

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



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

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REPORT OF

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

ON

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

SUBMITTED TO

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the technical activities and programmes that have been conducted by SESRIC towards the implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations to be submitted to the 38th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which will be held on 26-29 November 2022 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues on the agendas of various OIC conferences and related meetings, particularly the sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. In doing so, the Centre continued to make a significant contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions to address the challenges and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant fields.

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

During the period under review, SESRIC has made efforts to strengthen intra-OIC South-South cooperation by implementing a wide range of capacity building programmes and training activities on various socio-economic fields of immediate interest to the OIC Member States. Currently, the Centre has 19 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide range of areas such as agriculture, environment, disaster risk management, finance, health, water resources, poverty alleviation, public employment and tourism. These programmes are implemented in close cooperation with relevant national institutions in the OIC Member States through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits.

Furthermore, during the period under review, SESRIC signed 2 agreements with the relevant national institutions of the OIC Member States to strengthen its ties with its partners for a better implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations:

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	Bureau of Statistics of Cooperative Republic of Guyana	11 April 2022
2.	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)	14 September 2022

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

AGENDA ITEMS:

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

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

- **Impacts of Trade Facilitation and Logistics Performance on Trade Flows: The Case of Landlocked African OIC Countries:** SESRIC and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) conducted this joint research study to assess the potential impacts of trade facilitation measures on intra-AfCFTA trade flows in five landlocked African OIC Member Countries, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Uganda. The study employs a diverse set of data and rigorous methodology to investigate gains from trade facilitation and improved logistics infrastructure in these selected countries by simulating an improvement in their index scores to the African and/or world average.
- **Statistical Training Course on “International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Statistical Training Course on “International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments” on 13-15 September 2022. The training course was organised in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) with technical expertise from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for the benefit of participants from NSOs of 14 OIC Member Countries.
- **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database:** SESRIC is hosting 152 indicators under the International Trade category of the OICStat Database, which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of enhancing the role of the private sector in economic cooperation:

- **Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Business Formation and Entrepreneurship Skills Development”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC organised an online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Business Formation and Entrepreneurship Skills Development” on 8-10 November 2021. The ToT course was organised in collaboration with the Gambia OIC-Secretariat for the benefit of participants from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions and Business Development Institutes in the Gambia.
- **Webinar on “Use of Business Registers for Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics”:** Within the framework of its Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Use of Business Registers for Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics” on 28 March 2022. The webinar was organised in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 24 OIC Member Countries.

- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Indicators”**: SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Indicators” on 01-03 November 2022. The training course was organised in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) with technical expertise from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Workshop on “Knowledge-Economy, Promotion of Entrepreneurship Activities and Reducing Informal Employment in the OIC Region”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC organised an online Training Workshop on “Knowledge-Economy, Promotion of Entrepreneurship Activities and Reducing Informal Employment” on 01-03 November 2022. The training workshop was provided by the Ministry of Labor of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the benefit of public employment agencies/ authorities in the OIC Member Countries. The training workshop included exchange of experiences sessions during which the participating countries shared their best practices on the subject of the training.
- **OICStat Database**: SESRIC is hosting 39 indicators under the Private Sector category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on improving transport and communications:

- **Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics”**: SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics” on 26-28 July 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 9 OIC Member Countries.
- **Project titled “Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries”**: Within the framework of the 9th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented the project titled “Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries” for the benefit of public PPP authorities and relevant Ministries in the OIC Member Countries. The project aimed at improving the legal and regulatory framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the transport sector in the OIC Member Countries. The project activities included:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector”**: SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector” on 13-14 September 2022. The training course was attended by senior-level officials from public PPP authorities as well as the relevant Ministries responsible for executing national PPP strategies and policies in the transport area in 21 OIC Member Countries. The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of

participants on the theoretical aspects of the regulatory framework for PPPs, including policies, laws, regulations, institutions and procedures.

