

# SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

## Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy



**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**

**SUBMITTED TO  
34<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

**Agenda Item No: 4-10**

**Istanbul, Republic of Turkey  
26-29 November 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 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 26-29 November 2018.

In brief, since the 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 19 agreements in order to strengthen its ties with its partners for better implementation of COMCEC Strategy in different areas.

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.....4
2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION6
3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.....8
4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR .....9
5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING  
FOOD SECURITY ..... 10
6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY ..... 12
7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION .....24

## 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 'International Trade Statistics'	25–27 March 2018	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS))	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	Khartoum, Sudan
2	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
3	Study Visit on 'International Trade and Balance of Payments'	17-19 October 2018	Tajikistan (Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan)	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan)	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 trade, OICStat of SESRIC includes 31 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 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 20-23 November 2017.
- **Trade in Services in OIC Countries:** This outlook report analyses the current state and structure of services trade in OIC countries. The services sector plays an increasingly important role in the global economy and the growth and development of countries. In this context, the report investigates the latest developments in services trade at global and regional levels, and analyse sectoral concentration of trade in services and comparative

advantage of OIC countries in different sectors. The report also reviews the existing policies in OIC countries in promoting and protecting services trade by using internationally comparable indices.

- **OIC Economic Outlook 2018:** This study provides a comparative analysis of trends in major economic indicators for the OIC member countries in light of the recent global and regional economic developments.

## 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, İTÜ Arı Teknopark, İstanbul Teknopark, Yıldız Teknopark and TUBITAK Marmara Research Center (MRC))	Ankara & İstanbul, 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
7	Study visit on Science and Technology Parks (STPs) in Turkey for Sudan	28 March- 03 April 2018	Ministry of Science, Technology and Industry of Turkey and the management of five Science and Technology Parks (STPs)	Turkey (METU Teknopark, Hacettepe Teknopark, İTÜ Arı Teknopark, İstanbul Teknopark, Yıldız Teknopark and TUBITAK Marmara Research Center (MRC))	Ankara & İstanbul, Turkey
8	Study Visit on Technopark Development	30 April - 07 May 2018	Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development	TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre	İstanbul, Turkey

9	Statistics Course on 'Economic Accounts'	23-25 October 2018	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics)	Putrajaya, 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 private sector in economic cooperation, OICStat of SESRIC includes 42 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 ISDB 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.
- **BINA Incubation Centre:** Within the scope of the BINA Initiative, a contract signed by SESRIC to provide professional services on Economic Empowerment for Entrepreneurs through Supporting Libyans Start-ups and SMEs to Grow and to Sustain their Business. In this connection a stakeholder analysis was carried out to map the major SME stakeholders in Libya to identify the most appropriate strategy to address their interest as well as to harness their commitment towards BINA Initiative. This analysis will help the project to better identify, engage, manage and communicate with stakeholders in the ever-changing socio-political landscape in Libya.
- To facilitate the exchange of experience among OIC countries, SESRIC delivered a presentation on how to develop SMEs in fragile and conflict-affected countries in the Training Program on Technology, Entrepreneurship, Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation and Technology Parks organized by Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) in Istanbul from 23-25 April 2018. Additionally, SESRIC delivered another presentation on the workshop of Boosting Private Sector and Entrepreneurship Policies in Afghanistan organized by OECD held in Istanbul in the period from 26-27 April focusing on the Model of BINA Business Incubator.



### 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 21 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 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Conference of Transport Ministers.
- **Expert Group Meeting on Digital Transformation:** The meeting was organized on 11-12 September 2018 at SESRIC HQ in Ankara, Turkey. With the participation of 10 experts in digital transformation. The meeting aimed to promote the OIC cooperation and explore opportunities for future partnerships for the benefit of OIC countries.

