

Activities of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)

OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) is an initiative by SESRIC. It was established in 2011 with the aim of enhancing the cooperation among the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the member countries with a view to supporting their national statistical systems for the development of better national strategies and policies. The OIC Stat-Com is an important instrumental platform for cooperation among the NSOs of the member countries similar to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC). In its capacity as the secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC assumes the role of organizing the annual sessions of this Commission and following up the activities of its working groups.

Progress Report

1. The Second Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) was co-organized by SESRIC and the IDB on 13-15 May 2012 in İzmir, Turkey. Delegates of 40 OIC Member Countries and relevant international and regional institutions participated in the Session. The 2nd Session of OIC-StatCom reviewed and discussed the outcomes of the work of the OIC-StatCom Working Groups on the following topics: a) identification of the statistical indicators specific to OIC Member States b) development of a strategic vision for the OIC-StatCom and c) development of an accreditation program for statistical professional (OStat Programme). Furthermore the 2nd Session of the OIC-StatCom approved to set up an Expert Group who will follow the studies of global statistical community on gender related issues with an aim to reflect common values of OIC Member Countries. Major task of the technical committee will be to review existing concepts and definitions related to this issue and draw up concrete proposals to the related organisations/institutions on the enhancement of the available concepts and definitions.
2. In accordance with the Decision No:4, adopted by the 1st Session of OIC-StatCom, the Working Group on Statistical Indicators Specific to OIC Member Countries was established to develop common standards and methodologies for the indicators specific to the OIC Member Countries. So far, the main set of indicators including their definitions, specific to the OIC Member Countries has been identified and, a survey conducted to assess the willingness of the member countries to collect the necessary data within this framework. In this context, it has been decided to develop concepts and definitions on the following priority topics; Islamic finance, Halal Food and Wakf Statistics.
3. In accordance with the Decision No:5, adopted by the 1st Session of the OIC-StatCom, a Working Group was established to develop a strategic vision for the work of the OIC-StatCom to guide its future activities. The 2nd Session of the OIC-StatCom endorsed the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Document prepared by the Working Group on “Development of a Strategic Vision Document for the OIC-StatCom”. The Commission also decided to establish a Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) to develop an “Executive Work Plan for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision”.
4. In accordance with the Decision No:6, adopted by the 1st Session of OIC-StatCom, a Working Group was established to develop a Certification and Accreditation Programme for Statistical Professionals (OStat Programme). This Working Group has so far developed a conceptual and methodological background document on the proposed accreditation program. The Terms of Reference (TOR) to the accreditation/certification process, including setting up the accreditation criteria and the way of measurement of these

accreditation/certification criteria, has been prepared. The 2nd Session of OIC-StatCom also discussed and approved the report on the procedural details of the accreditation process. The approved TOR of the OStat Programme, specifies four different levels of accreditation according to the knowledge and experience of the currently employed statistical professionals in the national statistical offices and relevant government departments. These levels are: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced Level-1 and Advanced Level-2. In this context, it has been decided that a task team to be established under the supervision of SESRIC to undertake necessary activities for the execution of the Basic Level Accreditation at the initial stage and to identify the challenges to be faced and the way out for ensuring effective implementation of the full Accreditation Programme.

5. In its capacity as the secretariat of the OIC-StatCom , SESRIC will organise the 3rd Session of the Commission in April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey in collaboration with the IDB. The 3rd Session of OIC-StatCom will review and discuss the progress on the work done by the Technical Expert Committees and their future activities. The deliberations during the 3rd Session is expected to focus on priority areas such as development of conceptual framework on Islamic Finance, Halal Food and Wakf, statistical capacity building and quality management challenges.