- ✓ **Workshop on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector”:** SESRIC organised an online Workshop on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector” on 18-19 October 2022. The workshop provided an opportunity for the staff of national PPP authorities to learn, share and exchange knowledge and best practices as well as explore cooperation opportunities in order to develop a robust regulatory framework for PPPs in the OIC Member Countries. The work programme included presentations and case studies from the Member Countries as well as discussion sessions on overcoming the common regulatory challenges regarding transport PPPs.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 41 indicators under the Transportation and Communication category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

- **International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic:** SESRIC prepared this report as a technical background document for the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which was held on 27-29 June 2022 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of international tourism in the OIC countries, evaluates the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism and travel sector and proposes a number of policy recommendations for the post-pandemic recovery and development of the tourism sector in OIC countries.
- **Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges:** As per the request of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared and submitted this comprehensive research study in December 2021. The study analyses the current state of the Halal Industry in terms of finance, food, tourism and lifestyle markets. Among others, the report particularly overviews the state of the Islamic tourism sector in OIC Member Countries and provides a set of policy recommendations on ways and means to unleash its potential in the OIC group.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Culture Statistics”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Culture Statistics” on 7-9 February 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from DoS of Jordan for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 7 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Webinar on “Managing and Marketing Protected Areas”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC and ICDT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, jointly organised a Training Webinar on “Managing and Marketing Protected Areas” on 21-22 February 2022. The training webinar was provided by

competent experts and academicians from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Türkiye, and SESRIC for the benefit of participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism in 10 West African OIC Member Countries, which are the beneficiaries of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Park and Protected Areas in West Africa”.

- **Training Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Gambia OIC-Secretariat, organised an online Training Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services” on 14-16 March 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education under the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of participants from public and private tourism authorities as well as TVET institutions in the Gambia.
- **Training Webinar on “Prospects of Sustainable Tourism in OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the ICDT, organised a Training Webinar on “Prospects of Sustainable Tourism in OIC Member Countries” on 1-2 June 2022. The training webinar was provided by competent experts and academicians from Bangladesh, Malaysia, and SESRIC for the benefit of participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism of 23 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics” on 6-8 June 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 4 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the Field of Halal Tourism Industry to Improve the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) as well as the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the Field of Halal Tourism Industry to Improve the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations” on 19-21 July 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia for the benefit of experts and executives from ministries of Tourism and national tourism institutions of 23 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Sustainable Tourism Indicators”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Sustainable Tourism Indicators” on 12-14 September 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from BPS-Statistics Indonesia for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 18 OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Webinar on “Prospects of Health Tourism in OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC and ICDT jointly organised a Training Webinar on “Prospects of Health Tourism in OIC Member Countries” on 8-9 November 2022. The training webinar was provided by competent experts and academicians for the benefit of experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism in the OIC Member Countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 12 indicators under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security:

- **OIC Environment Report 2021:** This report examines the current state of the environment and its management in OIC Member Countries by using the most recent data available on major relevant indicators. This edition of the report portrays the importance of natural capital, of which agricultural land is a significant component, to the wealth of OIC Member Countries, and also highlights the OIC Member Countries' progress towards meeting the targets on environment-related sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement commitments. The report suggests some policy recommendations to assist OIC Member Countries achieve more sustainable environmental resource management amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Water Situation and Challenges in OIC Countries:** During the 9th World Water Forum, held in Dakar, Senegal, on 21-26 March 2022, SESRIC participated in the High-Level Dialogue on Mainstreaming Climate Action in the Water Sector, which was co-organised by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the League of Arab States (LAS). At this high-level discussion panel, held on 24 March 2022, SESRIC made a presentation on “Water Situation and Challenges in OIC Countries”, which highlighted the current state and trends and the key challenges in the water sector in OIC Member Countries and provided recommendations towards sustainable water resources management.
- **Training Course on “Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton - Sample Collection Activities”:** Within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project between Bangladesh and Türkiye on “Enhancing Capacity in Cotton Varieties Development”, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Training Course on “Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton - Sample Collection Activities” on 17-28 January 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training course was provided by competent trainers from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Türkiye for the benefit of cotton experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.

- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators” on 14-16 March 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from DoS of Jordan for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 5 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators”:** SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators” on 25-26 May 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from DOSM for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 11 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Waste Water Management and Recycling”:** Within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 4th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), organised an online Training Course on “Waste Water Management and Recycling” on 13-16 June 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET) for the benefit of participants from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of wastewater management and recycling in 22 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Enhancing Food Security through Efficient Irrigation Systems”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia, organised an online Training Course on “Enhancing Food Security through Efficient Irrigation Systems” on 23-25 August 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from MARDI for the benefit of experts and executives from Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of agriculture and water resources management of 22 OIC Member Countries. Representatives from the relevant OIC Institutions, including the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and SESRIC, also delivered comprehensive presentations highlighting their efforts in this domain.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 104 indicators under the Agriculture category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- **Socio-Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Countries: Pathways for Sustainable and Resilient Recovery:** As per the request of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared, in continuance to its previous report on the same topic, an updated report that provides a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in OIC Member Countries and highlights a diverse set of policy reactions and good practices in response to the pandemic under 18 socio-economic categories. The report also suggests a number of policy recommendations under these categories with a view to

supporting sustainable and resilient recovery in OIC Member Countries. SESRIC completed and submitted the report to the OIC General Secretariat in March 2022.

- **South-South Cooperation and the Gender Equality Factor in the Emerging Multilateralism:** SESRIC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), published a thematic paper on “South-South Cooperation and the Gender Equality Factor in the Emerging Multilateralism”. The paper highlights the potential of South-South cooperation (SSC) in catalysing efforts towards the recognition of women’s role in sustainable development and the achievement of gender equality in the Global South.
- **Elderly and Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries:** Within the scope of the activities of the OIC during Dubai Expo 2020, SESRIC organised a Seminar on “Elderly and Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries” on 2 December 2021 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Seminar provided a platform to discuss and highlight the common challenges faced by the elderly and persons with disabilities, evaluate the prospects for improving their quality of life, exchange knowledge and best practices in this area, and extend efforts towards enhancing intra-OIC cooperation.
- **State of Youth in the OIC Member States 2022:** This report prepared by the SESRIC in collaboration with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) examines the state of youth in the OIC Member States to identify key challenges faced by them, understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the development of youth, highlight best practices and formulate a set of policy recommendations to spearhead the post-pandemic recovery. The report was launched and presented during the 5th Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM), which was held on 7-9 September 2022 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- **Education and Scientific Development in OIC Member Countries:** Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, this report analyses and examines the trends in the major indicators in the field of educational and scientific developments in the OIC Member Countries. The report also highlights the current stance of R&D and S&T in the OIC Member Countries by evaluating their average performance in terms of some related indicators such as human resources in R&D, R&D expenditures, scientific publications and patent applications. In so doing, the report underlines a number of constraints and challenges confronting the OIC Member Countries in their efforts to foster their educational and scientific development.
- **Training Course on “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 6th and 7th Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM), the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa” on 6-8 December 2021. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Kingdom of Morocco for the benefit of participants from the Ministries of Health of 12 OIC Member Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Training Course on “Strengthening Institutional Capacity on Vocational Qualifications”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Strengthening Institutional Capacity on Vocational Qualifications” on 13-15 December 2021. The training course was organised in collaboration with the Qatar National Committee for Education, Culture and Science and provided by competent experts from the College of the North Atlantic-Qatar (CNAQ) for the benefit of participants from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 28 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Workshop on “Health and Social Care Policies towards Supporting Independent Living for People with Disabilities”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), the Centre organised a Training Workshop on “Health and Social Care Policies towards Supporting Independent Living for People with Disabilities” on 8-10 February 2022. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Türkiye as well as the Social Security Institution (SGK) of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of services for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and social assistance in 18 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Labour Cost Statistics”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Labour Cost Statistics” on 15-16 February 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for the benefit of participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 7 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Workshop on “Enhancing Collaboration between TVET Institutions and Industry towards Effective Curriculum Development”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Training Workshop on “Enhancing Collaboration between TVET Institutions and Industry towards Effective Curriculum Development” on 21-23 February 2022. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Technical and Vocational Education Training Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia for the benefit of participants from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 25 OIC Member Countries.
- **Workshop on “Protecting and Advancing Children's Rights Including the Ones with Disabilities”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the First Ministerial Conference on Social Development in the OIC Member States, the Centre organised an online Training Workshop on “Protecting and Advancing Children’s Rights Including the Ones with Disabilities” on 22-24 February 2022. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the General Directorate of Child Services at the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of

participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of child services in 25 OIC Member Countries.

- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators” on 14-16 March 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan for the benefit of participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 5 OIC Member Countries.
- **Technical Consultation on “2021 Smoking and Tobacco Consumption Survey Conducted by the PCBS”**: SESRIC organised a Technical Consultation on “2021 Smoking and Tobacco Consumption Survey conducted by PCBS” on 31 March 2022. The technical consultation was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Palestine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDC Foundation, and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO) for the benefit of relevant officials at PCBS within the framework of TQS integration project.
- **Training Course on “Promoting Good Governance of TVET for Efficient System Management”**: Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Promoting Good Governance of TVET for Efficient System Management” on 10-12 May 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia for the benefit of experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 22 OIC Member Countries.
- **Workshop on “Addressing Challenges of Occupational Health in the Future of Work”**: Within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Manpower of the Republic of Indonesia and the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET), organised an online Workshop on “Addressing Challenges of Occupational Health in the Future of Work” on 17-18 May 2022. The Workshop was attended by participants from 21 OIC Member Countries. Competent experts from the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the ASEAN Secretariat and the University of Indonesia also participated and made comprehensive presentations under the relevant technical sessions of the Workshop.
- **Training Course on “Developing Impactful Awareness Raising Campaigns towards Reducing Tobacco Consumption”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB), the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Developing Impactful Awareness Raising Campaigns towards Reducing Tobacco Consumption” on 30-31 May 2022. The training course was provided by

competent experts from the Department of Tobacco and Alcohol at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Green Crescent Society (YEŞİLAY) for the benefit of experts from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of tobacco control of 18 OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Course on “OSH Structures and Labour Inspection”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC’s Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, the Centre, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), organised an online Training Course on “OSH Structures and Labour Inspection” on 7-9 June 2022. The training course was delivered by competent experts from the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) under the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of experts and executives from the national OSH authorities and relevant national institutions of 14 OIC African French-speaking Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 5 (Gender Equality) Indicators”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “SDG 5 (Gender Equality) Indicators” on 7-8 June 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 14 OIC Member Countries.
- **Webinar on “Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster Related Statistics”:** SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster Related Statistics” on 16 June 2022. The webinar was organised in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) with the attendance of participants from the NSOs of 14 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Measuring the Impacts of Labour Market Information on Employment Services”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, the Centre, in collaboration with the Social Security Organization (SOCISO) of Malaysia, organised an online Training Course on “Measuring the Impacts of Labour Market Information on Employment Services” on 21-23 June 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from SOCISO of Malaysia for the benefit of participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 20 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 4 (Quality Education) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Statistical Training Course on “SDG 4 (Quality Education) Indicators” on 22-23 June 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 11 OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Course on “Development of National Vocational Qualifications Framework”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Development of National Vocational Qualifications Framework” on 26-28 July 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Vocational Qualifications Authority (VQA) of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 26 OIC Member Countries.
- **Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacities of National Institutions in the Field of Social Development in the OIC Member States”:** Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions adopted by the 1st OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Istanbul in December 2019 and the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Islamabad in March 2022, SESRIC and the OIC General Secretariat organised an online Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacities of National Institutions in the Field of Social Development in the OIC Member States” on 2-4 August 2022. The Workshop brought together experts and senior officials from the relevant national institutions in the field of social development of 26 OIC Member States and relevant OIC organs and institutions, including IsDB, ICESCO, IPHRC, ICDT, IRCICA, ICCIA, IIUM, ICYF, ISF and WDO, as well as the regional and international organisations, including Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Training Course on “Prevention Strategies for Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases”:** Within the framework of SESRIC IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt, organised an online Training Course on “Prevention Strategies for Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases” on 15-17 August 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts and prominent academicians from the relevant National Institutions and Universities of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the benefit of participants from the Ministries of Health and relevant national institutions of 21 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Demographic and Social Statistics”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Demographic and Social Statistics” on 19-20 September 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from TurkStat, for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 25 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Workshop on “Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Training Workshop on “Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET” on 20-22 September 2022. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the benefit of experts and executives from the Technical and

Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 28 OIC Member Countries.

