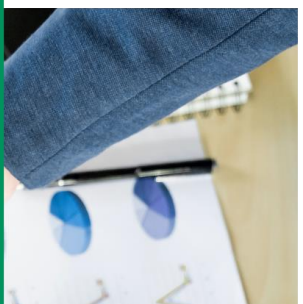




ACTIVITY REPORT

Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations



**THE 39TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
AGENDA ITEM NO: 5-12**

**2-5 DECEMBER 2023
ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE**

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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
THE 39th SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

Agenda Item No: 5-12

2-5 December 2023

Istanbul, Türkiye

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 39th Session of the COMCEC, which will be held on 2-5 December 2023 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

Since the 38th 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 this respect, 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, 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 20 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 the relevant national institutions in the OIC Member States through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops, study visits, and webinars.

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

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation	8 March 2023
2.	Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Instrument Standardization (IAAIS)	15 March 2023
3.	Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) of Albania	10 May 2023
4.	Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)	24 May 2023
5.	Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Türkiye (CoHE) (YÖK)	15 August 2023
6.	Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)	4 October 2023
7.	Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO)	11 October 2023

In light of the above, this report highlights the implemented activities of SESRIC related to the following agenda items of the COMCEC, 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, Deepening Financial Cooperation and Cooperation on Digital Transformation.

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**
- 8. COOPERATION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

Since the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

- **OIC Economic Outlook 2023:** This report gauges the economic performance of OIC Member Countries, as a group, in a comparative manner with the groups of developed and non-OIC developing countries as well as with the world average. The report particularly focuses on growth, production, employment, trade, investment and financial development in OIC Member Countries. In so doing, the report highlights major constraints and challenges confronting the OIC Member Countries in their efforts towards enhancing their economic development and progress. This edition of the report includes a special analysis on the rise of digital economy and importance of bridging the digital divide in OIC countries.
- **Implications of the AfCFTA for the OIC Countries along the Trans-Sahara Road:** SESRIC and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) conducted a joint research on the implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for countries along the Trans-Sahara road, namely Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Tunisia, Algeria and Mali. The main objective of this research study was to assess the contribution of the trans-Sahara highway to increasing trade in Africa following the implementation of the AfCFTA. The trans-Sahara highway is expected to link Algiers (Algeria) to Lagos (Nigeria), thanks to a 4,500 km motorway, of which 2,500 km will be in Algeria.
- **Workshop on “Competition Policy in Supporting Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Turkish Competition Authority (TCA), organised an online Workshop on “Competition Policy in Supporting Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery” on 16-17 January 2023. The workshop brought together 125 experts and executives from the Competition Agencies/ Authorities and relevant Ministries and national institutions in 26 OIC Member Countries as well as representatives from the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- **Training Course on “International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme and the UN-OIC Cooperation Matrix for 2022-2024, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments” in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and World Trade Organization (WTO) with the attendance of 44 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 16 OIC countries on 20-22 June 2023.
- **Special Session on “Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Statistics in OIC Countries”:** SESRIC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) jointly organised a session on “Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Statistics in OIC

Countries” on 16 October 2023 on the margins of the 8th World Investment Forum (WIF8) which was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

- **Webinar on “Prospects for Harmonising Statistics on Halal Sector”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and World Customs Organization (WCO), organized an experience sharing Webinar on “Prospects for Harmonising Statistics on Halal Sector” on 2 November 2023. The Webinar provided a space to elaborate on the possible general methodology framework of Halal sector statistics and how to develop the required standards and mechanisms to produce, harmonize and disseminate such indicators within the national statistical systems of OIC Member Countries.
- **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database:** SESRIC is hosting 157 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 38th 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:

- **Investment Outlook in the OIC Countries:** This outlook report was jointly prepared by SESRIC and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). The report assesses and examines the investment performance and ecosystems in the OIC countries by highlighting the major issues and challenges along with the role and importance of investment funds for the financing of sustainable development. In particular, the report identifies available opportunities and priority sectors for investment in the OIC countries by providing a detailed sectoral analysis on agriculture and food, textiles and apparel, mining and construction, and petrochemicals with a view to providing some industry-level guidance to policymakers and potential investors.
- **Training Workshop on “Promoting Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship in OIC Africa French-Speaking Member Countries”:** 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 “Promoting Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship in OIC Africa French-Speaking Member Countries” on 14-16 March 2023. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the National Agency for Employment and Independent Work (ANETI) of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of 80 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 12 OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries.
- **Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on “Entrepreneurship Skills Development”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, the Centre, in collaboration with UNDP Istanbul