#### 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	Training Course on "Development of Halal Tourism"	23-25 October 2018	Uzbekistan	SMIIC	Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- 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 11 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **Project on "Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development"**: SESRIC implemented a project, which was funded under the 5th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding, on Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) under the theme "Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development". The programme took place in the historical city of Malatya, Turkey on 09-12 July 2018. The project included two days training course and two days study visits. The main objective of the programme was to provide participants with an exceptional opportunity to learn how to develop a sound Islamic tourism destination and industry in their countries.
- **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
2	Practical and Theoretical Training Course on "Development of Sustainable Transgenic Technology, Commercialization and Post-release Monitoring"	08-10 May 2018	OIC Cotton Producing Countries	Pakistan (Punjab University Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology)	Ankara, Turkey
3	Seminar on "Regional Seminar on Innovative Technologies in Water Sector for the achievement of the SDG 6"	26-28 June 2018	Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uzbekistan	Jordan (University of Jordan)	Amman, Jordan

4	Study Visit on “Sustainable Aquaculture in Palestine”	24-28 September 2018	Palestine (Ministry of Agriculture, Palestine)	Turkey (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey and Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute (AKSAM))	Antalya, 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 agriculture sector and food security, OICStat of SESRIC includes 62 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **OIC Water Report 2018:** The report analyses the issues of water availability, water demand, pressure on water resources, water scarcity, water dependency, and the balancing of water use and food production. The report also assesses the status of implementing the OIC Water Vision in different OIC Countries. Accordingly, the report proposes some policy recommendations for OIC countries to achieve water security.
- Pursuant to the decision of the Third Islamic Conference of Water Ministers (ICWM) held in Istanbul, Turkey on 17-19 May 2016 to establish the OIC Water Council, **the First Meeting of the OIC Water Council** was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 16 November 2017, the OIC Water Council in its first meeting developed an Implementation Plan for the OIC Water Vision and in that implementation plan tasked SESRIC with liaising with centers of excellences and research institutions in the field of water in OIC countries. SESRIC determined that the best modality to achieve this task is to establish an online network of centers of excellences and research institution in the field of Water in OIC countries. OIC Water Network will be hosted by SESRIC, which will provide the secretariat support for the Network, such as maintaining the mailing list of members, facilitating interaction among members, and hosting the knowledge assets, and carrying out other similar functions assigned to it by the EC.

## 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	-	IsDB, 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)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA))	Khartoum, Sudan
3	Infection Control and Quality Management Course Programme	11-15 December 2017	Gambia	Turkey	IsDB, TIKA	Banjul, Gambia
4	Workshop on 'Developing the Capacities of National Institutions Working in the Field of Women Empowerment in OIC Member States'	17-18 December 2017	OIC Member States	-	OIC General Secretariat and IsDB	Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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
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
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

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
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)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA))	Khartoum, Sudan
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'	18 April 2018	OIC Member States	-	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Istanbul, Turkey

	Practices into the Health Systems and Health Services’					
16	Preparatory Senior Experts Meeting for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)	11-13 April 2018	Member States of the OIC-OSHNET	-	Turkey (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	Study Visit on ‘Metadata’	07-09 May 2018	Saudi Arabia (General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT))	Jordan (Department of Statistics of Jordan)	-	Amman, Jordan
19	Training of trainers course on ‘Disaster and Prehospital Medicine Training of Trainers’	2-11 May 2018	Sudan (Ministry of Health of Sudan)	Turkey (Urla Emergency Disaster Training and Simulation Centre)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA))	Izmir, Turkey
20	Training Programme on ‘Intensive Care & Infection Control’	25 June - 13 July 2018	Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Ankara, Turkey
21	Training Course on ‘Disaster and Prehospital Medicine’ in Suda	15-19 July 2018	Sudan (Ministry of Health of Sudan)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA))	Khartoum, Sudan
22	Study Visit on ‘Understanding the Business of Statistics and Project Management’	26-27 July 2018	Albania (Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) of Albania)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Jakarta, Indonesia

