 2017	OIC Member States (Arab Region)	Union Postale Universelle (UPU)	Union Postale Universelle (UPU) and La Poste Tunisienne	Tunis, Tunisia
2	Workshop on ‘Rapidly Changing Technologies and Legislative Alignment’	19-20 February 2018	Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities in the OIC Countries	-	OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF)	Cotonou, Benin

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to transport and communication, OICStat of SESRIC includes 23 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **Transportation for Development in OIC Countries:** This report looks at the transportation sector in OIC countries in a comparative perspective. It investigates the performance of the different modes of transportation under three broad categories: land, water and air transportation. The report also highlights the relationship between transportation and trade and tourism. This report will be submitted to the 2nd OIC Conference of Transport Ministers.

4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of developing sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Venue
1	Study Visit on 'Tourism Statistics'	21-23 November 2017	Kazakhstan (Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economics of Kazakhstan)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat))	Ankara, Turkey

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to tourism, OICStat of SESRIC includes 10 indicators which are being updated regularly.

- **Project on Improving Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Countries:** The project of SESRIC on “Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development” was selected for funding by COMCEC within the 2018 Implementation Period of COMCEC Project Funding (CPF).

The project is a continuation of “Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) Project” that was implemented by SESRIC in 2017 within the COMCEC Project Funding scheme. Its aim is to increase the capacity of the relevant government officials from Tourism Ministries of the OIC countries through capacity development training, exchange of experience and know-how, through a 2-day training program that will identify a roadmap for Islamic Tourism Destination, by selecting a Turkish city as a case study.

- **OIC Tourism Report 2017:** This report examined the performance and the economic role of the international tourism sector in OIC member countries by analysing latest available data on major indicators like international tourist arrivals, international tourism receipts and expenditures. The report also focused on the major challenges of tourism development and tourism cooperation among the OIC countries and proposed some recommendations to serve as policy guidelines. This report was presented to the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Bangladesh in early 2018.
- **Strategic Roadmap for the 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, SMIIC and IUT and welcomed the offer of SESRIC to carry out a project on “Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries”. As per this mandate, SESRIC started the preparations and submitted the first draft of the Roadmap Document to the OIC General Secretariat to be circulated among the Member Countries for their comments and feedback. The Roadmap Document is intended to develop a framework in order to provide a systematic approach to promote cooperation among the member countries in the area of Islamic tourism.

- **The State of Tourism in the Member Countries of D-8 (2018):** This report analyses and examines the trends in the major tourism indicators including tourist arrivals and tourism receipts 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. The report also looks at the intra-D-8 Tourism trends to reveal the level of integration in the domain of tourism among D-8 Countries. Finally, the report highlights the potential of Islamic (Halal) tourism in the context of D-8 countries and will list some policy recommendations to serve as a broad guideline for policy-makers.

5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

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

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Venue
1	Training Course on ‘Genotyping by Sequencing Analysis’	05-07 March 2018	Azerbaijan (Agrarian Science and Information Advisory Center of Azerbaijan and Genetic Resources Institute of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences)	Turkey (Horticulture Department of Uludag University)	Bursa, Turkey

- **Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Turkey on 14-15 November 2017:** SESRIC in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organised the Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable

Development Agenda on 14-15 November 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. Twenty-five participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries of Agriculture of 10 OIC member countries including Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Sudan and 5 international organisations including FAO Statistics Division, FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (FAO-SEC), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT), Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) and SESRIC attended the Workshop. The objective of the Workshop was to develop capacities of officials of the selected NSOs of OIC member countries 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.

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to agriculture sector and food security, OICStat of SESRIC includes 44 indicators which are being updated regularly.

6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

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

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Workshop on 'Developing Syrian Refugees and IDPs Education'	08-09 November 2017	OIC countries that host the Syrian Refugees	-	IDB, ISESCO and the Relief Worldwide	Istanbul, Turkey
2	Training on 'Emergency and Disaster Medical Services'	26 November - 01 December 2017	Sudan (the Federal Ministry of Health of the Republic of Sudan)	Turkey (The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey)	The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)	Khartoum, Sudan
3	Study Visit on 'Gender Statistics'	20-22 November 2017	Libya (Libyan Bureau of Statistics and Census (LBSC))	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS))	-	Khartoum, Sudan
4	Workshop on 'Developing the Capacities of National Institutions'	17-18 December 2017	The OIC Member States	-	OIC General Secretariat and IDB	Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