International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) and HP Foundation, organised an online Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on “Entrepreneurship Skills Development” on 8-19 May 2023. The ToT Programme, which consisted of two consecutive courses, was provided by a competent expert for the benefit of 50 TVET teachers and managers from TVET Institutions of 11 OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries.

- **Training Course on “Methods of Setting up Small-scale Income-generating Projects”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC, in cooperation with the Regional Educational Center of ICESCO in Chad, organized an online Training Course on “Methods of Setting up Small-scale Income-generating Projects” on 20-22 June 2023. The training course was provided by a competent academician for the benefit of 37 TVET teachers and trainers as well as entrepreneurs in Chad.
- **Training Workshop on “Fostering Entrepreneurial Activities and Startup Ecosystems in the OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC conducted a virtual Training Workshop on “Fostering Entrepreneurial Activities and Startup Ecosystems in the OIC Member Countries” on 22-23 August 2023. The training workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of the Republic of Türkiye. Competent speakers shared the vast expertise of their Esteemed Institutions with 74 experts and executives from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions of 19 OIC Member Countries. This training workshop also provided a sound platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience among the participants from the relevant institutions of the OIC Member Countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 39 indicators under the Private Sector category of the OICStat Database.

3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on improving transport and communications:

- **Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries: Implications for Trade and Tourism & Challenges for Landlocked Countries:** This report outlines the current state of the transport sector and potential constraints to connectivity that need to be addressed across OIC Member Countries with a special reference to issues and challenges faced by the Landlocked OIC Member Countries in this domain. In doing so, the report promotes the idea of a well-connected OIC region, with modern and functional transport infrastructure, easier passage at border gates, faster foreign trade, and operational economic corridors that may widen the basis and opportunities for economic growth and welfare. The report is expected to be submitted, as a technical background report, to the OIC Conference of Ministers of Transport once it is convened.

- **Training Course on “Transport Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Transport Statistics” on 3-4 May 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from BPS-Statistics Indonesia for the benefit of 38 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 16 OIC Member Countries.
- **Project titled “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs in the OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the 10th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented in 2023 a project titled “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs in the OIC Member Countries”. Under the Project, the following virtual training course, an on-site workshop and a field visit were conducted:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs”:** The Centre organised an online Training Course on “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs” on 28-29 August 2023. The training course was attended by 68 participants from the Ministries of Transport and other relevant national transportation authorities of 23 OIC Member Countries who are responsible for developing and implementing transport financing policies in their respective countries.
 - ✓ **Workshop on “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs”:** The Centre organised a Workshop on “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs” on 1–2 November 2023 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye. The Workshop brought together participants from the Ministries of Transport and other relevant national transportation authorities of 19 OIC Member Countries.
 - ✓ **Field Visit on the “Implementation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Türkiye”:** The Centre, in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Field Visit on the “Implementation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Türkiye” on 03 November 2023 in Istanbul, Türkiye, within the framework of the Workshop on “Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs”.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 43 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 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

- **Training Webinar on the “Digitalization of Tourism Services”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with relevant resolutions of the 38th Session of the COMCEC and the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), SESRIC and ICDT jointly organized a Training Webinar on the “Digitalization of Tourism Services” on 24-25 May 2023. Competent experts and academicians provided the training for the benefit of 74 experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism of 19 OIC Member Countries.
- **Webinar on “Towards a Methodology for Production and Dissemination of Islamic Tourism Indicators”:** Within the framework of the Programme of Action for 2021-2025 set under the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030 and its Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organized a Webinar on “Towards a Methodology for Production and Dissemination of Islamic Tourism Indicators” on 23 August 2023. The webinar was conducted in collaboration with the National Statistical Offices of Indonesia, Iran, and Saudi Arabia as well as the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). CrescentRating and DinarStandard provided insights into the private sector as well.
- **Training Webinar on “Gastronomy Tourism in OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with relevant resolutions of the 38th Session of the COMCEC and the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), SESRIC and ICDT jointly organized a Training Webinar on “Gastronomy Tourism in OIC Countries” on 4-5 October 2023. Competent experts and academicians provided the training for the benefit of 110 experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism in 23 OIC Member Countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 13 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 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security:

