

SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations



THE 41TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
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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

41st SESSION OF THE COMCEC

Agenda Item No: 2

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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 41st Session of the COMCEC, which will be held on 1-4 November 2025 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

Since the 40th 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 countries 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 countries.

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 countries. Currently, the Centre has 24 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 countries through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits.

Furthermore, during the period under review, SESRIC signed 14 agreements with the relevant national, regional, international, and OIC institutions. These agreements aim to strengthen partnerships and enhance the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAPSSI)	14 November 2024
2.	Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	24 November 2024
3.	Women Development Organization (WDO)	5 December 2024
4.	Union of News Agencies (UNA)	5 December 2024
5.	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Guinea	8 January 2025
6.	Muslim World League (MWL)	12 January 2025
7.	Tunisian Institute for Competitiveness and Quantitative Studies (ITCEQ)	13 February 2025
8.	Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	14 April 2025
9.	Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF)	22 June 2025
10.	Enstitü Sosyal	25 June 2025
11.	National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Malaysia	8 July 2025
12.	Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts of Senegal	2 September 2025
13.	Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)	1 October 2025
14.	National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal	1 October 2025

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, Deepening Financial Cooperation, Improving Transport and Communications, developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector, Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security, Alleviating Poverty and Cooperation on Digital Transformation.

AGENDA ITEMS:

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

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

- **Training Course on ‘The Role of Competition Policy in Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade’:** Within the framework of its Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB) and in collaboration with the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC), SESRIC organized a training course on “The Role of Competition Policy in Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade” on 21-22 January 2025. Provided by experts from the Malaysia Competition Commission, General Authority for Competition of Saudi Arabia, Turkish Competition Authority, and Competition Commission of Pakistan, the training benefited 68 experts and executives from 37 OIC countries. The course aimed to raise awareness on the important role of competition authorities in enhancing intra-OIC trade by highlighting common obstacles and fostering collaborative approaches.
- **Training Course on ‘Advanced Halal Food Processing Techniques: Ensuring Safety and Quality’:** Within the framework of its Halal Capacity Building Programme and in collaboration with the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), SESRIC organised a training course on “Advanced Halal Food Processing Techniques: Ensuring Safety and Quality” on 19-20 February 2025. The training course was also organized in coordination with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in line with the 8th Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Institutions (ACMOI). Attended by 183 professionals from 28 OIC countries, the training aimed to enhance their technical capabilities in the halal food industry by introducing advanced methodologies and techniques that prioritize safety, quality, and halal integrity. The course covered topics such as food processing efficiency, halal issues in fermentation, current technologies, and methodologies for elevating halal compliance.
- **Webinar on ‘Improving Consumer Protection Regulation on Standards and Safety’:** Within the framework of its Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB) and in collaboration with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), SESRIC organised a webinar on “Improving Consumer Protection Regulation on Standards and Safety” on 27 February 2025. The webinar brought together 66 experts from 24 OIC countries. It aimed to enhance market transparency and competitiveness by helping national competition authorities address challenges and improve consumer protection. The webinar featured presentations from experts from SMIIC, the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch of UN Trade & Development, the Competition Commission of Pakistan, the Directorate General for Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance of Türkiye, and the Competition Council

of Tunisia. The presentations covered topics such as consumer protection's Halal standards and regulations, product safety and standards, and experiences in consumer and competition protection.

- **Statistical Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics':** Within the framework of SESRIC's StatCaB Programme and in collaboration with ICDT, the Centre organized a Training Course on "International Trade Statistics" on 14-15 May 2025. The training course was provided by senior experts from the Moroccan Foreign Exchange for the benefit of 47 experts from the NSOs and relevant Ministries of 14 OIC member countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on 'Balance of Payments and International Investment Position':** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on "Balance of Payments and International Investment Position" on 26-27 August 2025. The training course was provided by senior experts from BPS-Statistics Indonesia. The course brought together statisticians and experts from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and other national authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- **Regional Workshop on 'International Trade in Goods Statistics':** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized a Regional Workshop on "International Trade in Goods Statistics" in Amman, Jordan on 22-24 September 2025 in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Workshop covered the international standards such as the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Manual (IMTS 2010), data sources, methodologies, and estimation techniques, while addressing specific challenges faced by countries with limited trade data systems.
- **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 40th 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:

- **Webinar on 'Enhancing Vocational Training through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Best Practices and Strategies':** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Service Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026 and the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Public Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labour and

Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organised a webinar on “Enhancing Vocational Training through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Best Practices and Strategies” on 4 December 2024. The webinar was attended by 83 experts and executives from 31 OIC countries and aimed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of how PPPs can enhance vocational training systems. It focused on sharing best practices and strategies for successful PPP models, including how to establish and manage effective partnerships between public and private entities to improve the quality, relevance, and accessibility of vocational education and training programmes.

- **Workshop on ‘Energy Statistics, Balances and Accounts for Informed Energy and Climate Policies’:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized a Workshop on “Energy Statistics, Balances and Accounts For Informed Energy and Climate Policies” at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye on 10-12 December 2024 in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS). The workshop aimed to strengthen participants’ capacities in compiling energy statistics, developing comprehensive energy balances, and establishing energy accounts under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Through interactive sessions, hands-on exercises, and expert-led presentations, it highlighted the practical use of energy data to inform policymaking, enhance national energy statistical systems, foster private sector engagement, and support the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants gained insights into international methodologies, coordination mechanisms, and the integration of energy data for climate-resilient and sustainable development policies.
- **Training Course on ‘Entrepreneurship and Business Creation’:** Within the framework of the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026, SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Agency for Employment and Independent Work of Tunisia (ANETI), organised a training course on “Entrepreneurship and Business Creation” on 21-22 January 2025. Delivered in Arabic by an expert from ANETI, the course benefited 137 experts and executives from 12 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries. The training aimed to provide comprehensive insights and practical skills for starting and growing successful businesses, covering topics such as the characteristics of an entrepreneur, the process of creating a business, and available funding sources.
- **Workshop on ‘Enhancing the PPPs in Gastronomy Tourism in Senegal’:** Within the framework of the COMCEC Funded Project on “Promoting Gastronomy Tourism for

the Destination Senegal”, SESRIC organised a Workshop on “Enhancing the PPPs in Gastronomy Tourism in Senegal” on 1-3 September 2025 in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop brought together 60 representatives from public and private sectors who are responsible for tourism development in Senegal, as well as prominent speakers and competent experts from relevant partner countries and institutions. The main objective of the activity was to discuss mechanisms of enhancing public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards the advancement of tourism sector, with particular emphasis on gastronomy tourism. In addition, various sessions discussed the role of digital transformation and exploring new trends in digital culinary marketing, as well as the adoption of sustainable and eco-friendly practices from the partner countries. The workshop concluded with certificate distribution ceremony for the Senegalese participants and competent experts who contributed to the success of the activity.

