

# SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

## The Implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMCEC



12-13 May 2026  
Ankara, Türkiye

**Original: English**



**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 42<sup>ND</sup> FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE COMCEC**

**Agenda Item No: 4-11**

**12-13 May 2026**

**Ankara, Türkiye**





## **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the technical activities and programmes implemented by SESRIC in support of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations, for submission to the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC, to be held on 12–13 May 2026 in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye.

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues on the agendas of various OIC conferences and related meetings, particularly the sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. In doing so, the Centre continued to make a significant contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions to address the challenges and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant fields.

The Centre also continued to support the efforts of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to strengthen and further improve the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of the OIC Member States, with a view to enhancing the quality of national statistics and thereby assisting policymakers in the formulation of more effective national policies and strategies. In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), and through its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre continues to contribute significantly to the technical capacity development of the NSOs and other stakeholders of the NSSs in 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 25 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide range of areas such as agriculture, environment, disaster risk management, finance, health, water resources, poverty alleviation, public employment and tourism. These programmes are implemented in close cooperation with relevant national institutions in the OIC Member States through various modalities, including training courses, workshops, webinars and study visits.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY  
AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1	The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	20 April 2026
2	Al-Mujadilah Center and Mosque for Women	9 April 2026
3	OSTIM Technical University	3 April 2026
4	BPS–Statistics Indonesia	5 March 2026
5	National Statistics Committee (NSC) of the Republic of Uzbekistan	4 March 2026
6	Ibn Haldun University	8 January 2026
7	Women and Democracy Foundation (KADEM)	30 December 2025

In light of the above, this report highlights the implemented activities of SESRIC in accordance with the eight cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy, 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 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** 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.
- **Training Course on “Halal Certification Frameworks and Regulatory Compliance” on 14-15 April 2026:** Within the framework of its Halal Capacity Building Programme (Halal-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), organised a Training Course on “Halal Certification Frameworks and Regulatory Compliance” on 14-15 April 2026 for the benefit of 146 experts from the relevant ministries and national institutions in 21 OIC Member Countries.
- **Webinar on “Key Digital Challenges for Competition Authorities and Potential Solutions” on 31 March 2026:** Within the framework of its Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB), SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Key Digital Challenges for Competition Authorities and Potential Solutions” on 31 March 2026. The webinar featured insightful presentations from representatives of the Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (GCCPC), the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), the Turkish Competition Authority (TCA), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) bringing together 93 experts from relevant national institutions in 24 OIC Countries.

## 2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Since the 41st 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:

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **39 indicators** under the Private Sector category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

- **Outlook Report on Green Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Women Empowerment in OIC Countries:** This outlook report explores the role of environmentally sustainable SMEs in advancing women’s economic empowerment in OIC countries in alignment with the Baku Climate Coalition for SMEs’ Green Transition. The report also assesses the current trends, challenges, and opportunities in green entrepreneurship while highlighting strategies to enhance women’s participation and leadership in this sector.
- **SESRIC initiated the Entrepreneurship Capacity Building Programme (Entrepreneurship-CaB) in 2026:** The new CaB was launched following the establishment of the OIC Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Support Agencies Network (OIC-SMENET), to compliment the efforts of OIC Member States in entrepreneurship development.

### 3. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **136 indicators** under the Banking, Money and Prices (44); Government Finance (32); International Finance (38); and Islamic Banking and Finance (22) categories of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.
- **Training Course on “Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in OIC Capital Markets” on 21-22 April 2026:** 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 “Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in OIC Capital Markets” on 21-22 April 2026 for the benefit of 73 experts from stock exchanges and relevant national institutions in 15 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Open Market Operations and Forecast Modelling” on 24-25 February 2026:** Within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), organised a Training Course on “Open Market Operations and Forecast Modelling” on 24-25 February 2026. The training course was organised as a step forward towards advancing cooperation in line with the signed MoU between SESRIC and the Ministry of Economy of

the Sultanate of Oman, bringing together 25 experts from the Ministry of Economy and the Central Bank of the Sultanate of Oman.

- **Session on “Enhancing Statistical Capacities: Building Human and Institutional Strength for Reliable Data” on 19-20 November 2025:** The session was organised under the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Arab Statistics (ArabStat) Initiative, conducted by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 19-20 November 2025. During the session, SESRIC delivered a presentation titled “StatCaB Programme: Facilitating Statistical Cooperation for Capacity Development”, highlighting its statistical activities and projects in the field of macroeconomic statistics, including the 2025 System of National Accounts (2025 SNA), balance of payments and international investment position statistics, government finance statistics, and monetary and financial statistics, among others.