- **Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2023:** This report sheds light on the challenges faced by OIC countries in achieving sustainable agricultural development and ensuring food security for their populations. It provides a detailed overview of the current state of agriculture, identifies key drivers of food security trends, and offers valuable policy recommendations to enhance resilience in agricultural and food systems.

This report was submitted to and presented at the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD), which was held on 1-2 October 2023 in Doha, Qatar.

- **State of Food Security in the Least Developed OIC Member Countries:** Prepared upon the request of the OIC General Secretariat, this outlook report investigates the current state of food security in OIC Least Developed Countries (OIC-LDCs) by looking into the latest available data and statistics. The report also highlights the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food production and supply systems and its implications for the prevalence of undernourishment and hunger in OIC-LDCs. This outlook report was prepared upon the request of the OIC General Secretariat.
- **Agricultural Production and Trade Complementarities among OIC Member Countries:** This report was prepared by SESRIC in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS). The report identifies complementarities in the fields of agricultural resources, food production, and trade among OIC Member Countries. The report also sheds light on potential areas of partnership and cooperation for OIC Member Countries and makes policy recommendations in this regard. This report was submitted to and presented at the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD), which was held on 1-2 October 2023 in Doha, Qatar.
- **Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Resources Management in OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water, SESRIC organised an online Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Resources Management in the OIC Member Countries” on 24-26 January 2023. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) and the Directorate General of Water Management under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 112 experts and executives from the National Water Resources Authorities of 26 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Productivity Enhancement of Cotton by Using Modern Agronomic Practices” for the benefit of OIC-Africa countries:** Within the framework of its Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB), SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Productivity Enhancement of Cotton by Using Modern Agronomic Practices” on 14-16 February 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) for the benefit of 49 cotton experts and researchers from the National Cotton Institutions in 12 OIC African Member Countries.
- **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 an on-site training course on “Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton - Sample Collection Activities” on 14-20 May 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training course was provided by competent trainers from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) and Field Crops Central Research Institute (CRIFC) of Türkiye for the benefit of 50 experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.

- **Training Course on “Agriculture Statistics and Food Security Analysis”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme and the UN-OIC Cooperation Matrix for 2022-2024, SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Agriculture Statistics and Food Security Analysis” with the attendance of 52 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 18 OIC countries on 29-30 May 2023 through an online video conferencing platform.
- **Training Course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments”:** 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 an on-site training course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments” on 10-16 June 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training course was provided by competent trainers from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Türkiye for the benefit of 50 experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.
- **Training Course on “Advanced Breeding in Cotton-Crossing 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 an on-site training course on “Advanced Breeding in Cotton-Crossing Activities” on 20-26 August 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training course was provided by competent trainers from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Türkiye for the benefit of 50 experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.
- **Training Course on “Integrated Pest Management: Harvest Experiments”:** 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, organized an on-site training course on “Integrated Pest Management: Harvest of Experiments” on 3-9 September 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training course was provided by competent trainers from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Türkiye for the benefit of 50 experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 118 indicators under the Agriculture category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- **People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries:** This report investigates the current state of people with disabilities and special needs in OIC countries by using data from various international sources. The report also evaluates major socio-economic and cultural challenges that affect people with disabilities and special needs on a daily basis. Lastly, this report revisits dominant policy approaches to disability in line with the overarching principles proposed in the Draft OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities. This report was submitted to and presented at the 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, which was held on 5-6 June 2023 in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Safeguarding Family Values and the Institution of Marriage in OIC Countries:** This report examines the status of the marital and family institution in the OIC Member Countries and maps ongoing and emerging trends that affect familial and marital values and demographics by employing a diverse range of quantitative data that is relevant to the family and marriage institution. This report also makes some policy suggestions at both national and intra-OIC cooperation levels to improve the family values and institution of marriage in OIC Member Countries. This report was submitted to and presented at the 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, which was held on 5-6 June 2023 in Cairo, Egypt.
- **State of Elderly in OIC Member Countries:** This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state of the elderly in OIC Member Countries by looking into the latest available data and information concerning labour market, healthcare, cultural norms and supportive environment. In addition, the report also provides policy recommendations to address the problems of the elderly with a view to ensuring their full and equal participation in socio-economic life as well as in the development process of their respective countries. This report was submitted to and presented at the 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, which was held on 5-6 June 2023 in Cairo, Egypt.
- **OIC Environment Report 2023:** 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 also highlights OIC Member Countries' progress towards meeting the targets on environment-related sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement commitments. This report was circulated during the 9th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, which was held on 19 October 2023 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- **OIC Labour Market Report 2023:** This report provides a detailed account of labour market conditions in OIC countries with a view to identifying and assessing the

