

SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

The Implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations

THE 42ND SESSION OF THE COMCEC



**31 October - 3 November 2026
Istanbul, 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

42nd SESSION OF THE COMCEC

Agenda Item No: 2

31 October-3 November 2026

Istanbul, Türkiye

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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 42nd Session of the COMCEC on 31 October-3 November 2026 in Istanbul, 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 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 strengthening the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in the OIC member countries with a view to producing better national statistics and thus helping policymakers 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 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 countries through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Furthermore, during the period under review, SESRIC signed 13 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	Women and Democracy Foundation (KADEM)	30 December 2025
2	Ibn Haldun University	8 January 2026
3	National Statistics Committee (NSC) of the Republic of Uzbekistan	4 March 2026
4	BPS-Statistics Indonesia	5 March 2026
5	OSTIM Technical University	3 April 2026
6	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	20 April 2026
7	Al-Mujadilah Center & Mosque for Women	11 May 2026
8	Azerbaijan Women Entrepreneurs Development Association (AWEDA)	17 June 2026
9	International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) University	18 June 2026
10	Water and Amelioration Scientific Research Institute (WASRI) under the Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency	18 June 2026
11	Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)	2 July 2026
12	National Agency for Statistics and Demography of Senegal (ANSO)	29 September 2026
13	Center for Scientific and Technical Information of the Republic of Uzbekistan	28 October 2026

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.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY
AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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**

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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 Economic Outlook 2026:** This report analyses recent economic developments and the outlook for OIC Member Countries, focusing on growth, trade, investment and inflation. It examines key challenges, including economic uncertainty, geopolitical risks and changes in the global trade environment, and highlights priorities for strengthening resilience, sustainable growth and intra-OIC economic cooperation.
- **D-8 Economic Outlook:** This report examines the economic performance and outlook of D-8 member countries, focusing on major economic indicators, trade, investment, industrial development and economic cooperation, while highlighting key challenges and opportunities for strengthening growth and intra-D-8 economic relations.
- **Webinar on Key Digital Challenges for Competition Authorities and Potential Solutions:** 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 brought together 93 experts from national institutions across 24 OIC countries and featured presentations by 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 Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UN Trade. It aimed to strengthen participants’ understanding of the challenges facing competition authorities in an increasingly digitalised economy and facilitate the exchange of experiences concerning digital markets, data and technology-driven business models. The webinar addressed regulatory responses to digital-market challenges, economic analysis, enforcement practices, the impact of digitalisation on the work of competition authorities, market concentration and potential approaches to competition enforcement in digital markets.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Training Course on ‘Halal Certification Frameworks and Regulatory Compliance’:** Within the framework of its Halal Capacity Building Programme (Halal-CaB), SESRIC organised a virtual training course on “Halal Certification Frameworks and Regulatory Compliance” on 14-15 April 2026, in collaboration with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC). The training brought together 146 professionals from relevant ministries and institutions across 21 OIC countries and featured expert-led sessions delivered by specialists from SMIIC, the Halal Accreditation Agency (HAK) and the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE). It aimed to enhance participants’ understanding of halal certification frameworks, OIC/SMIIC standards and regulatory compliance practices, while promoting the exchange of national experiences and good practices among member countries. The course addressed the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ), OIC/SMIIC standards for halal certification, the SMIIC Committee on Conformity Assessment and related standards, SMIIC standardisation procedures and activities, and national good practices in halal accreditation and certification.
- **Webinar on “Foreign Direct Investment and Competitiveness Statistics” on 17 June 2026.** As part of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series, SESRIC, in collaboration with UN Trade, organised a webinar on “Foreign Direct Investment and Competitiveness Statistics” on 17 June 2026. The webinar brought together 65 experts from NSOs, central banks, ministries, investment authorities, and other relevant institutions of 24 OIC Member Countries, as well as representatives of OIC institutions and UN agencies. The webinar was also organised within the framework of the implementation of the joint activities agreed during the 16th Session of the UN-OIC Meeting on Cooperation, held on 22-24 July 2024 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, and in line with the Matrix of Activities within the Framework of UN-OIC Cooperation for 2024-2026.
- **SESRIC-UN Trade Regional Seminar on “FDI Statistics in OIC Member Countries” on 27 October 2026.** UN Trade and SESRIC jointly organised a regional seminar on FDI statistics and multinational enterprise (MNE) activities in OIC countries on 27 October 2026 within the framework of the 9th World Investment Forum hosted by the State of Qatar on 25-27 October 2026 in Doha. The Regional Seminar discussed the latest developments in investment statistics

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

and FDI data compilation, as well as complementary datasets that can strengthen the interpretation and analysis of FDI data. It also addressed key challenges faced by developing countries in compiling and reporting investment trends.