23	High Level Regional Seminar on Promoting Cancer Awareness and Advocacy Programmes in the OIC African Member States	1-2 August 2018	African countries	-	OIC, IsDB, WHO, Burkina Faso authorities	Ougadougou, Burkina Faso
24	Statistical Seminar on 'Examination of International Education Reports and Monitoring of Educational Indicators'	6 August 2018	Turkey (Maarif Foundation)	SESRIC	-	Istanbul, Turkey
25	Introduction Course on Disaster and Emergency Interventions	12-16 August 2018	Sudan (Ministry of Health of Sudan)	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)	Khartoum, Sudan
26	Statistics Course on 'Analytical and Critical Thinking'	3-4 September 2018	Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) of Albania	BPS-Statistics Indonesia	-	Tirana, Albania
27	Statistics Course on 'Analytical and Critical Thinking'	3-4 September 2018	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)	Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS)	-	Kampala, Uganda
28	Statistics Course on 'Labour Statistics'	04-06 September 2018	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt	Department of Statistics (DOS) of Malaysia	-	Cairo, Egypt
29	Statistics Course on 'Dissemination, Data Warehousing'	23-25 September 2018	Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of Iraq	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)	-	Baghdad, Iraq
30	Statistics Course on 'Data Analysis'	25-27 September 2018	Ministry of Development Planning & Statistics (MDPS) of Qatar	Department of Statistics (HCP) of Morocco	-	Doha, Qatar
31	Study Visit on 'Metadata'	26-18 September 2018	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt	-	Cairo, Egypt



32	Study Visit on 'Classifications'	2-4 October 2018	General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of Saudi Arabia	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan	-	Amman, Jordan
33	20 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians	10-19 October 2018	National Statistical Offices of OIC MCs	SESRIC, ILO	-	Geneva, Switzerland
34	Second UN World Data Forum, and 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB)	21-25 October 2018	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)	Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)	-	Dubai, UAE
35	Workshop on 'Transforming TQS Data into Action'	12-15 November 2018	National Statistical Offices of OIC MCs	SESRIC, CDC, CDC-Foundation	WHO	Ankara, Turkey
36	Study Visit on 'Community Outreach through Social Media for National Statistics Offices'	14-16 November 2018	Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of Iraq	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia	-	Putrajaya, Malaysia
37	Study Visit on 'Justice and Crime Statistics'	21-23 November 2018	Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economics of Kazakhstan	State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan	-	Baku, Azerbaijan
38	GIT Training Course on ERCP Technique for Syrian Doctor	9 September – 30 November 2018	Syrian doctors	Turkey	UOSSM	Ankara, Turkey
39	Trainers Course on 'Disaster and Prehospital Medicine'	30 September - 12 October 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
40	Training Course on 'Occupational Health and Safety Training'	24-25 October 2018	Palestine	Turkey	-	Palestine

41	Training Course on 'Intensive Care & Infection Control'	25 November - 14 December 2018	Sudan, Chad, Palestine, Mauritania, Djibouti	Ministry of Health of Turkey	-	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 poverty, OICStat of SESRIC includes 154 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **OIC International Internship Program (OIC Intern):** OIC Intern was launched on 16 November 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey with the aim of 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 is currently being 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. During the first call almost 4000 students applied for internship in the industry, among which 600 were chosen and 300 placed for internship in companies and partner institutions.
- **Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship Development (SPEED) Project:** SESRIC, together with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), The Credit Guarantee Fund of Turkey (KGF), Turkish Red Crescent (KIZILAY), Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Turkey (TOBB) and UNDP jointly launched “Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship Development – SPEED” Project during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Session of COMCEC. The project underlines the partnering institutions’ mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts that will serve as the driver of economic empowerment and resilience of youth living in an environment of continuous fragility, violence or conflict. Currently social surveys are being undertaken on the field in order to gather necessary data to identify the skills gap and accordingly prepare training program.
- **SESRIC launched the OIC Health Portal:** SESRIC launched the OIC Health Portal during the 6<sup>th</sup> 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).

- **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 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 identifies 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 Elderly in OIC Member Countries 2018: Responding to the Needs of Elderly:** This Report looks at the state of elderly in OIC Member Countries in comparative perspective and reveals key challenges faced by them. The Report presents key statistics regarding elderly demographics as well as focuses on social and economic well-being of elderly by providing an assessment such as on selected health related indicators and social security arrangements for elderly people in OIC Member Countries.
- **OIC Women and Development Report 2018: Enhancing Women Entrepreneurship for Development:** The Report aims to assess the state of women in OIC Member States in comparative perspective and identifies key challenges faced by women in social and economic life through using qualitative and quantitative datasets. The report specifically focuses on the issue of women and entrepreneurship and highlights the importance of encouraging women to become entrepreneurs in order to increase their contribution to the development of their societies. The report finally proposes some recommendations to serve as broad policy guidelines to overcome specific challenges faced by women in OIC Member States.
- **Circulation of the Emergency Medicine Services (EMS) Needs Assessment Survey 2018:** EMS Needs Assessment Survey 2018 has the objective to gather data from all EMS providers in the OIC to better understand their needs and capacities. The findings from this Survey will be used to implement the project titled "Strengthening Coordination and

Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member States" and to improve the level of services delivered by EMS providers in OIC countries by determining how to allocate possible resources, funding and training opportunities for them.