fundamental problems and challenges in the labour markets of the OIC countries. In addition to a detailed analysis of the structure of the labour market, the report pays special attention to the implications of rising digitalization and automation on employment in OIC countries. This report was submitted to and presented at the 6th Session of the OIC Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), which was held on 21-23 November 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- **OIC Health Report 2023:** This report evaluates the health performance of OIC Member Countries by analysing the trends in major health indicators at the OIC group level as well as at the individual country level. The report mainly focuses on the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic vis-a-vis progress on six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023. The report concludes with some policy recommendations for OIC Member Countries to overcome the public health challenges posed particularly by the COVID-19 pandemic. This report will be submitted to the 8th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers once it is convened.
- **Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Graphic Design and Photo Print Techniques”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education under the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, organized an online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Graphic Design and Photo Print Techniques” on 13-15 December 2022. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the partner institution for the benefit of 132 trainers and professionals from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions in 24 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators” on 17-18 January 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the benefit of 26 participants from the NSOs of 16 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators” on 21-22 February 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of 19 participants from the NSOs of 7 French speaking OIC Member Countries as well as representatives from the Human Development Report Office (HDRO) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
- **Training Course on “Social Insurance Database Management”:** Within the framework of its Social Security Institutions Capacity Building Programme (SSI-CaB), SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Social Insurance Database Management” on 1-2 March 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Social Security Institution (SGK) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the

Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 95 experts and executives from the national social security institutions in 24 OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Course on “Optimal Design of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Protection”**: Within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Optimal Design of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Protection” on 7-9 March 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Social Security Organization (SOCSO) of Malaysia for the benefit of 78 experts and executives from the National Public Employment Services (PES) Agencies/ Authorities as well as the relevant Ministries and national institutions from 20 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) Indicators”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) Indicators” on 14-15 March 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from DOSM for the benefit of 48 participants from the NSOs of 13 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Webinars on “Engaging Employers in Apprenticeship Opportunities and Other Types of Work Based Learning” and “New Approaches in Job and Vocational Counselling Services”**: Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised two consecutive training webinars on “Engaging Employers in Apprenticeship Opportunities and Other Types of Work Based Learning” and “New Approaches in Job and Vocational Counselling Services” on 26-27 April 2023. The training webinars were provided by competent experts from İŞKUR for the benefit of 73 participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 19 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Workshop on “Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Vulnerable Groups”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organised an online Training Workshop on “Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Vulnerable Groups” on 2-4 May 2023. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the relevant Directorates General of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 116 experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions responsible for social protection services in 29 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators” on 2-4 May 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Department of Statistics

(DoS) of Jordan for the benefit of 9 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 5 Arabic speaking OIC countries as well as representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