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **157 indicators** under the International Trade category of the OICStat Database, which can be accessed through <https://oicstat.sesric.org> and is being updated regularly.

2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF THE 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:

- **Green SMEs and Women Empowerment in OIC Countries:** This outlook report examines the role of environmentally sustainable SMEs in advancing women's economic empowerment in OIC Member Countries, highlighting trends, challenges and opportunities in green entrepreneurship and strategies to strengthen women's participation and leadership.
- **Workshop on 'Advancing Entrepreneurship in Rural Tourism:** Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with the resolutions of the 12th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which designated Cairo as the "OIC City of Tourism for 2026", SESRIC organised a virtual workshop on "Advancing Entrepreneurship in Rural Tourism" on 6-7 January 2026. The workshop brought together 165 experts from relevant national institutions, tourism ministries and authorities across 31 OIC countries, including the Arab Republic of Egypt, and featured presentations on Malaysia's agro-tourism development strategy, Indonesia's Community-Based Village Tourism (CBVT) model, Egypt's "responsibility-centric" approach and 7Ps diversification strategy, Uzbekistan's 16-category Tourism Village certification system, Bangladesh's Tourism Master Plan (2025-2041), Uganda's human-centric cultural tourism approach and Türkiye's experience with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) criteria. It aimed to equip professionals from OIC national tourism institutions, particularly Egyptian experts, with the skills to develop sustainable,

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

comprehensive and competitive rural tourism sectors. The workshop addressed standardised governance and certification systems, CBVT models, diversification, links with agro-tourism, ecotourism and gastronomy, and capacity building and resource mobilisation, and concluded with a common emphasis on local community involvement and human-based strategies as a key driver of rural tourism.

- **Workshop on ‘Promoting Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in the OIC Member Countries for Sustainable Growth’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026 and its 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 virtual workshop on “Promoting Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in the OIC Member Countries for Sustainable Growth” on 16-17 February 2026. The workshop was delivered in French by experts from ANAPEC and brought together 63 participants from 14 French-speaking OIC countries. It aimed to increase participants’ awareness of the vital role of entrepreneurship ecosystems in OIC member countries and of how entrepreneurship drives sustainable economic growth, equipping them to contribute to the development of their respective countries. The workshop addressed ANAPEC’s entrepreneurial support services and programmes, including their target beneficiaries and the role of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, national partnerships and international cooperation in strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and regional entrepreneurial ecosystems, with a focus on the Drâa-Tafilalet Region.
- **Workshop on ‘Stimulating Youth Entrepreneurship: Best Practices and Government Policies’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026 and its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) of Malaysia, organised a virtual workshop on 24-25 February 2026, in line with the OIC Youth Strategy. The workshop brought together 85 experts and executives from public employment agencies and relevant national institutions across 19 OIC countries. It aimed to provide participants with the strategic tools and knowledge necessary

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

to implement successful entrepreneurship models, and to share Malaysia's proven frameworks and innovative solutions for fostering youth-led economic growth. The workshop addressed the entrepreneurship landscape and policy overview in Malaysia, ecosystems for encouraging youth entrepreneurship, scaling youth-led businesses through MARA's development programmes, and strategies and best practices for empowering women entrepreneurs.

- **Statistical Training Course on “Labour Statistics” on 20-21 May 2026.** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “Labour Statistics” on 20-21 May 2026. The training course was organised in collaboration with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) with a view to strengthening the capacities of OIC Member Countries in producing reliable, timely and policy-relevant labour market statistics. The course brought together 82 participants from NSOs and relevant ministries of 27 OIC Member Countries, reflecting the continued interest of national statistical systems in enhancing the quality, comparability and use of labour statistics for evidence-based policymaking. The course supported evidence-based private-sector and employment policies by strengthening the production and use of comparable labour-market statistics.
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **39 indicators** under the Private Sector category of the OICStat Database, which are being updated regularly.