	Working in the Field of Women Empowerment in OIC Member States'					
5	Statistics Course on 'Labour Statistics'	19-21 December 2017	United Arab Emirates (Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority)	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Statistics Course on 'Labour Statistics'
6	Technical Mission on 'Labour Statistics'	14-16 January 2018	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS))	Palestine (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS))	Khartoum, Sudan	Technical Mission on 'Labour Statistics'
7	Study Visit on 'Labour Statistics'	23-24 January 2018	Saudi Arabia (General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT))	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE))	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei	Study Visit on 'Labour Statistics'
8	Study Visit on 'Population and Migration Statistics'	29-30 January 2018	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	-	Putrajaya, Malaysia
9	Statistics Course on 'Labour Statistics'	6-8 February 2018	Mauritania (National Statistical Office (ONS))	Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demographics (ANSD))	Nouakchott, Mauritania	Statistics Course on 'Labour Statistics'
10	Study Visit on 'Education Statistics'	13-14 February 2018	Saudi Arabia (General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Jakarta, Indonesia
11	Study Visit of Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA)	26-27 February 2018	Palestine (Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA))	Turkey (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD))	-	Ankara, Turkey
12	Training Course on 'Emergency and Disaster Medical Services'	04-08 March 2018	Sudan (Ministry of Health of Sudan)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	The Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and	Khartoum, Sudan

					Coordination Agency (TIKA)	
13	Statistics Course on 'Sustainable Development Statistics'	6-8 March 2018	Oman (National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	-	Muscat, Oman
14	Technical Mission on 'Labour Statistics'	6-8 April 2018	Cemroon (Institut National de la Statistique (INS))	Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demographics (ANSD))		Yaounde, Cameroon
15	Workshop on 'Integration of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices into the Health Systems and Health Services'	18 April 2018	OIC Member States	-	Ministry of Health of Turkey	Istanbul, Turkey
16	Preparatory Senior Experts Meeting for the 4 th Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)	11-13 April 2018	Member States of the OIC-OSHNET	-	The Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)	Ankara, Turkey
17	Statistics Course on 'Gender Statistics'	23-25 April 2018	Maldives (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Male, Maldives
18	Training of Trainers on 'Medical Search and Rescue and Ambulance Services'	07-19 May 2018	Sudan (Ministry of Health of Sudan)	Turkey (Urla Emergency Disaster Training and Simulation Centre)	Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)	Izmir, Turkey

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to poverty, OICStat of SESRIC includes 52 indicators which are being updated regularly.

- **OIC International Internship Program (OIC Intern):** The "OIC International Internship Program (OIC Intern)" was launched on 16 November 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. OIC Intern aims at facilitating the entry of students into the labour market by contributing to the development of their knowledge and skills about the working environment. The Program is expected to enhance the quality of the workforce and encourage economic competition in member countries, and thus lay the groundwork for closer cooperation and partnership. The pilot of the program will be implemented in Turkey in collaboration with The Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), International Citizens and Relative Communities Presidency (YTB), and Ensar Foundation. Following the pilot, OIC Intern will be expanded to other OIC countries targeting a larger community of students from abroad and generating a network of young professionals and workers with strong cultural background.
- **Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship Development (SPEED) Project:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed among SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), The Credit Guarantee Fund of Turkey (KGF), The Union Of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Turkey (TOBB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WAFAA International Group (WAFAA) to launch "Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship Development – SPEED" Project during the 33rd Ministerial Session of COMCEC on 22 November 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The MOU aims to serve as a basis between the Parties to tackle the challenge of economic empowerment for the Palestinian refugees in Turkey, as a pilot model for economic empowerment of the Palestinian people, itself modeling resilience development for disadvantaged groups, especially, for victims of protracted crises and fragility.
- **The Global South-South Development (GSSD) EXPO 2017:** The GSSD Expo 2017 was hosted by the Republic of Turkey and organized by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which took place in Antalya, Turkey from 27 to 30 November 2017. SESRIC as an implementing partner of the EXPO together with Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) attended to the GSSD Expo 2017. The theme of the GSSD EXPO 2017 was "South-South Cooperation in the Era of Economic, Social and Environmental Transformation: Road to the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40)".
- **Thematic Solution Forum on Women as Benefactors of Development through Social Entrepreneurship:** SESRIC organized a thematic solution forum on "Women as Benefactors of Development through Social Entrepreneurship" as part of Global South-South Development EXPO (GSSD EXPO) on 28 November 2017 in Antalya, Turkey. The main aim of the Thematic Solution Forum on "Women as Benefactors of Development through Social Entrepreneurship" was to highlight the emerging and

growing role of women in sustaining development through social entrepreneurship in the framework of South-South and Triangular cooperation.