- **Orientation Workshop on “Tobacco Questions for Surveys of Youth (TQS-Youth)”**: SESRIC, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Foundation, organised an Orientation Workshop on “Tobacco Questions for Surveys of Youth (TQS-Youth)” on 9-10 May 2023 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye. The Workshop was participated by 43 experts from the NSOs, Ministries of Health, and Ministries of Youth of 18 OIC Member Countries. The objective of the Workshop was to provide additional information and technical support to the participants in integrating TQS-Youth into the ongoing youth-related national surveys in their respective countries.
- **Training Course on “Fundamentals of Integrated Management on Health Emergencies and Crises”**: Within the framework of the 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 “Fundamentals of Integrated Management on Health Emergencies and Crises” on 23-25 May 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the benefit of 166 experts and executives from the Ministries of Health and relevant national institutions in 25 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Adopting Legislative and Regulatory Framework towards Social Inclusion in TVET”**: Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, organised an online Training Course on “Adopting Legislative and Regulatory Framework towards Social Inclusion in TVET” on 5-6 July 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the VTC of Jordan for the benefit of 104 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 25 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Protecting Second-hand Smokers and Reducing Tobacco Use in Public Places”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Green Crescent Society (YEŞİLAY), organised an online Training Course on “Protecting Second-hand Smokers and Reducing Tobacco Use in Public Places” on 11-13 July 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Green Crescent Society (YEŞİLAY) for the benefit of 89 experts and executives from the relevant Ministries and National Institutions in charge of tobacco control in 27 OIC Member Countries.

- **Training Course on “Social Protection Statistics”**: Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Social Protection Statistics” with the attendance of 19 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 10 Arabic speaking OIC countries on 9-10 August 2023.
- **Training Course on “Social Protection and SDGs Indicators”**: Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Social Protection and SDGs Indicators” for the benefit of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of French-speaking OIC countries on 16-17 August 2023 with the attendance of 21 participants from 11 OIC Member Countries.
- **Project titled “Promoting Digital Technologies for an Integrated and Efficient Social Protection Systems in the OIC Member Countries”**: Within the framework of the 10th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented in 2023 a project titled “Promoting Digital Technologies for an Integrated and Efficient Social Protection Systems in the OIC Member Countries”. Under the Project, the following virtual training courses and on-site workshop were conducted:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Enhancing Policies and Practices for Effective Digitization and Integrated Social Protection Systems”**: Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, the Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO) and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organised an online Training Course on “Enhancing Policies and Practices for Effective Digitization and Integrated Social Protection Systems” on 16-17 August 2023. 151 experts and executives from the ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of social protection policies and services in 19 OIC Member Countries attended the training course.
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Using Digital and Integrated Technologies in Delivering Social Protection and Assistance Programmes”**: Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, the Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO) and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organised an online Training Course on “Using digital and integrated technologies in delivering social protection and assistance programmes” on 23-24 August 2023. 152 experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of social protection policies and services in 19 OIC Member Countries attended the training course.
 - ✓ **Workshop on “Best Practices on Promoting the Utilization of Integrated and Digital Technologies in Social Protection Systems in the OIC countries”**: Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, the Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO) and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Workshop on “Best Practices on Promoting the Utilization of Integrated and Digital Technologies in Social Protection Systems in the OIC countries” on 12-13 September 2023 at SESRIC

headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. The workshop brought together 35 participants from the ministries and national institutions in charge of social protection services in 15 OIC Member Countries and was attended by representatives from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), League of Arab States (LAS), and Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB), who shared the achievements of their respective organisations in this field.

- **Training Course on “Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)”**: Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)” with the attendance of 30 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 8 French speaking OIC countries on 5-6 September 2023.
- **Training Course on “Implementation Framework and Monitoring System for SDG 3 and Other Health Goals in the SDGs”**: Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised an online Training Course on “Implementation Framework and Monitoring System for SDG 3 and Other Health Goals in the SDGs” for the benefit of 10 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 4 French-speaking OIC countries on 25-26 September 2023.
- **Webinar on “Mechanisms for Licensing and Accrediting TVET Institutions”**: Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a Webinar on “Mechanisms for Licensing and Accrediting TVET Institutions” on 30 October 2023 for the benefit of 50 participants from TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions in 11 OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries. The main objective of the webinar is to share knowledge, experiences, and good practices for developing and implementing effective licensing and accreditation systems for TVET institutions, with a focus on the challenges and potential solutions faced in the domain.
- **Training Course on “Fundamentals of Occupational Hygiene”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in collaboration with the Directorate General of Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Development at the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia, the Centre organised an online Training Course on “Fundamentals of Occupational Hygiene” on 30-31 October 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Directorate General of Labour Inspection and OSH Development at the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia for the benefit of experts and executives from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of OSH in the OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Developing Regional Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Türkiye, organised an online Training Course on “Developing Regional Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies” on 22-23 November 2023. The

training course was provided by competent experts from the relevant Directorates General of the Presidency of Strategy and Budget for the benefit of experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions of OIC Member Countries.