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:

- **Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries:** This report analyses the development of the Halal industry in OIC Member Countries, covering major sectors, market trends, structural challenges and opportunities for trade, investment and intra-OIC cooperation.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Islamic Green Finance:** This outlook report explores the potential of Islamic finance instruments to support climate action and sustainable development, with particular attention to green financing opportunities and challenges in OIC Countries.
- **Session on “Enhancing Statistical Capacities: Building Human and Institutional Strength for Reliable Data” on 19-20 November 2025.** The session was organised under the 12th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Arab Statistics (ArabStat) Initiative, organised 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.
- **Training Course on ‘Open Market Operations and Forecast Modelling:** 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 virtual training course on “Open Market Operations and Forecast Modelling” on 24-25 February 2026. The training was organised as a step towards advancing cooperation in line with the MoU signed between SESRIC and the Ministry of Economy of the Sultanate of Oman, and brought together 25 experts from the Ministry of Economy and the Central Bank of the Sultanate of Oman. It aimed to build in-depth knowledge and operational skills in the design, implementation and monitoring of Open Market Operations (OMO), while developing staff expertise in the macroeconomic modelling and forecasting methodologies essential to effective monetary policy formulation. The course addressed the foundations and strategic design of OMO, instrument mechanics and collateral frameworks, operational execution and case studies, time series modelling and nowcasting, and structural modelling and risk assessment.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Training Course on ‘Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in OIC Capital Markets’:** Within the framework of its Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with Borsa Istanbul, which serves as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum (OICEF), organised a virtual training course on “Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in OIC Capital Markets” on 21-22 April 2026. The training brought together 73 experts from national institutions across 15 OIC countries and featured presentations by representatives of Borsa Istanbul, the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX), AlBaraka Tech Marketing and Kuveyt Türk. It aimed to explore the entrepreneurship ecosystem within OIC capital markets, with a particular focus on the evolving roles of exchanges and post-trade institutions. The course addressed entrepreneurship ecosystems at OIC exchanges, venture capital investment funds, venture capital investment trusts and the venture capital market at Borsa Istanbul, the BIST Private Market, capital market inclusion for SMEs and IDX’s support mechanisms, entrepreneurship and strategic partnerships in the participation finance ecosystem, innovation-driven startup development and corporate partnerships, and startup investments, fund management and value creation strategies.
- **Training Course on ‘Digitalisation and Utilisation of AI in Audit’:** Within the framework of its Public Audit Capacity Building Programme (PAU-CaB), and in collaboration with the Turkish Court of Accounts, SESRIC organised a virtual training course on “Digitalisation and Utilisation of AI in Audit” on 21-22 April 2026. The course brought together 105 experts and representatives from public audit institutions and relevant national agencies across 31 OIC countries. It aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices in utilising technological advances such as AI for better public administration and governance, and to explore transformative auditing processes in the digital age as an exemplary case study and source of lessons learned for OIC countries. The course supported stronger public financial oversight by examining digital audit, data governance, risk assessment and fraud detection.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **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, which are being updated regularly.

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:

- **Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries:** This report examines transport infrastructure and connectivity in OIC Member Countries, with particular focus on their implications for trade and tourism and the challenges faced by landlocked countries.
- **Webinar on “Measuring Progress on SDG 9: Strengthening Statistical Capacities for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation” on 9 December 2025.** The webinar was conducted by experts from the UN Industrial Development Organisation (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 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 five international and regional institutions.
- **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” for the benefit of 160 participants from National Statistical Offices and relevant national institutions of 24 OIC Countries on 9-10 February 2026 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was conducted by competent experts from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) Indicators’ on 9-10 June 2026.** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) Indicators’ for the benefit of 105 experts from the national statistical offices and other relevant constituents of the national statistical systems of the 33 OIC countries on 9-10 June 2026 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was conducted by competent experts from the National Accounts Statistics Division of DOSM. The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of the participants in the collection, compilation, processing, analysis, and dissemination of SDG 9 indicators, while facilitating the sharing of Malaysia’s relevant country experience with the participating Member Countries.
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** 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 41st Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