#### **4. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on improving transport and communications:

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **43 indicators** under the Transportation and Communication category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics” on 9-10 February 2026:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics” on 9-10 February 2026 for the benefit of 160 participants from National Statistical Offices and relevant national institutions of 24 OIC Countries. The training course was conducted by competent experts from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).
- **Webinar on “Measuring Progress on SDG 9: Strengthening Statistical Capacities for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization” on 9 December 2025:** The webinar was conducted by experts from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), for

the benefit of experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant institutions of OIC Member Countries. The webinar was attended by 40 official statisticians and experts from the NSOs and line ministries of 16 OIC countries as well as 5 international and regional institutions.

- **Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries 2026: Implications for Trade and Tourism & Challenges for Landlocked Countries:** This report outlines the current state of the transport sector and identifies potential constraints to connectivity that need to be addressed across OIC Member Countries, with particular reference to the issues and challenges faced by landlocked OIC Member Countries. In doing so, the report promotes the idea of a well-connected OIC region with modern and functional transport infrastructure, smoother passage at border crossings, faster foreign trade, and operational economic corridors that can broaden opportunities for economic growth and welfare. The report was prepared in line with the resolutions of the 48<sup>th</sup> CFM and was submitted as a technical background document to the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers, held on 11–12 February 2026 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

## 5. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **16 indicators** under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.
- **Workshop on “Advancing Entrepreneurship in Rural Tourism” on 6-7 January 2026:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC organised a workshop on “Advancing Entrepreneurship in Rural Tourism” on 6-7 January 2026. The event was held in line with the resolutions of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which designated Cairo as “OIC City of Tourism for 2026”. The workshop brought together 165 experts from relevant national institutions, tourism ministries, and authorities from 31 OIC countries, including the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- **Expert Group Meeting on the “Development of an Islamic Tourism Indicators Framework” on 5 November 2025:** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, organised the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the Development of an Islamic Tourism Indicators Framework virtually. The meeting was held in accordance with the relevant objectives of the Strategic Vision of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) for 2030 and its Programme of Action (2021-2025), and the Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC countries. The EGM was attended by 42 representatives from National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Tourism of 18 OIC countries, as well as representatives from relevant OIC and international organisations, including Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
- **Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries:** This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state of the Halal Industry in terms of finance, food, tourism and lifestyle markets. The report also identifies and discusses some major common issues and challenges in this domain and makes policy recommendations for the OIC Member Countries to address these challenges.

## **6. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY**

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security.

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **119 indicators** under the Agriculture category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.
- **High Level Panel on “Water Efficiency” on 6 May 2026:** SESRIC participated as a panellist in a High Level Panel on “Water Efficiency” on 6 May 2026. The panel, held on the sidelines of the 5<sup>th</sup> Istanbul International Water Forum, under the theme “Strengthening Resilience: Innovation to Action”, provided a vital platform for policymakers, representatives of international organisations, scientists, and funding institutions to discuss solutions that will shape the future

of water management in the context of food, water, energy, and ecosystem nexus connectivity.

- **Panel on “Strengthening Capacity for Water Resistance” on 6 May 2026:** SESRIC contributed to a Panel on “Strengthening Capacity for Water Resistance”, held on the sidelines of the 5<sup>th</sup> Istanbul International Water Forum, which took place on 6 May 2026, under the theme “Strengthening Resilience: Innovation to Action”. SESRIC shared its South-South Cooperation based modality for capacity building and development among the OIC member countries as well as its dissemination portals to ensure the relevant data and information are easily accessible by the water experts in OIC countries.
- **Technical Mission on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators” on 20-22 April 2026:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cameroon, organised a Technical Mission on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators” on 20-22 April 2026 in Conakry, Guinea. The technical mission was conducted by a competent expert from the INS of Cameroon for the benefit of 34 participants from the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and other relevant stakeholders in the national statistical system of Guinea.
- **Workshop on “Enhancing Water Resources for Sustainable Food Security” on 11 March 2026:** 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) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), organised a Workshop on “Enhancing Water Resources for Sustainable Food Security” on 11 March 2026. The workshop brought together 16 experts and professionals from relevant national institutions in 8 OIC Member Countries.
- **Side Event on “Strengthening Agricultural Census Systems in OIC Countries: Lessons Learned and Future Directions” on 5 March 2026:** On the margins of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2026, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), organised a side event titled “Strengthening Agricultural Census Systems in OIC Countries: Lessons Learned and Future Directions” on 5 March 2026. Hosted at the Turkish House (Türkevi Center) / Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations in New York, the side event brought together senior officials and technical experts to exchange practical lessons