- **Project titled “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the 9th Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented the project titled “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries” for the benefit of representatives of PES Agencies/ Institutions in the OIC Member Countries. The project aimed at strengthening the human resources and institutional capacities of the PES institutions for alleviating poverty in the OIC countries. The project activities included:
 - ✓ **Workshop on “The Role of Digital Solutions for Effective Delivery of Public Employment Services in the OIC Countries”:** The Centre, in collaboration with the project partners, namely, the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSO), the Ministry of Manpower of the Republic of Indonesia and the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised this online Workshop on 14-15 September 2022. The Workshop highlighted the critical importance of technology adoption in improving the effectiveness of PES and provided a platform to discuss common challenges and deliberate on possible solutions in this domain. The Workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences and best practices on the topic and have a better understanding of the capacity development needs and priorities of the PES Institutions in the OIC Member Countries.
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of PES in the OIC Member Countries”:** The Centre, in collaboration with the project partners, organised this online Training Course on 19-20 October 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) for the benefit of participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 22 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Web Design and Coding”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Web Design and Coding” on 12-13 October 2022. The ToT course was provided by prominent experts for the benefit of experts and professionals from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of the OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Indicators”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Indicators” on 1-3 November 2022. The training course was organised in collaboration with ECO and with technical expertise from DOSM for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Workshop on “Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills of the Kingdom of Morocco, organised an online Training Workshop on “Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies” on 15-16 November 2022. The training workshop was delivered by competent experts from the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) of the Kingdom of Morocco for the benefit of experts and executives from the relevant Ministries and National Institutions of OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 56 indicators related to poverty alleviation (SDG 1 “No Poverty” indicators) under the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

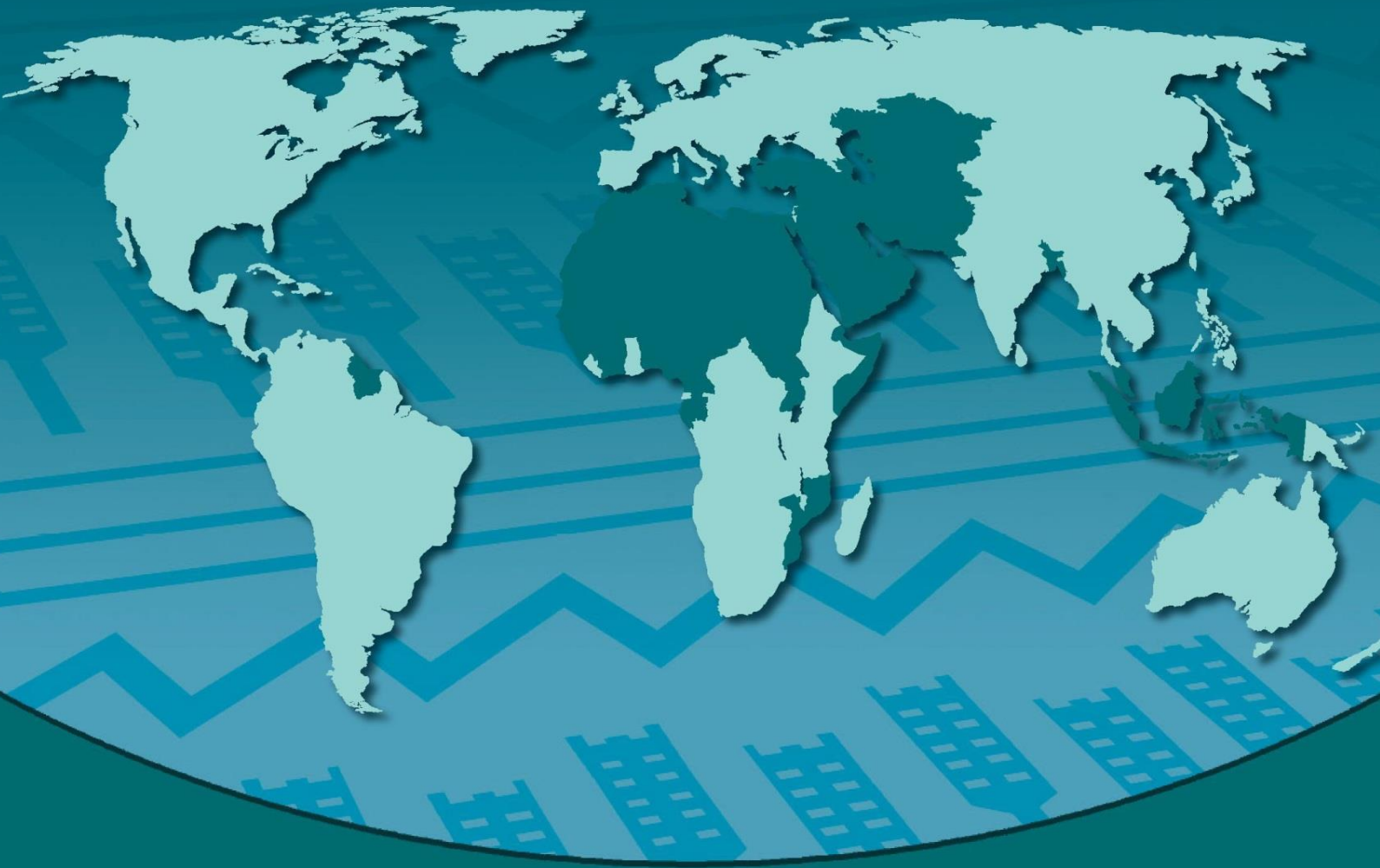
- **OIC Statistical Outlook on “Remittance Flows and Costs in OIC Countries”:** The OIC Statistical Outlook 2022: Remittance Flows and Costs in OIC Countries, published on 23 June 2022, presents the trends in remittances inflows and outflows to/from OIC countries and provides an analysis on the average costs associated with receiving and sending a remittance, and compares it with the flows of other components of foreign exchange, namely Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). The study shed light on the current progress of the OIC countries group towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.c that calls for reducing remittance transaction costs to under 3% of the amount remitted and eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% across all regions and countries by 2030. The said Outlook is accessible through <https://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php>.
- **Training Course on “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions” on 14-16 December 2021. The training course was provided by a competent expert from Bank Indonesia for the benefit of participants from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 18 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics” on 7-8 March 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) for the benefit of participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 13 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Monetary Operations: Tools and Techniques for Policy Implementation”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 37th Ministerial