- **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

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

organisations, including Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

- **Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics” on 12-13 May 2026.** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics” with the attendance of 81 experts from NSOs and Ministries of Tourism of 32 OIC Member Countries on 12-13 May 2026 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was organised in collaboration with BPS-Statistics Indonesia and the course was delivered by its competent experts from the Directorates of Services Statistics and SDGs. Moreover, UN Tourism also contributed to the sessions focusing on sustainable tourism.
- **Training Course on ‘Promoting Islamic and Rural Heritage Tourism through Innovative Marketing Techniques and Storytelling’:** Within the framework of its Project on “Strengthening Egypt’s Cultural Tourism Destination Brand through Sharing Experiences”, co-funded under the 13th Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF), SESRIC organised a virtual training course on “Promoting Islamic and Rural Heritage Tourism through Innovative Marketing Techniques and Storytelling” on 4-5 August 2026. The training brought together 27 staff from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism promotion in the Arab Republic of Egypt. It aimed to enhance the capacity of local tourism stakeholders to promote Egypt’s rich Islamic heritage through storytelling and digital branding, and to demonstrate, through successful case studies from OIC Member Countries, how rural heritage destinations can attract visitors, generate income for local communities and create engaging experiences without major infrastructure investments. The course addressed Islamic and rural cultural heritage tourism, innovative marketing techniques, the heritage of Ramadan in Cairo as a religious tourism destination, Malaysia’s experience in branding Muslim-friendly tourism through digital storytelling, Senegal’s spiritual harmony in the service of religious tourism, Türkiye’s experience in storytelling and digital communication for Islamic and rural heritage, Uzbekistan’s culinary heritage, and IRCICA’s Digital Humanities Project for Cairo History and Heritage.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **16 indicators** under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database, which are being updated regularly.

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:

- **Climate Mitigation in Agriculture:** This outlook report analyses greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture in OIC Member Countries and explores mitigation opportunities through sustainable agricultural practices, improved resource efficiency and climate-smart approaches.
- **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 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS), for the benefit of experts from NSOs and other relevant national institutions of the OIC Member Countries. The webinar brought together 62 official statisticians and experts from NSOs, as well as the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, representing 24 OIC countries.
- **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).

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **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.
- **Side Event on “Strengthening Agricultural Census Systems in OIC Countries: Lessons Learned and Future Directions” on 5 March 2026.** On the margins of the 57th Session of the UN 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 Centre) 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.
- **Workshop on ‘Enhancing Water Resources for Sustainable Food Security’:** Within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB), SESRIC, the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) jointly organised a virtual workshop on “Enhancing Water Resources for Sustainable Food Security” on 11 March 2026. The workshop brought together 16 experts and professionals from relevant institutions of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It featured presentations by SESRIC on the current situation and challenges of sustainable water management and agricultural water efficiency in OIC countries, and by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) of Türkiye on its framework and experiences in water resources management and irrigation modernisation.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **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.
- **Panel Discussion on “Towards a Strategic Water Cooperation Roadmap” on 9 September 2026.** Organised on the side-lines of the 3-day training course, the panel titled “Towards a Strategic Water Cooperation Roadmap” discussed approaches to strengthening water technical cooperation among OIC Member Countries and provided an opportunity to exchange views on the proposed roadmap for OIC water cooperation. SESRIC highlighted the existing tools of the Centre for cooperation: the OIC Water Report presented regularly to the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water, its capacity-building programmes, such as the Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) and the StatCaB, stressing the importance of identifying the needs and capacities of Member Countries and linking technical expertise among them, as well as increasing the national statistical capacities for more effective water management.
- **SESRIC Contributed to the COMCEC-Funded Project on Genome Editing and Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** SESRIC participated in the first activity of the project "Enhancing Genome Editing and Crop Biotechnology Capacity for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in OIC Member Countries", approved for funding under the 13th COMCEC Project Call and led by the Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB), University of the Punjab, Pakistan, in cooperation with partner institutions from Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The activity, a Hands-on Intensive Training on CRISPR/Cas9 Genome Editing for Climate-Resilient Cotton, was held on 22-25 September 2026 in Lahore, Pakistan, to strengthen technical capacities in genome editing and crop biotechnology. SESRIC, delivered a presentation on SESRIC’s activities with emphasis on the Agri-CaB and Cotton-CaB programmes.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC is hosting **119 indicators** under the Agriculture category of the OICStat Database, which are being updated regularly.