learned from recent agricultural census experiences and to discuss forward-looking priorities for strengthening agricultural census systems in OIC countries.

- **Session on “Importance of Agricultural Statistics in Supporting and Informing Decision-Making” on 12-13 February 2026:** SESRIC participated in the First Arab Forum on Agricultural Statistics, titled “A Platform for Integration, Innovation, and Evidence-Based Food Security”, organised by the League of Arab States (LAS) on 12–13 February 2026 in Doha, Qatar, on the margins of AgriteQ 2026 (Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition). Through its presentation titled “Ensuring Food Security: Quality Data, Analysis and Collaboration”, SESRIC highlighted the strategic importance of agriculture for OIC Member Countries and underscored the critical role of high-quality agricultural data in evidence-based policymaking.
- **Study Visit on “Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics” on 13-15 January 2026:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a three-day study visit on “Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics” on 13–15 January 2026 in Ankara and Trabzon, Republic of Türkiye, for the benefit of experts from the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources (MOFWR) and the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS). The study visit was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and implemented in close collaboration with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (FAO-SEC).
- **Training Course on “Promoting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the Agriculture Sector” on 13-14 January 2026:** Within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia organised a Training Course on “Promoting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the Agriculture Sector” on 13-14 January 2026. The training course benefited 145 experts and representatives from the relevant ministries and national institutions in 25 OIC countries.
- **Webinar on “Land Degradation and Restoration” on 9 December 2025:** Within the framework of the Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the G20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the General Directorate of Combating

Desertification and Erosion under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Webinar on “Land Degradation and Restoration” on 9 December 2025. The webinar brought together a total of 147 participants from 35 OIC Member Countries.

- **Webinar on “Bridging the Data Gaps on SDG 2 Indicators: Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in OIC Countries” on 2 December 2025:** Within the framework of the SESRIC Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organised the webinar in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), for the benefit of experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant national institutions of the OIC Member Countries. The webinar brought together 62 official statisticians and experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), as well as the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, representing 24 OIC countries.
- **Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries:** This report investigates the challenges faced by OIC Member Countries in their pursuit of sustainable agricultural development and the assurance of food security for their citizens. It provides a detailed examination of the existing agricultural landscape, pinpointing the principal factors shaping trends in food security, and offering actionable policy suggestions to fortify resilience within agricultural and food systems. This report will be submitted to and presented at the 10th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD), which will be held in 2026.

## 7. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **37 indicators** related to poverty alleviation (SDG 1 “No Poverty” indicators) under the OICStat Database, and they are being updated regularly.
- **Webinar on “Integrating Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into Population and Housing Censuses: Latest Trends” on 30 April 2026:** As part of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series, SESRIC organised a

webinar titled “Integrating Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into Population and Housing Censuses: Latest Trends” on 30 April 2026, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), with the participation of representatives from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant institutions of OIC Member Countries. The webinar provided a platform for discussing the latest international standards, methodological developments, and country practices related to the integration of GIS and geospatial information into population and housing censuses.

- **Sixth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting on 15 April 2026:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), hosted the Sixth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting on 15 April 2026. The main aim of the meeting, which brought together 89 representatives from 26 OIC Member Countries, was to review the draft OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2035 with deliberations centering on cross-cutting pillars and key priority areas. Subsequent to the meeting, participants will provide feedback and recommendations to further strengthen and finalise the Strategic Roadmap.
- **Session on “Effective Communication of SDG Data: When Numbers Speak Volumes” on 9-10 April 2026:** SESRIC participated in and delivered a presentation at the 9<sup>th</sup> Expert Meeting on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on 9–10 April 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland. Presenting the findings of SESRIC’s study titled “Measuring Progress on SDG Indicators without Targets: Methodological Choices and Implications”, SESRIC provided a comparative assessment of methodologies used by international institutions, highlighting key differences in the evaluation of SDG progress, particularly for targets without explicit quantitative benchmarks.
- **Fifth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting with the Arabic-Speaking OIC Countries on 9 April 2026:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), hosted the Fifth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting on 9 April 2026. The meeting, which focused on the draft OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2035, brought together 40 representatives from TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions in 9 Arabic-speaking OIC Countries.