- **Inaugural Meeting of the OIC Small and Medium Enterprises Network (OIC-SMENET):** SESRIC and the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBİA) jointly organised the Inaugural Meeting of the OIC Small and Medium Enterprises Network (OIC-SMENET) on 7 October 2025 on the margins of the Second Azerbaijan Halal Business (AZHAB) Forum in Baku. The Inaugural Meeting officially launched the OIC-SMENET, a dedicated platform to foster structured high-level cooperation, mutual learning, and capacity building among the relevant Ministries and national SME development authorities of the OIC countries. It brought together representatives of the SME Development Agencies of the OIC countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 39 indicators under the Private Sector category of the OICStat Database, including ranking values of the Ease of Doing Business Index.

3. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

- **Statistical Training Course on ‘Monetary and Financial Statistics’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme and in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), the Centre organised a Statistical Training Course on “Monetary and Financial Statistics” on 7-8 November 2024. The training course was provided by experts from the CBRT for the benefit of 30 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant stakeholders in the National Statistical System (NSS) of the 25 OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘System of National Accounts’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme and in collaboration with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the Centre organised a Statistical Training Course on “System of National Accounts” on 20-21 November 2024. The training course was provided by

experts from the TurkStat for the benefit of 53 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant stakeholders in the National Statistical System (NSS) of the 15 OIC countries.

- **Training Course on ‘Sustainable Growth and Climate Resilience: Islamic Green Finance in OIC Capital Markets’:** Within the framework of its Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with Borsa Istanbul, the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum (OICEF), organised a training course on “Sustainable Growth and Climate Resilience: Islamic Green Finance in OIC Capital Markets” on 25-26 February 2025. The training brought together 105 experts and executives from stock exchanges and relevant institutions in 28 OIC countries. Provided by experts from Borsa Istanbul, Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB), and the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of Türkiye, the course aimed to provide insights on topics such as sustainability in Turkish capital markets, participation and sustainability indices, and sustainable green financing. It also covered the role of participation banks in sustainable finance and CMB’s regulations on green and sustainable bonds.
- **Training Course on ‘Auditing Local Governments’:** Within the framework of its Public Audit Capacity Building Programme (PAU-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Court of Accounts (Sayıştay), organised a training course on “Auditing Local Governments” on 8-9 April 2025. The training was attended by 165 participants from 26 OIC countries and aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices in local government auditing. The course highlighted the importance of building IT audit capacity and using AI tools to improve auditing practices. It featured case studies and good practices from the Turkish Court of Accounts, the National Audit Office of the Gambia, and the Office of the Auditor General of Uganda, and covered topics such as audit planning, risk modelling, and the evaluation of information systems.
- **Training Course on ‘Exploring the Potential of Central Banks Digital Currencies (CBDC) in the OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), SESRIC organised a training course on “Exploring the Potential of Central Banks Digital Currencies (CBDC) in the OIC Member Countries” on 27-28 May 2025. The course was provided by experts from institutions including the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI), State Bank of Pakistan, Marmara University, and the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM). 86 experts and executives from Central Banks and relevant national institutions in 25 OIC countries benefitted from the training. The training aimed to enhance understanding of the potential benefits and challenges of CBDCs and provided a platform for participants to exchange knowledge on the topic.
- **Regional Workshop on ‘Implementing 2025 SNA and Compiling Digital Supply and Use Tables’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, SESRIC

organized a Regional Workshop on ‘Implementing 2025 SNA and Compiling Digital Supply and Use Tables’ on 9-11 September 2025 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The workshop aimed to increase understanding of the main features and policy relevance of the 2025 SNA, including sustainability, Islamic finance, and new developments in globalization and digitalization statistics, especially in the digital economy statistics.

- **Panel Discussion on ‘The First Five Years of TOSSD: Tracking Support for the SDGs and Helping Monitor International Development Co-operation in All Its Forms’:** Within the framework of the 14th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD (IFT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), organized a side event on “The First Five Years of TOSSD: Tracking Support for the SDGs and Helping Monitor International Development Co-operation in All Its Forms” on 1 October 2025 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. The panel discussion discussed the latest developments in the framework of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD), an international standard for measuring the full array of resources to promote the sustainable development of developing countries. It provided insights on how TOSSD can help close data gaps on sustainable development finance and enhance transparency of support received and provided by OIC Member States.
- **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, which are regularly updated.

4. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on improving transport and communications:

- **Webinar on ‘Developing Sustainable Transportation Strategies for Addressing Climate Change’:** Within the framework of its Transportation Capacity Building Programme (Transport-CaB), SESRIC organised a webinar on “Developing Sustainable Transportation Strategies for Addressing Climate Change” on 18 December 2024. The webinar featured distinguished speakers from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure of the Republic of Türkiye, and the Ministry of Housing, Land, and Urban Development of the Maldives. It was attended by 41 experts and executives from 19 OIC countries and provided an opportunity to discuss strategic policymaking, challenges, and opportunities related to developing sustainable transportation strategies to address climate change.

- **Training Course on ‘Enhancing Efforts for Facilitating Transportation in Landlocked OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of its Transportation Capacity Building Programme (Transport-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organised a training course on “Enhancing Efforts for Facilitating Transportation in Landlocked OIC Member Countries” on 29-30 April 2025. The course brought together 87 participants from 27 OIC countries. It featured experts from SESRIC, ICDT, the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye, and the University of Central Asia of Kyrgyzstan. The training aimed to address transportation challenges faced by landlocked OIC countries and explore policy solutions for economic growth. The two-day activity covered topics such as barriers to development, building resilient transport connectivity, the impact of digitalisation on transport, and Türkiye’s Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme.
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘Data Dissemination and Communication Strategies’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme and in collaboration with the BPS-Statistics Indonesia, the Centre organised a Statistical Training Course on “Data Dissemination and Communication Strategies” on 18-19 June 2025. The training course was provided by senior statisticians from the BPS-Statistics Indonesia for the benefit of 93 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant stakeholders in the National Statistical System (NSS) of the 32 OIC countries.
- **Training Course on ‘Developing Public Transport in OIC Megacities’:** Within the framework of its Transportation Capacity Building Programme (Transport-CaB), SESRIC organised a training course on “Developing Public Transport in OIC Megacities” on 29-30 September 2025. The training was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) of Indonesia, the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The event provided participants from various OIC countries with a comprehensive understanding of the critical factors shaping public transport development in OIC megacities, and explored best practices for designing effective and integrated public transport systems.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 43 indicators under the Transportation and Communication category of the OICStat Database, which are being updated regularly.

5. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

- **Outlook Report on Corruption and Tourism Sector:** This outlook report explores how institutional integrity can contribute to the growth of the tourism industry, highlighting the importance of sustainable tourism and good governance. It then examines the challenges to good governance in key tourism sectors, explores proven strategies and practices for reducing corruption in the tourism sector, and finally presents policy recommendations based on the findings.
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) Indicators’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized a Statistical Training Workshop on “SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) Indicators”, also covering SDG 8.9 “Promote Beneficial and Sustainable Tourism”, on 25-26 February 2025 in collaboration with the BPS-Statistics Indonesia. 56 participants from 26 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC countries participated in the training course.
- **Workshop on ‘Developing Pertinent Marketing Strategy for the Destination Senegal’:** Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organised a workshop on “Developing Pertinent Marketing Strategy for the Destination Senegal” on 6-7 May 2025. The workshop was held in alignment with the relevant resolutions of ICTM that announced Dakar as “OIC City of Tourism for 2025”. The workshop gathered 80 experts and professionals from tourism-related national institutions and private sector stakeholders in Senegal. It aimed to provide participants with recent developments in tourism marketing and promotion and included presentations from experts from UN Tourism, the Senegalese Agency for Tourism Promotion (ASPT), Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), and others. The activity also provided an opportunity for sharing Uzbekistan’s experience in the preparations for Khiva as the OIC City of Tourism in 2024.
- **Training Course on ‘Enhancing Gastronomy Tourism Promotion in Senegal: Marketing and Branding’:** Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC organised a training course on “Enhancing Gastronomy Tourism Promotion in Senegal: Marketing and Branding” on 8-9 July 2025. The course was part of a project titled “Promoting Gastronomy Tourism for the Destination Senegal,” which was funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 12th Call for Project Proposals. The training brought together 63 participants from public and private institutions in Senegal and aimed to help establish a strong brand identity for gastronomy tourism in the country. The activity commemorated Dakar as the OIC City of Tourism for 2025 and included experience-sharing sessions on topics such as Malaysia’s approach to Islamic gastronomy and tourism promotion efforts in Türkiye. The training covered topics including the role of gastronomy in tourism branding, sustainability, and quality standards.

- **Workshop on ‘Enhancing the PPPs in Gastronomy Tourism in Senegal’:** Within the framework of the COMCEC Funded Project on “Promoting Gastronomy Tourism for the Destination Senegal”, SESRIC organised a Workshop on “Enhancing the PPPs in Gastronomy Tourism in Senegal” on 1-3 September 2025 in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop brought together 60 representatives from public and private sectors who are responsible for tourism development in Senegal, as well as prominent speakers and competent experts from relevant partner countries and institutions. The main objective of the activity was to discuss mechanisms of enhancing public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards the advancement of tourism sector, with particular emphasis on gastronomy tourism. In addition, various sessions discussed the role of digital transformation and exploring new trends in digital culinary marketing, as well as the adoption of sustainable and eco-friendly practices from the partner countries. The workshop concluded with certificate distribution ceremony for the Senegalese participants and competent experts who contributed to the success of the activity.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 16 indicators under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database, which are regularly updated.

6. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security:

- **OIC Water Report:** This report evaluates the current state of water resources and their use and management in Member Countries by using a wide range of the latest available statistics. The report also highlights the water scarcity situation along with the impacts of climate change on water resources in OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on ‘Disease Control, Pesticides, Spray Pumps and Fertilizers in Cotton’:** Within the framework of its Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Training Course on “Disease Control, Pesticides, Spray Pumps and Fertilizers in Cotton” on 30-31 October 2024 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI), and the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) for the benefit of 60 cotton experts and researchers from the National Cotton Institutions in 26 OIC countries. The main objective of the training course was to strengthen capacities and knowledge of cotton experts in member countries by providing insights into cotton diseases causes, pesticide and weeds management, with the effective use of spray pumps and fertilizers in cotton. Furthermore, the activity aimed to address cotton related challenges such as low yields, disease outbreaks, and environmental concerns to overcome the technical know-how gaps in cotton productivity.

- **Webinar on ‘Prospect for Bioenergy Production from Sugar Palms’:** As part of its Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building (Agri-CaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a webinar on “Prospect for Bioenergy Production from Sugar Palms” on 26 February 2025, with the facilitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The webinar brought together 45 experts and executives from 25 OIC countries. The event aimed to highlight the future prospects of bioenergy resources, focusing on the introduction of sugar palm bioethanol as a biofuel for sustainable development. Distinguished speakers from various national institutions of Indonesia provided insights on topics such as forest modalities in bioethanol development, the utilisation of processing waste, and empowering local communities through biofuel production.
- **Workshop on ‘Exploring the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus for Sustainable Development in OIC Countries’:** Within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), organized a workshop on “Exploring the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus for Sustainable Development in OIC Countries” on 3 March 2025. The workshop brought together 100 participants from 23 OIC countries and aimed to enhance their understanding of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus framework. The workshop featured presentations from competent experts and facilitated knowledge exchange on strategies for integrated resource management and collaborative solutions for sustainable development.
- **Training Course on ‘Sustainable Cotton Production in OIC Countries: Strengthening Farmer Resilience and Economic Growth’:** Within the framework of its Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB), SESRIC organised a training course on “Sustainable Cotton Production in OIC Countries: Strengthening Farmer Resilience and Economic Growth” on 11-12 March 2025. The course, provided by experts from the University of Punjab in Pakistan, benefited 106 cotton experts from 22 OIC countries. The training aimed to explore innovative approaches to achieve sustainable cotton production by focusing on the latest farming practices, enhancing farmer resilience, and fostering market-based strategies to drive economic growth.
- **Workshop on ‘Eco-Friendly Livestock Production Practices for Sustainable Agriculture’:** Within the framework of its Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), organised a workshop on “Eco-Friendly Livestock Production Practices for Sustainable Agriculture” on 18-19 March 2025. The workshop brought together 92 experts and executives from 31 OIC countries to enhance their understanding of eco-friendly livestock production practices. Experienced experts from the International Center for Livestock Research and Training (ICLRT) in Türkiye,

the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute in Pakistan, and the Livestock Research Center in Malaysia delivered comprehensive presentations. The workshop aimed to strengthen collaboration and coordination in addressing agricultural and environmental challenges.