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 Women and Development Report 2026:** This report evaluates the current status of women and their socio-economic and political empowerment in Member Countries by using a wide range of the latest available statistics across key dimensions, including health, education, economic participation, and decision-making. The report also highlights notable progress and ongoing challenges along with evidence-based policy recommendations to support women's advancement and sustainable development in OIC Member Countries.
- **SESRIC Hosted OIC-VET Consultative Meetings:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of tSESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, continued to host a series of OIC-VET Consultative Meetings through an online video conferencing platform:
 - The Third OIC-VET Consultative Meeting was conducted in English on 4 November 2025.
 - The Fourth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting was conducted in French on 1 April 2026.
 - The Fifth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting was conducted in Arabic on 9 April 2026.
 - The Sixth OIC-VET Consultative Meeting was conducted in English on 15 April 2026.

These meetings were attended by senior representatives from TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions in OIC member countries. The third OIC-VET Consultative Meeting explored the challenges and opportunities in TVET sector to identify the key directions that would shape the new Strategic Roadmap of the OIC-VET Programme. The primary objective of the fourth, fifth and sixth

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Consultative Meetings was to review and provide feedback on the draft OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2035, which was developed following the initial exploration of the TVET landscape during the previous consultative meetings. This process involved refining the strategic pillars, prioritizing key areas, and establishing clear performance indicators to ensure the Roadmap accurately reflects the varied needs, capacities, and development priorities of OIC member countries.

- **Webinar on ‘The Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of the 12th Call for Project Proposals under COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented a project in 2025 titled “Developing an Effective Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries.” The project’s technical phase commenced with an Online Working Group Meeting (19-20 August 2025), which gathered 37 experts from 11 OIC member countries to diagnose regional needs and identify the primary barriers to digital adoption. This was followed by a high-level Workshop in Baku, Azerbaijan (24-25 September 2025), where 21 senior representatives from TVET authorities in 11 OIC countries engaged in a discussion and refined the project’s findings. The definitive outcome of this collaborative process was the publication of the “Roadmap for Digital Transition in National VET Systems”¹. The main objective of this Roadmap is to provide strategic guidance to the OIC member countries in facilitating the digital transition of their TVET systems.
- **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.
- **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 NSOs, international and regional organisations, government

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

- **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 participants from NSOs of 29 OIC countries.
- **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.
- **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

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

product consumption among the population. The results of the survey were released by 31 December 2025.

- **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 (OSH-CaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a virtual Training Course on “Promoting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the Agriculture Sector” in collaboration with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia on 13–14 January 2026. The training course benefited 145 experts and representatives from relevant ministries and national institutions in 25 OIC Member Countries.
- **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 Organisation (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-Statistics 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. The webinar was attended by 74 official statisticians and experts from NSOs and line ministries of 34 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)” for 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 Mobilisation 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 through an online

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

video conferencing platform. The course brought together 225 participants from NSOs of 22 OIC Member Countries. The course was conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