- **SESRIC launched the OIC Health Portal:** SESRIC launched the OIC Health Portal during the 6th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) of the Member Countries which was held on 5-7 December 2017 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to act as the main information sharing platform for the OIC efforts in health area among ministries of health of OIC Member States and other partners. The portal is expected to strengthen the communication and promote all the activities related to the implementation of OIC Strategic Health Program of Action (OIC SHPA).
- **DOI for ‘Mauritania Occupational Safety and Health Project’:** A Declaration of Intent (DoI) was signed among SESRIC, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) of Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Republic of Turkey on 8 December 2017 in Ankara, Turkey in order to tackle the challenges of work-related accidents and diseases through bringing together joint efforts and complementary advantages of the partnering institutions for improving occupational safety and health conditions in Mauritania.
- **Urban Development in OIC Member Countries:** The report presents an overview on the current state of urbanization in OIC countries in comparison with non-OIC countries as well as in reference to historical values going back to 1950 as well as projections up until 2050. The report discusses the main factors leading to urbanization. It focuses on the impacts of urbanization and assesses some critical issues related to urban development in OIC member countries, such as human mobility in different forms and environmental pressures and urban resilience. The report also highlights the critical elements of planning for sustainable urbanization and present relevant policy recommendations.
- **OIC Labour Report 2017:** This report provides a detailed account of labour market conditions in the OIC member countries with a view to identifying and assessing the fundamental problems and challenges in the labour markets of the OIC countries. The 2017 Edition of OIC Labour Market Report pays special attention to the problem of labour inactivity and policies to promote economic activity for special target groups. In addition to a detailed analysis on the structure of labour market in OIC countries, the report investigates the issues and challenges related to labour inactivity, labour market policies for reducing unemployment, employment of persons with disabilities, and economic reintegration of ex-offenders and displaced people. This report was submitted to the 4th Session of the OIC Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) which was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 29-30 November 2017.
- **OIC Labour Market Strategy:** Given the common labour market challenges faced by the member countries and the need for enhancing cooperation to address some of these

challenges, the third Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers requested from SESRIC to prepare a Labour Market Strategy proposal for the next session of the conference to be held in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2017. The strategy document identified five thematic cooperation areas for strategic action: (1) Encouraging participation to labour market; (2) Enhancing employability; (3) Protecting the workers' safety and well-being; (4) Promoting labour productivity; (5) Reducing unemployment. Specific actions under each thematic area, together with some further elaboration on these areas, have been listed in the document. The strategy document prepared by SESRIC is based on four main principles: participation, protection, productivity and partnership.

- **State of Children Report:** This report provides a detailed analysis and evaluation of the state of children in OIC countries. The report gauges the performance of OIC countries in four dimensions: child health and well-being, child nutrition and food security, basic education and schooling and child protection and welfare by analysing the latest data on indicators like child mortality trends, prevalence of under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, school enrolment and attendance and incidence of child labour and maltreatment. The report concludes with policy recommendations aiming to enhance the implementation of interventions both at national and intra-OIC and international cooperation level to improve the state of children in OIC countries. This report is submitted to the 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers in Charge of Childhood which was held on 18-19 December 2017 in Rabat, Morocco.

7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

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

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Study Visit on 'Price Statistics'	13-14 November 2017	Libya (Libyan Bureau of Statistics and Census (LBSC))	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	-	Cairo, Egypt
2	Statistics Course on 'Price Statistics'	13-15 November 2017	Tajikistan (Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan)	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan)	-	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
3	Workshop on 'Capacity Building of the Libyan Audit Bureau'	21 December 2017	Libya (the Libyan Audit Bureau)	Turkish Court of Accounts (Sayıştay), the Financial Crimes	-	Ankara, Turkey

				Investigation Board of Turkey (MASAK) and the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and Middle East (TODAİE)		
4	Training Course on 'Islamic Microfinance'	08-09 January 2018	Palestine (Palestine for Credit & Development – Faten)	Al Huda Center of Islamic Banking and Economics	Representative Office of OIC in the State of Palestine and Al Huda Center of Islamic Banking and Economics	Ramallah, Palestine
5	Statistics Course on 'Income and Consumption Statistics'	20-22 March 2018	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE))	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics (INS))	-	Cotonou, Benin
6	Statistics Course on 'Income and Consumption Statistics'	20-22 March 2018	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Perak, Malaysia

- SESRIC is hosting the statistics repository of OIC member countries called OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>. Related to finance, OICStat of SESRIC includes 23 indicators which are being updated regularly.