- **Webinar on “Advocating Women's Rights within Family Laws: Best Practices in the OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Women Development Organisation (WDO), organised a Webinar on “Advocating Women's Rights within Family Laws: Best Practices in the OIC Member Countries” on 29-30 November 2023. The webinar aimed at highlighting the approaches by which women’s rights in Family Laws could be promoted. Academicians and representatives of various national and international organisations contributed to the sessions of the webinar by sharing good practices, knowledge and experiences in the field.
- **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 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

- **OIC Statistical Outlook 2023: Official Development Assistance (ODA) in OIC Countries:** SESRIC published the “OIC Statistical Outlook 2023: ODA in OIC Countries” on 25 May 2023 presenting the international development finance and aid data analysis in terms of inflows to and outflows from OIC countries for the period between 2011 and 2021. The study focuses on the potential of utilizing the ODA as one of the main components of development cooperation and financing among the OIC countries. Furthermore, it demonstrates that the OIC countries group stands not only on the recipient side but also on the provider side with remarkable contributions.
- **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 10-12 January 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for the benefit of 17 participants from the NSOs of 9 Arabic-speaking OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Islamic Banking and Finance for Central Banks and Monetary Authorities”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), organised an online Training Course on “Islamic Banking and Finance for Central Banks and Monetary Authorities” on 6-8 March 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from BIBF for the benefit of 114 experts and executives from Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in 29 OIC Member Countries.

- **Webinar on “Reporting Data on Islamic Financial Services Sector”:** Within the framework of the Programme of Action for 2021-2025 set under the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030 and its Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Reporting Data on Islamic Financial Services Sector” on 14 March 2023, in collaboration with Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), UNSD, and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) with the participation of 67 experts from the NSOs of 20 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Islamic Debt and Equity Markets”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC’s Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with Borsa Istanbul (the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum), Capital Market Board of Türkiye (the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum), the Indonesia Stock Exchange and the Indonesian Financial Services Authority, organised an online Training Course on “Islamic Debt and Equity Markets” on 16-18 May 2023. The training course was provided by competent experts from the relevant departments of the partner institutions for the benefit of 168 experts and executives from the Stock Exchanges and Regulatory Authorities in 25 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Financial Stability and Monetary Policy”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, organised an online Training Course on “Financial Stability and Monetary Policy” on 9-10 August 2023. The training course, which was provided by competent experts from the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, brought together 114 experts and executives from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in 27 OIC Member Countries.
- **Project titled “Unleashing the Potential of Islamic Finance in Supporting MSMEs in the OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the 10th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented in 2023 a project titled “Unleashing the Potential of Islamic Finance in Supporting MSMEs in the OIC Member Countries”. The project aimed to introduce innovative and sustainable solutions for Islamic Finance and Islamic Social Finance (ISF) products to enhance the resilience of MSMEs in the OIC Member Countries in the face of possible shocks. Under the Project, the following virtual and on-site activities were conducted:
 - ✓ **Training Workshop on “Promoting Islamic Social Finance and Accelerating the Growth of Halal Value Chain Ecosystem”:** Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC project, the Centre, in collaboration with Bank Indonesia (BI), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), organised a Workshop on “Promoting Islamic Social Finance and Accelerating the Growth of Halal Value Chain Ecosystem” on 20-21 September 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop brought together 44 participants from relevant departments of Central Banks and financial institutions from 15 OIC Member Countries and 1 regional Central Bank; the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), as well as two

OIC institutions, namely the Islamic Development Bank Kuala Lumpur Center of Excellence (IsDB KLCoE) and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

- ✓ **Training Course on “Leveraging Key Stakeholders towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development of MSMEs”:** Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC project, the Centre, in collaboration with Bank Indonesia (BI), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), organised an online Training Course on “Leveraging Key Stakeholders towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development of MSMEs” on 17-19 October 2023 for the benefit of participants from relevant departments of Central Banks and financial institutions from 15 OIC Member Countries and 1 regional Central Bank; the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO).
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 136 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.