- **Surgery Training in Palestine:** The training is scheduled to be held on 29 November-1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 in Gazza, Palestine and represented a great opportunity for sharing knowledge in surgery and brief the doctors of the modern techniques to deal with different cases.
- **Workshop on ‘Peer Review Mechanisms for National Statistical Offices in OIC Member Countries’:** SESRIC in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21) organised the Workshop on ‘Peer Review Mechanisms for National Statistical Offices in OIC Member Countries’ on 19-20 December 2017 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. This workshop aimed at briefing the workshop participants about Peer Review mechanism including the roadmap and tools as well as sharing knowledge by the member countries who had experiences in conducting Peer Review in their countries.
- **Meeting with the Delegates of National Statistical Offices of OIC Member Countries in USA:** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised the annual Meeting with the Delegates of National Statistical Offices of OIC Member Countries on 8 March 2018 as a side event meeting of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York, USA. During the meeting, 35 delegates from 19 OIC Member Countries and 3 representatives of the international organisations were briefed on the progress of the OIC-StatCom activities and current surveys conducted by SESRIC and future projects of the OIC-StatCom. The delegates also shared their inputs and comments about the possible themes of the Seventh Session of OIC-StatCom which took place on 2-3 May 2018.
- **Seventh Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) in Turkey:** The Seventh Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) was co-organised by SESRIC and Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) on 2-3 May 2018 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from 31 OIC member countries attended the Session. Besides the OIC General Secretariat, the representatives of 9 international organisations took part in the meeting. In addition to the reviewing of the activities of the OIC-StatCom, the participants discussed and shared experiences and best practices on issues mainly related to: “Improvement of Census Conduct and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses”, “Enhancing the Production, Dissemination, and Use of Migration Statistics”, and “Prioritisation and Measurement of SDG Indicators and Their Reconciliation and Ownership at the National Level”.

- **Workshop on Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS):** The Workshop was organised by SESRIC in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDC Foundation on 12-15 November 2018 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The objective of the Workshop was to share the knowledge and experiences encountered throughout the integration process of TQS into ongoing surveys and provide comprehensive information and technical support to the OIC Member Countries in the way forward. The Workshop was attended by delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries of Health of OIC member countries. The representatives of the CDC Foundation, the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO-EMRO), WHO Turkey Office and Turkish Green Crescent (YESILAY) also participated in the Workshop.
- **SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries:** SESRIC prepared and published the SWOT Outlook 2018 which can be accessed through: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-books.php>. The SWOT Outlook acts as a reference point towards enhancing the level of their cooperation and integration as well as the level of competitiveness among the OIC countries to support their cooperation and integration efforts.
- **Statistical Yearbook 2018 OIC Member Countries:** A wide and dependable statistical information base is essential for all kinds of decision-making processes in any society. The Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Member Countries has been published since 1980. The current *Statistical Yearbook 2018 OIC Member Countries* covers the periods 2000, 2005, and 2010 to 2018 under the categories of Agriculture, Demography, Education, Energy, Environment, Gender and Family, Health, Indices, Industry and Manufacturing, Infrastructure, International Finance, Islamic Banking and Finance, Labour and Social Protection, Money and Prices, National Accounts, Private Sector, Public Finance, Science, Technology and Innovation, Tobacco Control, Tourism, Trade, and Water.
- **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 SESRIC 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 to identify the priorities of OIC member countries with respect to 17 SDGs, 169 goals, and 230 SDGs indicators in August 2016. So far, 34 OIC countries have responded in which 16 of them are complete while 18 of them are still in complete. Additionally, in line with the relevant Resolutions of the 31st and 32nd 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. Against this background, the interim study titled ***“Results of the Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries”*** has been prepared by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in line with the above resolutions and covers the activities follow-up of the international fora on SDGs and results of the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries”. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC in 2017 through Resolution #114 invited the Member States, who have not done so yet, to complete the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries” designed and circulated by the SESRIC and requested SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 34th Follow-Up Committee Meeting and 34th COMCEC Session”.