- **Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators’:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organized a Statistical Training Course on “SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators” with the participation of 78 experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries responsible for Water of 26 OIC countries on 2-3 September 2025. The training course was provided by a senior expert from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). In addition, within the framework of the UN-OIC Cooperation, UN-Water contributed to the training course by presenting the work of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative (IMI-SDG 6) to introduce collaboration opportunities for OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on ‘Unconventional Water Resources Practices to Enhance Agriculture Productivity in Water-Scarce OIC Countries’:** Within the framework of SESRIC Project on “Promoting Unconventional Water Resources to Enhance Agriculture Productivity in Water-Scarce OIC Member Countries”, which is funded under the 12th Call for Project Proposals of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) Project Funding, SESRIC organised a training course on “Unconventional Water Resources Practices to Enhance Agriculture Productivity in Water-Scarce OIC Countries” on 15-18 September 2025 in Ankara, Türkiye. The training, provided by the Republic of Türkiye, brought together senior-level representatives from ministries and national institutions of water and agriculture from the beneficiary countries, namely, Bangladesh, Chad, Morocco, Niger, Saudi Arabia, and Senegal. The main objective of the course was to provide participants with comprehensive technical knowledge on the use of unconventional water resources (UWRs) and their application in the agricultural sector. As part of the programme, a field visit to Afyonkarahisar on “Reuse of Treated Wastewater in Agriculture” was conducted. The training also facilitated the exchange of best practices and success stories in the use of UWRs for food production and irrigation.
- **Study Visit on “Food Waste Management”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), jointly organised a Study Visit on “Food Waste Management” on 22-23 September 2025. The two-day study visit aimed at addressing food loss and waste (FLW) issues in improving food security, mitigating environmental impacts and resource utilisation in OIC Countries in Central Asian region through a first-hand exchange of best practices and lessons-learned.

A total of 5 participants (2 on-site from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and 3 online from Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) attended and benefitted from presentations delivered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye (and its training arm, International Agricultural Training Centre (UTEM)) as well as the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye, along with field experts from the zero waste management facilities operated by the local municipalities of Altındağ and Sincan in Ankara.

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

7. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- **OIC Labour Market Report:** This report provides a detailed account of labour market conditions in the OIC Member Countries. It particularly identifies and assesses the major issues and challenges concerning unemployment, labour force participation, skill mismatch, and occupational safety, among others. The report concludes with a set of policy recommendations to improve labour market performance in OIC Member Countries.
- **State of Youth in OIC Member States:** This report examines the status of youth across OIC member countries, focusing on critical areas such as education, employment, health, and social participation. It identified key challenges faced by young people, showcased successful initiatives implemented by OIC member states, and concluded with actionable policy recommendations to enhance youth empowerment and development.
- **Maternal and Child Health in OIC Member Countries in Africa:** This outlook report assesses the healthcare performance of OIC countries in Africa, focusing on maternal and child health. It explores challenges related to implementing cost-effective interventions such as vaccination, skilled birth attendance, breastfeeding promotion, and mosquito net distribution. It also provides policy recommendations to address these healthcare challenges effectively.
- **OIC Health Report:** This report evaluates the health performance of OIC Member Countries by analysing the trends in major health indicators. It mainly focus on the health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and progress on six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.
- **Final Review Report on the Implementation of the OIC-2025:** Upon the request of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared a final review report to assess the progress made in realizing 107 goals outlined in the in 18 priority areas of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. The report utilised data collected from official national

authorities in member states through a questionnaire distributed by SESRIC and other reliable international agencies. The findings of the report will be shared with member states and submitted to the relevant session of CFM.

- **Training Session on ‘Integrating OIC Youth Strategy into the National Programmes in OIC Member Countries’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the OIC and in coordination with the Ministry of Sports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organized a training session on “Integrating OIC Youth Strategy into the National Programmes in OIC Member Countries” on 25-26 November 2024 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara. The session brought together 66 representatives from the Ministries of Youth in 33 OIC countries, as well as representatives from OIC institutions. The session provided a comprehensive understanding on how to integrate the OIC Youth Strategy into national action plans, programmes, and policies.
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) Indicator’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized a Statistical Training Course on “SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) Indicator” on 25-27 November 2024. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for the benefit of 35 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant national institutions of 7 Arabic-speaking OIC countries.
- **Training Course on ‘Designing and Implementing National Vocational Qualifications Framework for TVET Institutions’:** Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Malaysia, organised a training course on “Designing and Implementing National Vocational Qualifications Framework for TVET Institutions” on 27-28 November 2024. The course was provided by experts from the Technical Vocational Education and Training Division of the Ministry of Education of Malaysia for the benefit of 29 participants from 12 OIC countries. The main objective was to provide participants with the knowledge and skills to develop and implement a national vocational qualifications framework within TVET institutions. The training covered topics such as comprehensive curriculum development, policy, governance, and quality assurance and accreditation in TVET.
- **Webinar on ‘Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases and the Management of Epidemics in OIC-African Member Countries’:** Within the framework of its IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), organised a webinar on “Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases and the Management of Epidemics in OIC-African Member Countries” on 2 December 2024. The webinar aimed to enhance understanding of the

epidemiology of communicable diseases, share best practices and strategies for managing and controlling epidemics, and strengthen collaboration among member countries. It was attended by 28 health experts and professionals from 13 OIC countries, and featured speakers from the Ministry of Health of Türkiye, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the University of Ilorin in Nigeria, and Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University in Pakistan.

- **Webinar on ‘Enhancing Vocational Training through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Best Practices and Strategies’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Service Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026 and the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Public Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organised a webinar on “Enhancing Vocational Training through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Best Practices and Strategies” on 4 December 2024. The webinar was attended by 83 experts and executives from 31 OIC countries and aimed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of how PPPs can enhance vocational training systems. It focused on sharing best practices and strategies for successful PPP models, including how to establish and manage effective partnerships between public and private entities to improve the quality, relevance, and accessibility of vocational education and training programmes.
- **Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET):** SESRIC, as the Secretariat of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), in collaboration with the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills of Morocco (ANAPEC), as the Chair of the Network, organised the Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC-PESNET on 23 October 2025 via video conference. The meeting brought together senior-level representatives from the national public employment services (PES) agencies and institutions of OIC countries. Participants reviewed progress on the OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2024–2026, which was adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Network held from 29 February to 1 March 2024. The meeting also discussed planned activities under the Work Plan to be implemented until the Fifth Meeting of the Network.
- **Training Course on ‘Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in OIC-Africa Countries’:** Within the framework of its IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Kingdom of Morocco and the COMSTech, organised, a training course on “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in OIC-Africa Countries” on 5-6 December 2024. The training aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices in maternal and child health, and explored challenges and opportunities in providing effective services. A total of 32 experts from 13 OIC countries benefited from the activity, which highlighted challenges in childhood development, health-seeking

behaviour, and accessibility to healthcare services in rural areas. The course also provided valuable insights and good practices, emphasizing the need for solid national health policies and strengthening partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