- **Fourth OIC-TVET Consultative Meeting with the French-Speaking OIC Countries on 1 April 2026:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), hosted the fourth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting on 1 April 2026. The primary aim of this meeting was to review and provide feedback on the draft OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2035, developed following the initial exploration of the TVET landscape during the first meeting. This event convened 55 representatives TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions in 13 French-speaking OIC Member Countries.
- **Follow-up Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Statistical Commission on 4 March 2026:** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised the Follow-up Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom on 4 March 2026 as a side event of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in New York. 31 delegates from 15 OIC countries, as well as the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), attended the meeting. As the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC provided participants with an update on the implementation of resolutions adopted during the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom, held in a hybrid format at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, in October 2025. Additionally, SESRIC briefed participants on the preparations for the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Session. The participants discussed and agreed on the agenda items, date and the venue of the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Session.
- **Webinar on “Strategies for Building Resilience in Changing Climate” on 4 March 2026:** Within the framework of the Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB), and in collaboration with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), SESRIC organised a webinar on “Strategies for Building Resilience in Changing Climate” on 4 March 2026. The webinar featured expert-led sessions that benefited 134 professionals from relevant ministries and institutions across 32 OIC Countries.
- **Workshop on “Stimulating Youth Entrepreneurship: Best Practices and Government Policies” on 24-25 February 2026:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-

2026 and the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) of Malaysia, organised a Workshop on “Stimulating Youth Entrepreneurship: Best Practices and Government Policies” on 24-25 February 2026. The workshop was organised in line with the “OIC Youth Strategy,” bringing together 85 experts and executives from the Public Employment Agencies and relevant national institutions of 19 OIC Member Countries.

- **Workshop on “Promoting Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in the OIC Member Countries for a Sustainable Growth” on 16-17 February 2026:** 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 National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills of Morocco (ANAPEC), organised a Workshop on “Promoting Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in the OIC Member Countries for Sustainable Growth” on 16-17 February 2026. The workshop was delivered by competent experts for the benefit of 63 participants from 14 French-speaking OIC Countries.
- **Webinar on “Supporting NEET Youth with Effective Guidance and Coaching Methods for Career Success” on 11 February 2026:** 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 organised a Webinar on “Supporting NEET Youth with Effective Guidance and Coaching Methods for Career Success” on 11 February 2026. The webinar brought together 335 participants from relevant national institutions across 25 OIC countries.
- **Panel Discussion on “Activating the Ability Dividend: Policies for Socio-Economic Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries” on the sidelines of the 64<sup>th</sup> Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) on 4 February 2026:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations, organised a Panel Discussion on “Activating the Ability Dividend: Policies for Socio-Economic Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries” on the sidelines of the 64<sup>th</sup> Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) on 4 February 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event

convened 35 participants, including Permanent Representatives of OIC countries to the UN, International Organisations, Research Institutions, ECOSOC-accredited NGOs and Academia.

- **High-Level Strategic Dialogue on “Partnerships for Impact” on 21 January 2026:** SESRIC participated in the High-level event “Knowledge for Enhanced Efforts: Introducing the WDO Cross-Regional Think Tank”, organised by the Women Development Organisation (WDO), in a hybrid format in Cairo, Egypt, on 21 January 2026. SESRIC delivered a presentation titled “Advancing Women’s Rights through Data and Collaboration” and highlighted current demographic trends, socioeconomic challenges, and the strategic importance of data in advancing women’s rights across OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Demographic and Population Statistics (including migration trends)” on 20-22 January 2026:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC co-organised a Statistical Training Course on “Demographic and Population Statistics (including migration trends)” in collaboration with and for the benefit of 17 experts of the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 20-22 January 2026 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of the Arab Republic of Egypt conducted the training course.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) Indicators” on 20-21 January 2026:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) Indicators” on 20-21 January 2026. The course brought together 225 participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 22 OIC Member Countries. The course was conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).
- **Webinar on “Commit to Data” on 20 January 2026:** In line with the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision 2030 and its Programme of Action for 2026–2030, SESRIC presented its commitment to advancing open data and modernising statistical governance in OIC Member Countries. Built around measurable milestones, this commitment encompasses capacity-building activities, peer learning, and knowledge-sharing through the OIC-StatCom framework, with the aim of strengthening statistical governance, promoting open data practices in

official statistics, and supporting SDG monitoring. The UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) webinar on “Commit to Data” was co-organised by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, PARIS21, and Open Data Watch.