- **Peer Review for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer):** The project aims to facilitate south-south learning in statistical development through a peer review mechanism to enhance the credibility of the National Statistical Systems (NSS), to strengthen the system’s capacity to produce high-quality statistics and to reassure stakeholders about the quality of statistics produced by the NSOs and the trustworthiness of the system. In this regard, the Centre has circulated a survey called ‘OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS)’ (also accessible under <http://www.sesric.org/activities-announcements-detail.php?id=404>) to the NSOs of OIC Member Countries with the aim to learn the current situation on the implementation of Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in OIC member countries. Based on the responses given to the survey, SESRIC will work together with all relevant national, regional, international and supranational stakeholders for the implementation of peer reviews of NSOs of OIC countries and supported the proposal of a multilateral agreement among SESRIC, Eurostat, PARIS21 and AUC for determining the cooperation modalities among them concerning the OIC-Peer Programme to support the countries in their common scope of work. In addition, SESRIC, as being the main information bank of OIC and the secretariat of OIC-StatCom, will host an Online Repository of Peer Review Documents with proper intellectual property acknowledgements and requested relevant stakeholders to share the related documents with SESRIC.
- **Integration of the ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS)’ into the National Surveys in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States:** The main aim of the project is to technically support the OIC Member Countries in their efforts to integrate the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) into the on-going national surveys. The integration of TQS into the framework of on-going surveys in OIC Member States will serve as a mechanism to harmonize and standardize the monitoring of key tobacco control indicators regularly and promote sustainability and integration with other risk factors surveillance initiatives. At the beginning, 15 OIC member countries have been selected for a pilot study. 10 of them namely Azerbaijan, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, have fully completed the project. In order to increase the level of participation of OIC Member Countries in the

TQS integration project, 2 additional member countries including Palestine and Suriname have also been approached. In total, 18 member countries will finally integrate TQS into their ongoing national surveys by the end of 2019.

- **OIC-UN Cooperation:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Session of UN-OIC Coordination Meeting was held at the ISESCO Headquarters on 03-05 July 2018 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. The biannual regular meeting evaluated the progress of joint cooperation activities in order to set directions, make assessments, evaluate prospects and provide a follow-up for collaboration between the two major international organizations and it was attended by high level delegations from both the OIC General Secretariat and relevant institutions of the OIC and the UN. During the three-day meeting, SESRIC presented its progress reports on the implementation of the agreed activities between the two organisations, during the three working groups; namely, Political Matters; Economic Issues; and Cultural, Social and Humanitarian Issues. In addition to the adaptation of the cooperation matrix, the meeting also adopted a number of recommendations on election partnership; fight against terrorism; protection against violent extremism, human rights and rules of law; peace building; countering conflicts; democracy and good governance; economic, scientific, cultural, social and human affairs; and south-south cooperation.
- **Second Dialogue Meeting of the IsDB MCs Technical Cooperation Agencies:** SESRIC participated in the the Second Dialogue Meeting of the IsDB MCs Technical Cooperation Agencies (TCAs) which was jointly organised by Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) and the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT) on 12-13 December 2017 in Tunis, Tunisia. The main outcome of the meeting was to reinforce the coordination and cooperation among the Member Countries TCAs, as well as with IsDB and monitor the implementation of the 3.2.C Initiative Roadmap 2017-2020 adopted at the first dialogue meeting in Jeddah on December 2016.
- **Symposium on ‘South-South Cooperation: trends and challenges ahead of the BAPA+40 Conference’:** SESRIC participated in the Symposium on ‘South-South Cooperation: trends and challenges ahead of the BAPA+40 Conference’. The meeting aimed to reinforce the coordination and cooperation among the Technical Cooperation Agencies on the main topics expected to be addressed at the upcoming United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), with a view to the exchange of ideas and deepen mutual understanding.
- **Preparatory Senior Experts Meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET):** The meeting brought together senior experts from the relevant Occupational Safety and Health authorities of the member states of the OIC-OSHNET. The meeting also provided an opportunity to review the progress of the actions, and was concluded with an outcome joint statement to be presented to the Heads of the Occupational Safety and Health Authorities of the OIC Member States at the 4th Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET).