- **Training Course on ‘Increasing the Production and Supply of Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Technologies in the OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of its IbnSina Health Capacity Building (IbnSina-CaB) Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the COMSTECH, organised a training course on “Increasing the Production and Supply of Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Technologies in the OIC Member Countries” on 9-10 December 2024. The course was provided by experts from various institutions and benefited 85 experts and executives from 28 OIC countries. It aimed to enhance knowledge and expertise on the landscape of pharmaceutical industries and to explore optimisation strategies for the production and distribution of medicines, vaccines, and medical technologies in the OIC.
- **Training Course on ‘Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)’:** Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Türkiye, organised a training course on “Personal Protective Equipment” on 10 December 2024. The training course was provided by experts from the DGOSH of Türkiye for the benefit of 70 participants from 28 OIC countries. The course aimed to enhance the knowledge and technical capacity of OSH professionals in categorising and using PPE. It provided insights into related regulations and safety standards and promoted effective implementation of safety practices, while raising awareness of innovations and trends in PPE.
- **Training Course on ‘Market Surveillance and Inspection of Personal Protective Equipment’:** Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Türkiye, organised a training course on “Market Surveillance and Inspection of Personal Protective Equipment” on 11 December 2024. The training course was provided by experts from the DGOSH of Türkiye for the benefit of 62 participants from 28 OIC countries. The training focused on building the capacity of OSH professionals in market surveillance with an emphasis on the inspection of Personal Protective Equipment to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations and fostered inter-institutional collaboration to establish unified standards for PPE inspection.
- **Webinar on ‘Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery Measures’:** Within the framework of its Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) and Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB), SESRIC, in

collaboration with the International Islamic University Malaysia, organised a webinar on “Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery Measures” on 12 December 2024. The webinar brought together 48 experts from 28 OIC member countries aiming to strengthen their knowledge and skills by developing and implementing effective post-crisis recovery measures. Provided by experts from the International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM), Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia (KLHK), and The National Agency for Environmental Protection of Tunisia (ANPE), the webinar covered topics such as Tunisia’s experience in environment protection and an overview of Malaysia’s SDG Roadmap.

- **Webinar on ‘Navigating Family Challenges: Strengthening Bonds and Building Resilience’:** Within the framework of its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a webinar on “Navigating Family Challenges: Strengthening Bonds and Building Resilience” on 12 December 2024. The webinar aimed to address the urgent need for effective strategies to strengthen family bonds and enhance resilience in OIC countries. A total of 34 experts from 15 OIC countries benefited from the activity, which focused on addressing the evolving challenges families face and highlighted the importance of strong family communication and national family policies.
- **Webinar on ‘Improving Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the Mining Sector’:** Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the OIC Labour Centre, organised a webinar on “Improving OSH in Mining Sector” on 17 December 2024. The webinar brought together 112 experts from 16 OIC countries to recognise potential hazards in the mining sector and exchange best practices to overcome them. The webinar hosted presentations by experts from the OIC Labour Centre, the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of Türkiye, and the Labour Directorate of Jordan, covering topics such as risk methodologies, employers’ and workers’ responsibilities, and country experiences in disaster management and legal frameworks in the mining sector.
- **Webinar on ‘Methodologies for Collecting, Analysing, and Disseminating Statistics on the Labour Market: Countries’ Experiences and Challenges’:** Within the framework of the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026, SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) of Morocco, organised a webinar on “Methodologies for Collecting, Analysing, and Disseminating Statistics on the Labour Market: Countries’ Experiences and Challenges” on 18 December 2024. The webinar brought together 87 experts from Public Employment Institutions of 14 OIC African countries. The event aimed to discuss best practices and challenges in collecting labour market data, exploring various methodologies, tools, and innovative approaches such as

big data and machine learning. Experts from ANAPEC, the Guinean Agency for the Promotion of Employment (AGUIPE), and the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment of Niger (ANPE) provided presentations on topics including the digitalisation and automation of labour markets and operational data collection and analysis.

- **Workshop on ‘Developing Inclusive Education Programs in the Domain of Science and Technology in OIC-Africa Countries’:** Within the framework of the Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC organised a workshop on “Developing Inclusive Education Programs in the Domain of Science and Technology in OIC-Africa Countries” on 4 February 2025. The workshop brought together 67 experts and executives from the education sector, as well as academicians, from 14 French-speaking OIC countries in Africa. The event aimed to provide a platform to discuss strategic policymaking, challenges, and opportunities for developing inclusive strategies in science and technology education. Discussions and presentations focused on the importance of inclusive education, national policies, adaptive pedagogical methods, and the use of technology to achieve inclusive education. It also featured country experiences from Senegal and Cameroon, and the Islamic Development Bank’s (IsDB) efforts in providing quality education for all.
- **Webinar on “Accelerating Data-Driven Energy Transitions through Collaborative Data Ecosystems”:** Within the framework of its Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organised a webinar titled “Accelerating Data-Driven Energy Transitions through Collaborative Data Ecosystems” on 18 February 2025 in the margins of the 56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The webinar was attended by 60 participants from 20 OIC countries, including representatives from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Ministries of Energy (MoEs), international organisations, and research institutions. The discussions focused on the importance of collaborative data ecosystems in enabling sustainable energy transitions, highlighting the critical role of high-quality, timely, and interoperable energy data in shaping effective policies.
- **Side Event on ‘Baku Climate Coalition for SMEs’ Green Transition: Women Empowerment’ on the Margins of the 69th Session of the CSW:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the OIC Permanent Observer Mission to the UN and the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBİA) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organised a side event titled “Baku Climate Coalition for SMEs’ Green Transition: Women Empowerment” on the margins of the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on 10 March 2025 in New York, USA. The event convened over 45 participants,

including Permanent Representatives of OIC countries to the UN, International Organisations, Research Institutions and Academia. The event focused on the intersection of SMEs, climate action, and women's empowerment in OIC countries. Speakers highlighted SMEs' significant role in employment and greenhouse gas emissions, stressing the need for green transition, innovation, and inclusive policies. Women-led enterprises were recognized as vital for climate resilience, yet face barriers like limited finance and regulatory hurdles.