- **Webinar on “Social Protection Statistics” on 20 January 2026:** As part of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), organised a Webinar on “Social Protection Statistics” on 20 January 2026. Competent experts from the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, BPS-Indonesia, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) of Oman, and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) shared their country experiences on social protection. 74 official statisticians and experts attended the webinar from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and line ministries of 34 OIC countries.
- **TQS integration into the Sixth Demographic and Health Survey of Guinea (EDSG-VI):** SESRIC facilitated the integration of the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) into the Sixth Demographic and Health Survey of Guinea (EDSG-VI), implemented by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Guinea. Through the administration of tobacco use questions to both women and men, the survey generated reliable data on the prevalence and patterns of tobacco product consumption in Guinea. The results of the survey were released by 31 December 2025.
- **TQS integration into Sample Survey of Households in Uzbekistan:** SESRIC facilitated the integration of the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) into the Sample Survey of Households in Uzbekistan, implemented by the National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Covering 4,015 households, the survey generated reliable data on the prevalence and patterns of tobacco product consumption among the population. The results of the survey were released by 31 December 2025.
- **Project on the Integration of Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS Youth (Phase 4) in OIC Countries:** SESRIC successfully completed Phase 4 of the project by the end of 2025, in collaboration with the CDC Foundation, covering 22 OIC countries that integrated the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) into ongoing national surveys. Phase 4 of TQS (Adult) and TQS Youth

contributed to strengthening the availability of tobacco use data and overall health statistics across OIC countries, thereby supporting evidence-based decision-making towards a tobacco-free OIC.

- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 4 (Quality Education) Indicators” on 9-10 December 2025:** The training course was provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), Islamic University of Technology-IUT, and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), for the benefit of 70 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant institutions of 29 OIC Member Countries.
- **SESRIC Kiosk at the DataFest 2025 Pakistan on 11-12 November 2025:** SESRIC participated in DataFest 2025, organised by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on 11–12 November 2025 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Held under the theme “Harnessing the Power of Data for Inclusive Growth and Innovation”, the event brought together a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), international and regional organisations, government institutions, academia, and the private sector, to promote data-driven transformation and strengthen the global data ecosystem. Through its participation in the event, SESRIC reaffirmed its commitment to promoting data-driven innovation, strengthening capacities, and fostering international cooperation among OIC Member Countries.
- **Solutions Session on “The Circle of Care: Families Supporting the Young, the Old, and All in Need” on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) on 6 November 2025:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations, organised a Solutions Session titled “The Circle of Care: Families Supporting the Young, the Old, and All in Need” on the sidelines of Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) on 6 November 2025 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha. The session brought together high-level speakers from various institutions that play pivotal role in advancing social development, including the Ministry of Social Affairs of Kuwait, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) of UAE, Women and Democracy Foundation of Türkiye (KADEM), and the OIC General Secretariat.

- **Training Course on “Unlocking Potential: Training NEET Youth for Job Readiness for a Better Economic Inclusion” on 5-6 November 2025:** 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 Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised a Training Course on “Unlocking Potential: Training NEET Youth for Job Readiness for a Better Economic Inclusion” on 5-6 November 2025. The training course was provided by competent experts for the benefit of 73 participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies and institutions of 28 OIC Member Countries.
- **Study Visit on “Geospatial Data” on 4-5 November 2025:** The study visit hosted by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) at its headquarters in Ankara aimed to enhance the knowledge and technical capacity of two experts from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in the field of geospatial data and remote sensing.
- **Solutions Session on “Digital Pathways to Formalization in the Social and Solidarity Economy: Accelerating Social Inclusion and Accessibility” on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) on 4 November 2025:** SESRIC co-organised a Solutions Session titled “Digital Pathways to Formalization in the Social and Solidarity Economy: Accelerating Social Inclusion and Accessibility”, with the League of Arab States, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), on 4 November 2025 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha. The session provided a platform for discussing how technology utilization in social and solidarity economy (SSE) can enhance people’s lives. Panellists emphasised that sharing experiences and success stories creates a broader impact on advancing SSE.
- **Third OIC-VET Consultative Meeting on 4 November 2025:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), organised the third OIC-VET Consultative Meeting on 4 November 2025. It brought together 42 senior representatives from 16 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) authorities and relevant national institutions in OIC Countries. The consultative meeting primarily sought to address emerging

challenges and opportunities in the TVET sector, helping to outline strategic directions that will shape the new vision of the OIC-VET Programme.