- **First Meeting of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) of the Capacity Development Project on "Improving Occupational Safety and Health in Mauritania":** SESRIC organized the First Meeting of Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) of the Capacity Development Project on “Improving Occupational Safety and Health in Mauritania” on 18-20 June 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The main objective of the technical meeting was to overview the progress of the project and to review the technical specification document prepared for the devices and equipment to be procured by TIKa with the support of technical experts participating in this study. Additionally, it was aimed to monitor the current status of the new building of the ONMT where the new devices and equipment of OSH laboratory will be established and operated.
- **South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Youth4South Edition:** The training was designed to develop the capacities of the participants on the foundations and the modalities of the South-South & Triangular Cooperation (SS&TC) approach in the context of 2030 agenda and to be able to effectively apply SS&TC in the areas of rural development and health. The training was attended by 24 participants of whom 15 are the representatives of OIC countries. During the training, the trainees had the chance to develop their capacities on the principals, characteristics and modalities of South-South Cooperation.
- **Fourth Regional Networking Forum on "the Promotion of Entrepreneurship through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Establishment of Southern Business Platform":** The 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was jointly organised by SESRIC, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Union for Mediterranean (UfM), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey on 28 June 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. The 4th Regional Networking Forum more specifically focused on how the private sector in the Member States can be successfully integrated into the 2030 Agenda and strategically engaged in development cooperation, specifically through the south-south and triangular cooperation (SS&TC) mechanism.
- **Launching of a joint publication on “Best Practices Guidelines and Toolkit on Engaging the Private Sector in Skills Development”:** The Guidelines and Toolkit, jointly developed by UNDP IICPSD and SESRIC, was launched during the Fourth Regional Networking Forum on 28 June 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. The joint publication of SESRIC and UNDP IICPSD is a global product that aims to inspire, motivate and mobilize the private sector to engage in skills training more actively and help stakeholders to collaborate more closely with companies, chambers of commerce and business associations.
- **Workshop on "Enhancing Humanitarian Response and Resilience through CSOs in OIC Member States":** SESRIC, in collaboration with the IsDB, ISFD, TRC and IRW



organised a Workshop on “Enhancing the Humanitarian Response and Resilience through CSOs in OIC Member States” on 02-03 October 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. The main objectives of the workshop were to examine the challenges and opportunities for effective humanitarian and resilience responses led by CSOs and to strengthen the capacity of NGOs that operate in conflict-affected countries and fragile situations.

- **Third Dialogue Meeting of the OIC Member Countries Technical Cooperation Agencies:** SESRIC participated in the Third Dialogue Meeting of the OIC Member Countries Technical Cooperation Agencies (TCA) which was held on 18-19 October 2018, in Bali, Indonesia. The main aim of the meeting was to reinforce the collaboration among the TCAs of the OIC Member Countries.
- **GSSD Expo 2018:** SESRIC participated in the “GSSD Expo 2018: Showcasing Institutions Supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Preparation for the BAPA+40 Conference” which was held in New York, USA from 28 to 30 November 2018. Throughout the EXPO, SESRIC attended and presented its activities at the relevant sessions and panels in order to reflect the efforts of the Centre and the OIC MCs in the field of SS&TC.