- **Webinar on ‘Encouraging Green Skills for Youth towards Sustainable Development’:** Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye, the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), and the Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation, organised a webinar on “Encouraging Green Skills for Youth towards Sustainable Development” on 13 March 2025. The event brought together 87 experts, executives, and researchers from 25 OIC countries. It facilitated discussions on strategies for integrating green skills into education and training systems and explored the importance of green skills, current challenges, and good practices.
- **Training Course on ‘Safety and Health in the Use of Chemicals at Work’:** Within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building (OSH-CaB) Programme and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2024-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) of the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia, organized a training course on “Safety and Health in the Use of Chemicals at Work” on 9-10 April 2025. The training was attended by 175 experts and executives from 26 OIC countries and featured experts from DOSH Malaysia. The course aimed to address all aspects of dealing with chemicals and provided insights on approaches to safety and health at work, covering topics such as chemical hazard identification, monitoring and evaluation, safe storage and handling, and harmonisation of national laws with international standards.
- **Workshop on ‘Multi-sectoral Mechanisms for Regular Evaluations on Disaster Risk Reduction’:** Within the framework of its Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB Indonesia) and the Ministry of Environment of Tunisia, organised a workshop on “Multi-sectoral Mechanisms for Regular Evaluations on Disaster Risk Reduction” on 14-15 April 2025. A total of 107 participants from 24 OIC countries attended the workshop, which aimed to enhance their understanding of multi-sectoral mechanisms for conducting regular evaluations in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The workshop featured experts from BNPB, the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) of

Türkiye, the Ministry of the Environment of Tunisia, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It covered topics such as tools and methodologies for DRR assessments, and the experiences of AFAD and UNDP.

- **Workshop on ‘Extending Social Security Coverage to Informal Workers’:** Within the framework of its Social Security Institutions Capacity Building Programme (SSI-CaB), SESRIC organised a workshop on “Extending Social Security Coverage to Informal Workers” on 15-16 April 2025. The workshop brought together distinguished experts from the Social Security Institution (SGK) of Türkiye, State Social Protection Fund (SSPF) of Azerbaijan, Social Security Corporation (SSC) of Jordan, and Social Security Organisation (SOCO) of Malaysia. The activity was attended by 65 participants from 22 OIC countries and aimed to enhance participants’ understanding of the mechanisms for extending social security coverage to informal workers. The two-day activity explored various strategies and best practices in formalising employment and expanding social security coverage.
- **Meeting of Central Asian Civil Registrars:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organized the Meeting of Central Asian Civil Registrars from 15-17 April 2025 at its Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. Throughout the meeting, participants engaged in thematic sessions and interactive formats, including technical panels, world cafés, and a site visit, focused on the digitization of CRVS systems, improving registration completeness and equity, and enhancing institutional collaboration. Special attention was given to country-led innovations and the use of administrative data in CRVS governance and service delivery. The meeting also laid the groundwork for the establishment of a Central Asian Civil Registrars Network, envisioned as a collaborative regional mechanism to facilitate sustained peer learning, joint problem-solving, and capacity building across national registration systems.
- **Training Course on ‘Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Women in OIC-Africa Countries’:** Within the framework of its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, organised a training course on “Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Women in OIC-Africa Countries” on 15-16 April 2025. The training brought together 113 experts from 16 OIC countries aiming to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices for strengthening social protection services and empowering women in OIC-Africa. Experts from the Ministry of Social Affairs of Tunisia and the UN Women West and Central Africa Regional Office shared their expertise on topics such as national social protection systems, social safety nets for women, and the impact of social protection on poverty alleviation.

- **Technical Workshop on ‘Marriage and Divorce Registration and Vital Statistics Production in Central Asia’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organised a Technical Workshop on “Marriage and Divorce Registration and Vital Statistics Production in Central Asia” on 18 April 2025 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. The workshop covered legal definitions and registration practices of marriage and divorce, governance and institutional coordination among national stakeholders, integration of CRVS systems with digital and identity management platforms, various approaches to ensure inclusiveness in marriage and divorce registration, and the use and quality of vital statistics derived from registration data.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Environment Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “Environment Statistics” on 29-30 April 2025. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt for the benefit of 120 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 14 Arabic-speaking OIC countries.
- **Training Course on ‘Effective Communication Strategies for Tobacco Control Advocacy’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Green Crescent Society, organised a training course on “Effective Communication Strategies for Tobacco Control Advocacy” on 27-28 May 2025. The event was held in commemoration of World No Tobacco Day. Provided by experts from the Turkish Green Crescent Society, the training benefited 73 experts and executives from 20 OIC countries. The course aimed to enhance participants' communication capacities for tobacco control efforts and equip them with tools to deliver powerful messages, respond to misinformation, and engage different audiences. The training also encouraged collaboration and knowledge sharing among countries, with topics including strategies for community-based communication, the use of AI in social media for tobacco control, and the reality of e-cigarettes.
- **Workshop on ‘Sharing Best Practices: Youth Employment Projects in OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Working Plan 2024-2026 and the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC organised a workshop on “Sharing Best Practices: Youth Employment Projects in OIC Member Countries” on 28-29 May 2025. Conducted in French, the workshop brought together 94 policymakers, experts, and researchers from 15 French-speaking OIC member countries. The workshop provided a platform for sharing successful youth empowerment initiatives and explored strategic policymaking and emerging opportunities in youth employment. It included six sessions delivered by experts from various national institutions, focusing on projects and policies from Benin, Cameroon, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and Togo.

- **Statistical Training Course on ‘Quality Management in Statistical Processes’:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organized a Statistical Training Course on “Quality Management in Statistical Processes” on 11-12 June 2025. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the benefit of 130 statisticians and experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant authorities of 40 OIC countries.
- **Training Workshop on ‘Quality Assurance for Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation’:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized a Training Workshop on ‘Quality Assurance for Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation’ at SESRIC headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye on 1-3 July 2025 in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in implementing quality assurance frameworks across their national statistical systems to enhance the reliability and credibility of official statistics. The workshop provided an in-depth overview of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) and its implementation guidance.
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘Environment Statistics’:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), organized a Statistical Training Course on “Environment Statistics” on 15-17 July 2025, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The training course was provided by a senior expert from TurkStat for the benefit of 24 participants from the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- **Training Course on ‘Zero Waste Strategies for Greener Future’:** Within the framework of its Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), organised a training course on “Zero Waste Strategies for Greener Future” on 16-17 July 2025. The course brought together 139 participants from relevant ministries and national institutions in OIC countries. The training aimed to strengthen their capacities in designing and implementing zero waste strategies to foster environmental sustainability and promote circular economy practices. Experts from IOFS, the Lebanese American University, the Centre of Waste Management Indonesia (CMWI), the Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI) of Egypt, and the National University of Medical Sciences of Pakistan contributed to the training, which covered topics such as the circular economy, food waste management, and the transition to a zero waste society.