- **State of Youth in OIC Member States 2025:** This report examines the status of youth across OIC Member Countries, focusing on critical areas such as demography, health, education, employment, and social participation. It identifies key challenges faced by young people, showcases successful initiatives, and concludes with actionable policy recommendations to enhance youth empowerment and development across the OIC region. The report will be submitted to and presented at the 6th Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM), which is planned to be held in 2026 in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq.
- **OIC Women and Development Report:** This report examines the state of women in OIC Member Countries from a comparative perspective and identifies key challenges faced by women in social and economic life. The report is also instrumental in gauging the progress toward the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) by using a variety of qualitative and quantitative datasets. Finally, the report presents a set of recommendations to serve as broad policy guidelines to overcome specific challenges faced by women in OIC Member Countries. This report will be submitted to and presented at the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member Countries, which is scheduled to be held on 12-13 July 2026 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- **OIC Economic Outlook 2025:** This report evaluates 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 highlighted major constraints and challenges confronting the OIC Member Countries in their efforts towards enhancing their economic development and progress.
- **D8 Economic Outlook 2026:** The D-8 Economic Outlook 2026 provides a comprehensive assessment of macroeconomic trends in D-8 member countries, examining growth, trade, productivity, and competitiveness in the context of evolving global economic conditions. It also highlights key opportunities driven

by demographic dynamics and expanding markets, while addressing persistent challenges such as structural constraints, limited intra-group trade, and productivity gaps. The report emphasises the importance of strengthened economic cooperation, targeted policy reforms, and enhanced competitiveness to support sustainable growth, deepen integration, and improve socio-economic outcomes across D-8 member states. The report it will be submitted to the upcoming Summit of the D-8 countries.

- **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 were shared with the OIC General Secretariat to be transmitted to the member states and submitted to the relevant session of CFM.

## 8. COOPERATION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on cooperation on digital transformation:

- **Training Course on “Digitalisation and Utilisation of AI in Audit” on 21-22 April 2026:** Within the framework of its Public Audit Capacity Building Programme (PAU-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Court of Accounts organised a Training Course on “Digitalisation and Utilisation of AI in Audit” on 21-22 April 2026, for the benefit of 105 experts from relevant ministries and national institutions in 31 OIC Member Countries.
- **Training Course on “Digital Identity and e-Government Services in OIC Countries” on 8-9 April 2026:** Within the framework of SESRIC Digital Transformation Capacity Building Programme (Digi-CaB), and in collaboration with Turkish Satellite Corporation (TÜRKSAT), the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, SESRIC organised a virtual Training Course on “Digital Identity and e-Government Services in OIC Countries” on 8-9 April 2026. A total of 110 experts and representatives from relevant ministries and national institutions in 38 OIC countries benefited from the course.

The webinar was attended by 81 participants from relevant institutions in 25 OIC Member Countries.

- **Panel Session on “Data Quality and Its Growing Value in the Modern World” on 6–7 November 2025:** SESRIC participated in the International Forum on “Digital Transformation of National Statistical Systems”, held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 6-7 November 2025. The Forum, hosted by the Kazakhstan Bureau of National Statistics (QazStat), also commemorated the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institution’s establishment. During the panel session, SESRIC delivered a presentation titled “Data Quality in the Modern Data Ecosystem: Insights and Experiences from OIC Member Countries”, underscoring the increasing importance of data in informing governance and development processes and emphasising the central role of data quality in ensuring trust and comparability.



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

Kudüs Cad. No:9 Diplomatik Site 06450 ORAN-Ankara, Türkiye

Tel: (90-312) 468 61 72-76 Fax: (90-312) 468 57 26

Email: [cabinet@sesric.org](mailto:cabinet@sesric.org) Web: [www.sesric.org](http://www.sesric.org)