## 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	Workshop on ‘Capacity Building of the Libyan Audit Bureau’	21 December 2017	Libya (the Libyan Audit Bureau)	Turkey (Turkish Court of Accounts (Sayıştay), the Financial Crimes Investigation Board of Turkey (MASAK) and the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and Middle East (TODAİE))	-	Ankara, Turkey
2	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	Ramallah, Palestine

					Center of Islamic Banking and Economics	
3	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
4	Statistics Course on 'Income and Consumption Statistics'	20-22 March 2018	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Perak, Malaysia
5	Study Visit on 'Income and Consumption Statistics'	8-10 October 2018	Jordan (Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan)	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia	-	Tunis, Tunisia
6	Statistical Seminar on 'Survey Design and Implementation'	8-12 October 2018	National Statistical Offices of OIC MCs	SESRIC, Central Bank of Republic of Turkey	-	Istanbul, Turkey
7	Workshop on Islamic Finance in the National Accounts	31 October – 2 November 2018	National Statistical Offices of OIC MCs	SESRIC, UNSD, UNESCWA	-	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 finance, OICStat of SESRIC includes 51 indicators which are being updated regularly.
- **Statistical Seminar on 'Survey Design and Implementation'**: Istanbul School of Central Banking (IMB) of Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT) organised the Statistical Seminar on "Survey Design and Implementation" on 8-12 October 2018 in Istanbul in partnership with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC). The main focus of the Seminar was to improve the knowledge of the participants on designing and conducting surveys, particularly those carried out by the CBRT. By initiating a dialogue that leads to a more effective use of survey statistics, improve quality, and encourage innovation, the Seminar included the survey process (from the literature search to data processing into statistical information) and address various methodological and compilation issues.
- **Official Development Assistance (ODA) Statistics in OIC Member Countries**: To facilitate and contribute to the efforts of the OIC member countries in appropriately measuring and reporting the Official Development Assistance (ODA), SESRIC has

contacted the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) the leading international forum for bilateral providers of development co-operation and met with the DAC officials in Konya in November 2016, during the Sixth Session of OIC-StatCom, for paving the way forward in this regard. The cooperation with OECD DAC continues based on the membership of SESRIC in Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Task Force. Agreement in 2019 on the TOSSD scope and reporting method will enable the integration of TOSSD in the SDG monitoring framework in 2020. Accordingly, pilot exercises on the implementation of the TOSSD may be conducted in collaboration with the OECD-DCD in volunteering OIC countries. In this regard, the SESRIC delegation has attended three meetings of the TOSSD Task Force so far in 2017 and 2018. Besides and in accordance with the Resolution #3.b of the Sixth Session of OIC-StatCom requesting SESRIC to thoroughly study the ODA situation in OIC countries with an aim to construct the underlying basis towards the collection of related statistics in the member countries in line with SDG 10.B and SDG 17.3. By taking the challenges and concerns of member countries into consideration, the SESRIC has prepared and circulated to OIC countries the “Survey on Mapping the Landscape of Development Assistance and Cooperation in OIC Member Countries”. The aim of the Survey is to gather institutional information, activities of existing National Development Assistance Agencies (DAAs) in member countries responsible for the coordination of ODA and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes related to economic and social development. The Survey covers the aspects of institutional information, background, activities and statistics related to the ODA and other kinds of development aid under the responsibility of the national DAAs. Additionally, the to-be-collected data through the said Survey will prepare the basis for the online Directory of Development Assistance Agencies of OIC Member Countries and a statistical brief on Official Development Assistance Landscape in OIC Member Countries.

- **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. Up to now, 45 institutions from 31 OIC countries have submitted the survey responses. As an initial attempt to construct the database, the indicators basically on Islamic finance industry size and structure are integrated into OICStat database under a newly established category “Islamic Banking and Finance” which are available for 19 countries retrieved from different national and international sources such as IFSB and publications of mainly Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC countries. Through collaboration with various stakeholders at national and international levels such as having joined in the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) Task Force on Islamic

Finance initiated by UNSD with the participation of other relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, the Secretariat closely follows up the developments in the Islamic finance statistics arena and strengthens the synergy to improve the Islamic finance data quality and sound infrastructure for better data production and dissemination.

- **Workshop on Islamic Finance in the National Accounts:** SESRIC organised the Meeting of the Working Groups of Task Force on Islamic Finance on 31 October - 02 November 2018 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey, in collaboration with United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). The Task Force on Islamic Banking has been established by the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and is chaired by UNSD to further research on the statistical implications of Islamic Banking in the national accounts and develop practical guidance on the treatment of Islamic Banking transactions. The objective of the meeting was to have the draft guidance and recommendations of the working groups.

-----

**October 03, 2018.**