- **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” during the session “High-Level Strategic Dialogue: Partnerships for Impact”, and highlighted current demographic trends, socioeconomic challenges, and the strategic importance of data in advancing women’s rights across OIC countries.
- **Panel Discussion on ‘Activating the Ability Dividend: Policies for Socio-Economic Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries’:**
- SESRIC, in collaboration with the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the UN, 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 64th Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) on 4 February 2026 at the UN 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. The session began with a SESRIC presentation featuring data on persons with disabilities in OIC countries and intra-OIC efforts to build more inclusive societies, followed by remarks from representatives of the OIC, Türkiye, the League of Arab States, the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The discussions focused on scalable multi-stakeholder capacity-building and cooperation mechanisms to accelerate disability inclusion, aligning OIC-specific insights with the 2030 Agenda and the priority theme of CSocD64.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Webinar on ‘Supporting NEET Youth with Effective Guidance and Coaching Methods for Career Success’:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Service Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026 and its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC organised a virtual 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 public employment agencies and relevant national institutions across 25 OIC countries and featured presentations by representatives of ANAPEC of Morocco, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment of Nigeria, the Labour and Human Resource Department of Punjab (Pakistan), the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training of Cameroon, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). It aimed to share good practices in guidance and coaching methods for NEET youth and to provide practical approaches and tools to help them identify career goals, develop essential skills and navigate the job market. The webinar addressed Morocco’s C4EE integrated coaching model, Nigeria’s approach to guidance and coaching, Pakistan’s job centre model, Cameroon’s national employment and vocational training initiatives, global NEET challenges and ILO solutions, and UNDP perspectives on youth employability.
- **SESRIC Welcomed the Ambassador of Palestine and Palestinian Students under the ‘Journey to OIC Countries’ Series:** SESRIC welcomed H.E. Dr. Nasri ABU JAISH, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Türkiye, and a group of Palestinian students at its Headquarters in Ankara on 18 February 2026. H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK highlighted SESRIC’s support to Palestinian institutions, noting that between 2024 and 2026 the Centre conducted around 80 activities involving more than 240 Palestinian experts, and commended its cooperation with the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The students shared the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the need for sustained international engagement and were introduced to SESRIC’s Emerging Talents Capacity-Building Programme (SET-CaB), which aims to empower students and fresh graduates from OIC countries through skills development and international exposure.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Webinar on ‘Strategies for Building Resilience in Changing Climate’:** Within the framework of its Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with ICESCO and COMSTECH, organised a virtual webinar on “Strategies for Building Resilience in Changing Climate” on 4 March 2026. The webinar brought together 134 professionals from relevant ministries and institutions across 32 OIC countries. It aimed to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change and the importance of strengthening resilience, explore practical strategies and collaborative approaches for climate adaptation, share international experiences, and discuss ways to integrate resilience into planning and decision-making. The webinar addressed strengthening early warning systems using advanced technologies, mainstreaming small- and medium-scale renewable energy, and evidence-based resilience pathways from Pakistan.
- **Follow-up Meeting of the 14th 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 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom on 4 March 2026 as a side event of the 57th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in New York. The meeting was attended by 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). As the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC provided participants with an update on the implementation of resolutions adopted during the 14th 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 15th Session. The participants discussed and agreed on the agenda items, date and the venue of the upcoming 15th Session.
- **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 9th Expert Meeting on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organised by the UN 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

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

assessment of methodologies used by international institutions, highlighting key differences in the evaluation of SDG progress, particularly for targets without explicit quantitative benchmarks.