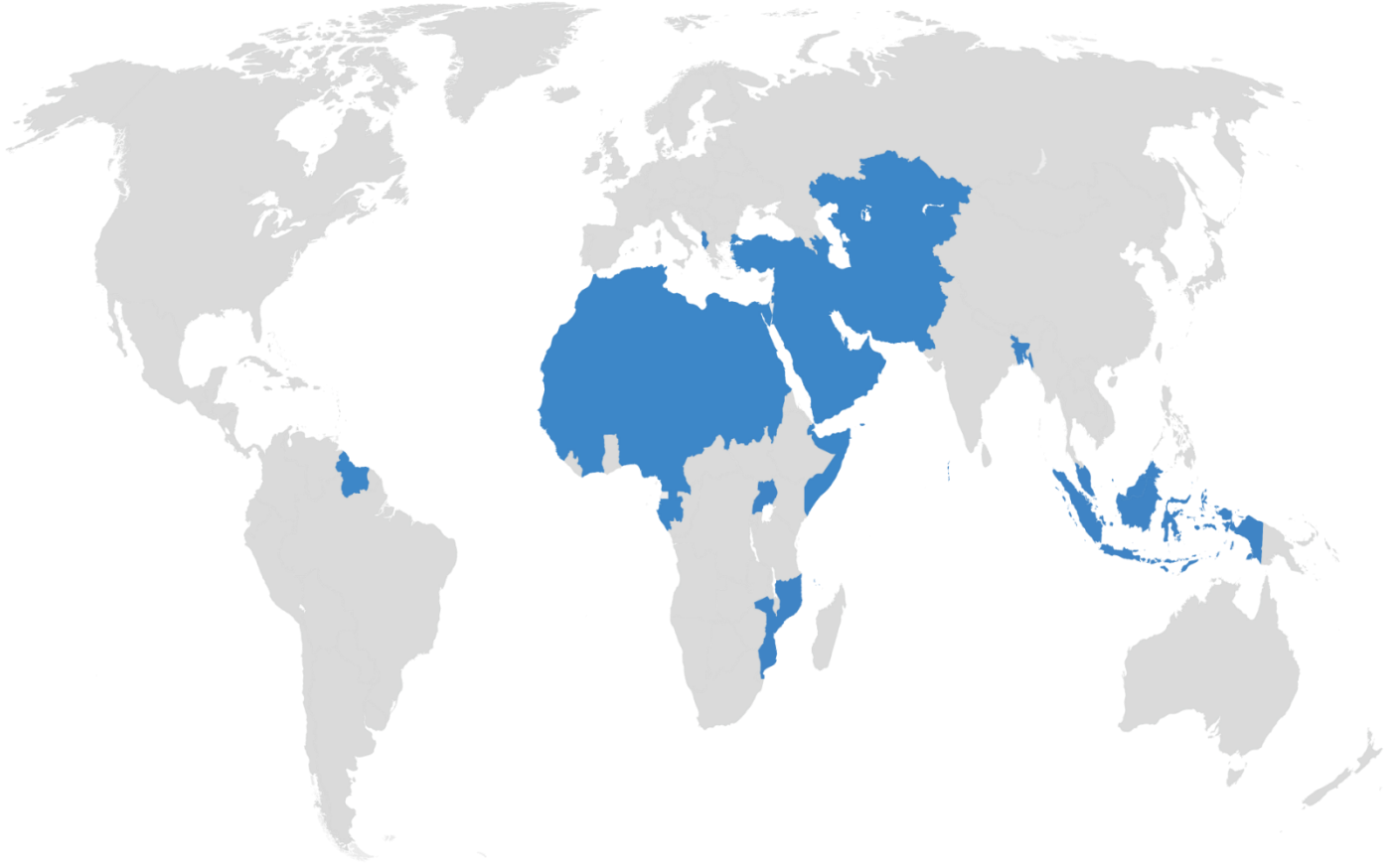
8. COOPERATION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Since the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on cooperation on digital transformation.