- **Webinar on ‘Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Dynamic World for Ageing Population: Strategies for Older Person’s Empowerment in Emerging Economies’:** Within the framework of its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Centre for Family and Aging Studies of the University of Respati Indonesia (URINDO), organised a webinar on “Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Dynamic World for Ageing Population: Strategies for Older Person’s Empowerment in Emerging Economies” on 22 July 2025. The webinar brought together 213 experts, policymakers, scholars, and practitioners from 27 OIC countries to discuss strategies for empowering the aging population. The session covered a range of topics including inclusive policies, empowerment through lifelong education, and lessons learned from initiatives in Indonesia.
- **Webinar on ‘Safe Work in Construction Industry’:** Within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a webinar on “Safe Work in Construction Industry” on 29 July 2025. The webinar aimed to promote OSH practices and raise awareness for a safer work environment in the construction industry. The webinar was attended by 67 professionals from 19 OIC countries and covered topics such as the importance of construction safety, digitalising safety, and the impact of climate change and thermal stress.
- **Webinar on ‘General Inspection of Premises: OSH Legislation Structure, Procedures, and Guidelines’:** Within the framework of the Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational and Safety Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) activities, SESRIC hosted a Webinar on “General Inspection of Premises: OSH Legislation Structure, Procedures, and Guidelines” on 22 September 2025. The webinar brought together 63 experts from OSH institutions of 16 OIC countries. It aimed at enhancing understanding of general workplace inspection practices among member countries by providing a platform to review basic OSH legislation frameworks, sharing practical inspection procedures, and raising awareness of common workplace hazards.
- **Training Course on ‘Developing an Effective Labour Market Information System (LMIS)’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Working Plan 2024-2026 and the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills of Morocco (ANAPEC), organised a training course on “Developing an Effective Labour Market Information System (LMIS)” on 5-6 August 2025. The training benefitted 97 experts and executives from 13 French-speaking OIC countries, aiming to strengthen participants’ expertise in the design, implementation, and management of LMIS.

- **Training Session on ‘Content Management and Use of the OIC Health Portal’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the OIC, organised a training session on “Content Management and Use of the OIC Health Portal” on 12 August 2025. The session, which was held in line with relevant resolutions of the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers and the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, familiarised 45 focal points from Ministries of Health and public authorities across 15 OIC Member Countries with the rationale, structure, and use of the OIC Health Portal. The training covered SESRIC’s efforts in health, the portal’s federated ownership model, and included a hands-on session on its use. The OIC Health Portal serves as a key information-sharing platform and a repository for health-related reports and publications.
- **Training Course on ‘Advanced Negotiation Techniques and Diplomatic Correspondence’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye and the Palestinian National School of Administration (PNSA), organised a training course on “Advanced Negotiation Techniques and Diplomatic Correspondence” on 26-27 August 2025. The course aimed to strengthen the diplomatic competencies of Palestinian public officials in negotiation and diplomatic communication. Esteemed ambassadors from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye provided the training, which was attended by 69 participants from various Palestinian institutions. The training covered topics such as Protocol Rules, Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities, Diplomatic Correspondence, and Negotiation Skills.
- **OIC-VET Consultative Meeting with the French-Speaking OIC Countries:** As the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC organised the first OIC-VET Consultative Meeting online in French on 25 August 2025. The meeting was part of a series to draft the new ten-year OIC TVET Strategic Roadmap 2026-2035. It was attended by 30 senior representatives from nine TVET authorities and relevant national institutions in French-speaking OIC countries. The primary objective was to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in the TVET field, aiming to identify strategic directions for the new OIC-VET Programme. The meeting also reviewed the current organisational structure to improve the programme's effectiveness.
- **Second OIC-VET Consultative Meeting with the Arabic-Speaking OIC Countries:** As the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC organised the 2nd OIC-VET Consultative Meeting in an online format in Arabic on 15 October 2025. The meeting was part of a series to develop the new OIC TVET Strategic Roadmap 2026-2035. It was attended by senior representatives from the TVET authorities and relevant national institutions in Arabic-speaking OIC countries. The primary objective was to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in the TVET sector, aiming to identify strategic directions for the new strategic roadmap. The meeting also reviewed the current organisational structure to enhance the programme’s effectiveness.

- **Online Working Group Meeting on ‘Facilitating Digital Transition of National VET Systems in OIC Countries’:** SESRIC organised an online working group meeting on “Facilitating Digital Transition of National VET Systems in OIC Countries” on 19-20 August 2025. The meeting was part of a SESRIC project titled “Developing an Effective Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries”, funded by the COMCEC under its 12th Call for Project Proposals. It was attended by 37 participants from 11 TVET-related ministries and institutions of OIC countries. The participants explored strategic priorities for the digital transformation of their VET systems, identified challenges, and worked to integrate technology to enhance the quality and accessibility of VET programmes. The meeting led to the development of a draft roadmap to guide member countries in their digital transition.
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘Labour Statistics’:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), organized a Statistical Training Course on “Labour Statistics” on 25-26 August 2025, in Bakau, The Gambia. The training course was provided by a senior expert from TurkStat for the benefit of 18 participants from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS).
- **Statistical Training Course on ‘Sustainable Development Statistics’:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, organised a Statistical Training Course on “Sustainable Development Statistics” on 16-17 September 2025. The training course was provided by a senior expert from TurkStat for the benefit of 60 experts from the NSOs of 25 OIC member countries.
- **Technical Report on the Extension of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA):** The report is prepared to support discussions at the Steering Committee on Health in advance of the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (7–9 October 2025, Amman, Jordan). Developed under tight timelines with limited inputs from Committee members, it remains a living document that can be updated as further information is shared before the 8th ICHM.
- **Workshop on ‘Cyber Addiction: Best Practices to Protect Children from Violence via Internet in the OIC Member States’:** In coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and in collaboration with relevant OIC Subsidiary Organs and Specialised Institutions, SESRIC organised a workshop on “Cyber Addiction: Best Practices to Protect Children from Violence via Internet in the OIC Member States” on 14-15 October 2025 at its Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. Organised in line with the relevant resolution adopted by the Second Session of the Ministerial Conference on Social Development, the workshop aimed to strengthen cooperation and coordination among OIC countries by facilitating the exchange of best practices to protect children and youth from emerging threats in the digital environment. The workshop addressed the impact of cyber addiction and cyberbullying and facilitated policy dialogue around preventive

measures and regulatory strategies. It also sought to identify effective and culturally appropriate mechanisms for responding to digital threats affecting young people across OIC countries.