Session of the COMCEC, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Monetary Operations: Tools and Techniques for Policy Implementation” on 15-17 March 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, for the benefit of participants from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 26 OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Course on “Capital Market Operations”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Capital Market Operations” on 11-12 May 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the relevant departments and subsidiaries of Borsa Istanbul, the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, for the benefit of participants from the Stock Exchanges and relevant Ministries of 20 OIC Member Countries and participants from 4 OIC and International Institutions namely; AAOIFI, IIFM, IsDB Group, and S&P Global.
- **Project titled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the 9th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented the project titled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries” for the benefit of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in the OIC Member Countries. The project aimed at contributing to the improvement of financial systems and their inclusivity in the OIC Member Countries through strengthening intra-OIC collaboration opportunities and solidarity. The project activities included:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “The Role of Central Banks in Increasing Financial Literacy”:** The Centre, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, organised this online Training Course on 5-6 September 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of participants from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 29 OIC Member Countries.
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Using Financial Technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic Finance”:** The Centre, in collaboration with Bank Indonesia and the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia organised this online Training Course on 7-8 September 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Bank Indonesia and the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia for the benefit of participants from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 30 OIC Member Countries.
 - ✓ **Workshop on “Best Practices on Promoting Financial Literacy and Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”:** The Centre, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, organised this Workshop on 25-26 September 2022 on the sidelines of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum in Istanbul, Türkiye. The Workshop included comprehensive presentations by competent high-level experts and guest speakers from Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in the OIC Member Countries, as well as prominent academicians working in the

relevant fields. The sessions covered ways and means of promoting financial literacy and integrating financial technology (FINTECH) into Islamic finance towards achieving more inclusive financial systems. The Workshop also provided an opportunity to share the best practices and the efforts exerted in this domain in the OIC region.

- **Statistical Training Course on “Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Economic Statistics”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Economic Statistics” on 26-28 September 2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from TurkStat for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of 18 OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Price Statistics”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Price Statistics” on 10-12 October 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from DoS of Jordan for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics”:** SESRIC organised an online Statistical Training Course on “Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics” on 14-16 November 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from INS of Tunisia for the benefit of participants from the NSOs of OIC Member Countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 129 indicators under the Banking, Money and Prices; Government Finance; International Finance; and Islamic Banking and Finance categories of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.



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