- **OIC Economic Outlook 2023:** This edition of the report includes a special analysis on the rise of the digital economy and the importance of bridging the digital divide in OIC countries. It provides an overview of emerging technologies, including automation, advanced robotics, additive manufacturing, AI, digital supply networks, fintech, big data analytics, blockchain, and IoT as crucial drivers of innovation and efficiency across industries. In order to evaluate the existing capacities towards utilizing these technologies, it investigates the major indicators reflecting the overall state of digital infrastructure and capacities in OIC countries. Finally, the report offers a set of comprehensive policy options under seven steps for OIC countries to adapt to the growing digitalization of economic activities.
- **OIC Labour Market Report 2023:** This report provides a detailed account of labour market conditions in the OIC Member Countries with a view to identifying and assessing the fundamental problems and challenges in the labour markets of the OIC Member Countries. This edition of the report pays special attention to the implications of rising digitalization and automation on employment in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. It reviews the rising importance of digitalization and automation for the world of work, provides some discussions on emerging and declining skills associated with rising digitalization and automation, and assesses the sectoral allocation of employment in OIC countries along with discussions on sector-specific impacts of digitalization and automation. In light of the significant transformations and disruptions that emerging technologies and automation bring to the job market, the report provides some guidelines for OIC countries on how better to get prepared for this transformation.

- **Webinar on “Transforming Administrative Registers for Statistical Data Production”**: Within the framework of the Programme of Action for 2021-2025 set under the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030 and its Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Transforming Administrative Registers for Statistical Data Production” on 14 February 2023, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) with the participation of 103 experts from the NSOs of 24 OIC Member Countries. The Webinar provided a platform to exchange knowledge on how to develop and deploy the required technology and the mechanisms to transform the administrative registers for statistical data production in national statistical systems of OIC Member Countries, including discussions about the relevant initiatives, challenges faced and lessons learnt by all stakeholders.
- **Regional Training Workshop on “Transition to Register-Based Approaches for Population and Housing Censuses”**: Within the framework of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, SESRIC hosted the Regional Training Workshop on “Transition to Register-Based Approaches for Population and Housing Censuses” in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) at SESRIC Headquarters on 12-15 June 2023 in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye. 27 census experts from the National Statistical Offices of 8 OIC Member Countries participated in the Workshop.
- **Workshop on “Generic Models of Statistical Production”**: SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised a Workshop on “Generic Models of Statistical Production” in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on 10-11 July 2023 through a video conferencing platform with the participation of 62 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 20 OIC countries.
- **Workshop on “Digitalization of TVET: Challenges and Opportunities for the OIC Member Countries”**: Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised an online Workshop on “Digitalization of TVET: Challenges and Opportunities for the OIC Member Countries” on 18-19 July 2023. Speakers from various national, OIC and international institutions delivered presentations highlighting the obstacles that hinder the digitalization efforts in general, and particularly in the TVET sector, as well as the good practices and initiatives carried out by their institutions. The workshop brought together 135 experts and executives from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions of 22 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Courses under the Reverse Linkage Project between Pakistan and Türkiye on “Earthquake Seismological Research”**: Within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project between Pakistan and Türkiye on “Earthquake Seismological Research”, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Turkish Cooperation and

Coordination Agency (TIKA), TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MRC) of Türkiye, and Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), organised three training courses in parallel, namely; Training Course on “Global Positioning System (GPS): Data Collection and Processing”, Training Course on “Seismology: Earthquake Data Processing and Analysis”, and Training Course on “Site Classification: Data Collection and Processing”. The training courses were conducted on 27 September-3 October 2023 at PMD's Headquarters in Islamabad, Pakistan, as well as on 22 May-09 June 2023 at TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center's headquarters in Gebze, Kocaeli - Türkiye. The training courses were provided by competent trainers from the MRC of Türkiye for the benefit of 15 trainees from PMD.



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
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