- **Training Course on ‘Establishment and Operationalisation of National Labour Market Observatories’:** Within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, organised a training course on “Establishment and Operationalisation of National Labour Market Observatories” on 21-22 October 2025. The course, delivered in Arabic, benefited OIC Arab-speaking countries and provided focused guidance on the establishment and operation of national labour market observatories. It explored key elements such as institutional setup, data management frameworks, system design, and labour market analysis. The training also highlighted international experiences and methods for effectively communicating findings to support evidence-based policymaking.
- **Workshop on “Utilization of Innovation and Technology for Accelerating the Eradication of Poverty”:** Within the framework of the Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB), and in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), SESRIC organised a Workshop on “Utilisation of Innovation and Technology for Accelerating the Eradication of Poverty” on 21-22 October 2025. The workshop offered a platform for sharing knowledge and good practices on how innovation and technology can be harnessed to support poverty eradication efforts across OIC Member Countries. Discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities in advancing digital transformation, innovative financing mechanisms such as fintech, and inclusive solutions that promote sustainable development. The workshop gathered experts, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange experiences on practical approaches and policy frameworks that can speed up progress towards eradicating poverty.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 56 indicators related to poverty alleviation (SDG 1 “No Poverty” indicators) under the OICStat Database, which are regularly updated.

8. COOPERATION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on cooperation on digital transformation:

- **Training Course on ‘Fostering the Utilisation of the Digital Technologies for a Better Employment and Skill Development’:** Within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026, SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Agency for Promotion of Employment and

Skills (ANAPEC) of Morocco, organised a training course on “Fostering the Utilisation of the Digital Technologies for a Better Employment and Skill Development” on 11-12 November 2024. The training benefited 55 experts and executives from 11 French-speaking OIC countries and was provided by experts from ANAPEC. The course aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how digital tools and platforms can be leveraged to improve job prospects, increase employability, and support continuous professional growth. It covered topics such as the latest trends in digital tools, the promotion of self-directed learning, and the improvement of digital literacy.

- **Webinar on ‘AI’s Impact on Labour Market Matching: Insights and Strategies’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Service Network (OIC-PESNET) and Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC organised a webinar on “AI’s Impact on Labour Market Matching: Insights and Strategies” on 12 February 2025. Provided by experts from Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Türkiye, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the webinar brought together 107 participants from 32 OIC countries. The event aimed to examine the economic implications for employers, job seekers, and policymakers, and to address ethical concerns such as bias, privacy, and fairness. Discussions focused on a variety of AI applications that enhance job matching and recruitment processes, and the webinar also discussed policy implications and shared best practices and case studies.
- **Panel Discussion on ‘Harnessing Technological Developments for Modernizing National Statistical Systems in OIC and ESCWA Member Countries’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), organized a side event on “Harnessing Technological Developments for Modernizing National Statistical Systems in OIC and ESCWA Member Countries” on 6 March 2025, in the margins of the 56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at the Turkish Mission (Türkevi Centre) in New York, USA. The discussions highlighted the importance of capacity-building initiatives, improved data governance, and collaborative approaches to harness technological advancements in official statistics.
- **Workshop on ‘Key Challenges and Opportunities in the Utilisation of Emerging Technologies’:** Within the framework of its Digital Transformation Capacity Building (DIGI-CaB) Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), organised a workshop on “Key Challenges and Opportunities in the Utilisation of Emerging Technologies” on 25-26 March 2025. The workshop brought together 165 experts and executives from 37 OIC countries. The activity aimed to enhance understanding of emerging technologies and explore opportunities for innovation and value creation. The workshop covered topics such as emerging and disruptive technologies, their integration and scalability, and technology risk management. It also included a discussion on cooperation for sustainable development under IsDB’s Technology Deployment Cooperation Program (TDCP).

- **SESRIC Talks Session on ‘Mind the AI Gap: Shaping the Future-Ready Work’:** Under the umbrella of its recent initiative of “SESRIC Talks”, the Centre welcomed ILO Türkiye Country Office as well as the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries with the participation of diplomatic corps of the OIC Member Countries in Ankara as well as the Turkish national institutions to discuss “Mind the AI Gap: Shaping the Future-Ready Work” on 7 May 2025 at its Headquarters. The event covered the development and implementation disparities of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, while exploring different strategies to ensure equitable opportunities. The session served as a platform to explore key dimensions of AI, including ethical concerns, its impact on labour markets, and the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries. The speakers examined the multifaceted effects of AI on labour markets – ranging from job quantity and quality to structural transformation.
- **Workshop on “Empowering Job Seekers: Digital Platform Best Practices from OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024–2026, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) and the State Employment Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organised a workshop on “Empowering Job Seekers: Digital Platform Best Practices from OIC Member Countries” on 8-9 July 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop brought together 54 high-level representatives from 15 OIC countries. The event aimed to provide a platform for participants to share experiences and best practices in leveraging digital tools to enhance employment services and expand employment opportunities for job seekers. It covered topics such as adapting public employment services to the age of AI and showcasing digital employment projects from different member countries.
- **Online Working Group Meeting on ‘Facilitating Digital Transition of National VET Systems in OIC Countries’:** SESRIC organised an online working group meeting on “Facilitating Digital Transition of National VET Systems in OIC Countries” on 19-20 August 2025. The meeting was part of a SESRIC project titled “Developing an Effective Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries”, funded by the COMCEC under its 12th Call for Project Proposals. It was attended by 37 participants from 11 TVET-related ministries and institutions of OIC countries. The participants explored strategic priorities for the digital transformation of their VET systems, identified challenges, and worked to integrate technology to enhance the quality and accessibility of VET programmes. The meeting led to the development of a draft roadmap to guide member countries in their digital transition.
- **Symposium on ‘Empowering Youth in the OIC Member States through Video Games and Social Media: Opportunities and Challenges’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat, Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), Ministry of Sports of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other relevant OIC organs and institutions,

organised a symposium on “Empowering Youth in Member States through Video Games and Social Media: Opportunities and Challenges” on 4 September 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The symposium focused on both the positive and negative aspects of video games by analysing their opportunities and challenges. The event aimed to increase awareness of the harmful effects of unethical video games and social media on youth education while also highlighting their positive cultural and economic impact.

- **Workshop on ‘Developing Roadmap for Vocational Education and Training Systems Across OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of a SESRIC project titled “Developing an Effective Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries” and funded by the COMCEC, SESRIC organised a workshop on “Developing Roadmap for Vocational Education and Training Systems Across OIC Member Countries” on 24-25 September 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The workshop brought together 21 senior-level experts and policymakers from TVET authorities and relevant institutions across 11 OIC countries. Its primary aim was to discuss and refine the draft roadmap for the digital transformation of VET systems, which had been developed during an earlier online Working Group Meeting. The workshop provided OIC countries with crucial guidance to integrate digital technologies, thereby improving the quality, accessibility, and relevance of their VET programmes.
- **14th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom):** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, organised the 14th Session of the Commission on 1-3 October 2025 at its Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. The Session reviewed the activities carried out since the previous meeting, assessed the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action 2021-2025, and adopted the new Programme of Action for 2026-2030. Deliberations also focused on key technical themes, including the modernisation of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) through digitalisation.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 92 indicators under the Science, Technology and Innovation category of the OICStat Database, which are regularly updated.



STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
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