- **SESRIC Contributed to the Water Resilience Panel at the 5th Istanbul International Water Forum:** Dr. Atilla KARAMAN, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation, participated as a speaker in Session 1.3, “Strengthening Capacities for a Water-Resilient World”, at the 5th Istanbul International Water Forum, held under the theme “Strengthening Water Resilience: From Innovation to Action”, on 6 May 2026 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The session brought together policymakers, experts and development partners to discuss capacity-building strategies for enhancing water resilience amid growing climate and resource challenges. SESRIC provided an overview of water realities and emerging risks across OIC member countries, presented its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB), launched in 2015, as well as the OIC Water Resources Portal and its water publications, and noted that it has implemented 65 capacity-building programmes in the field of water, reaching around 2,000 participants from OIC member countries. The importance of integrated approaches, digital solutions and international cooperation in addressing water-related challenges was also emphasised.
- **Webinar on ‘The Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries’:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), organised a virtual webinar on “The Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries” on 14 May 2026. The webinar brought together 76 representatives from TVET authorities and relevant national institutions across 19 French-speaking OIC countries. It aimed to introduce the roadmap for digital transition as a reference tool to make TVET systems more comprehensive, flexible and adapted to future skill requirements, and to strengthen cooperation among institutions in OIC member countries to accelerate digital transformation at the regional level.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Side Event on ‘From Education to Economic Participation: Redesigning Transition Pathways for Persons with Disabilities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence’:** SESRIC contributed to the side event titled “From Education to Economic Participation: Redesigning Transition Pathways for Persons with Disabilities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence” on 8 June 2026 during the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP19) at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event was organised by the Qatar Foundation for Social Work and the Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN and discussed the persistent structural gap between education outcomes and meaningful integration into the labour market, particularly for persons with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. SESRIC shared insights on intra-OIC efforts, highlighting policy recommendations on education and economic integration as two main pillars of the OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities.
- **Panel Discussion on ‘Social Safety Nets for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities: Sharing Best Practices and Strengthening Social Security in OIC Member States’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the UN, organised a High-Level Panel Discussion on “Social Safety Nets for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities: Sharing Best Practices and Strengthening Social Security in OIC Member States” on the sidelines of the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP19) on 8 June 2026 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The panel brought together policymakers from OIC countries and representatives from relevant international organisations to present national initiatives and the supportive policies suggested by relevant UN and international organisations, with a view to promoting more comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection systems for older persons and persons with disabilities. It also provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on practical policy options and partnership models that can support implementation at the national, regional and international levels.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Migration and Refugee Statistics” on 9-10 June 2026.** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “Migration and Refugee Statistics” on 9-10 June 2026 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was organised in collaboration with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

(PCBS). The course brought together 28 participants from NSOs and other relevant institutions of 11 Arabic-speaking OIC countries. The training course was delivered by Mr. Mohammed Falah Duraidi, Deputy Director of the General Population and Social Statistics Directorate at PCBS.

- **SESRIC Contributed to the Seminar on ‘Women in TVET: Empowering Potential, Shaping the Future’:** SESRIC, as the Executing Organ of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET), participated virtually in the hybrid Seminar on “Women in TVET: Empowering Potential, Shaping the Future” on 16 June 2026. Invited by its long-standing partner, the Ministry of Education of Malaysia, SESRIC contributed to the seminar with a dedicated presentation titled “SESRIC’s Initiatives in Advancing Women’s Empowerment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)”, which highlighted the inception, objectives and implementation modalities of the OIC-VET Programme since its official launch in 2009. The session analysed the key structural barriers lowering female participation in TVET, such as socio-cultural stereotypes, concentration in traditional lower-wage sectors and inadequate facilities, and shared strategic recommendations aligned with the new OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2035, emphasising targeted scholarships, comprehensive infrastructure, the promotion of STEM and ICT fields for women and regional public awareness campaigns. The SESRIC representative also presented the Centre’s ongoing capacity-building programmes, including activities on enhancing youth and women’s entrepreneurial skills and improving employability for girls, geared towards modernising national TVET systems across the OIC region.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 5 Indicators” on 23-24 June 2026.** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised a Statistical Training Course on “SDG 5 Indicators” on 23-24 June 2026 through an online video conferencing platform, in collaboration with the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The course brought together 62 participants from NSOs and other relevant institutions of 28 OIC Member Countries. The training course was delivered by senior experts of DOSM. The course strengthened the statistical basis for policies addressing inequality between women and men, women’s economic participation, and the dimensions of poverty that affect women.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **SESRIC Welcomed a Delegation from the Erzurum Diplomacy Research Center:** SESRIC welcomed a delegation from the Erzurum Diplomacy Research Center at its Headquarters in Ankara on 24 June 2026. During the visit, the delegation learned more about the OIC, as well as SESRIC's work in the areas of statistics, research and training to support socio-economic development across OIC countries. SESRIC regularly welcomes international students from universities and associations, offering them the opportunity to explore its initiatives and learn about its efforts to foster cooperation and development among its member countries.
- **SESRIC Participated in the 27th ASEAN-OSHNET Coordination Board Meeting and the 13th ASEAN-OSHNET Conference:** SESRIC participated virtually in the Open Session, entitled "Cooperation of ASEAN-OSHNET with External Parties", of the 27th ASEAN-OSHNET Coordination Board Meeting (CBM-27) and the 13th ASEAN-OSHNET Conference (13th AOC), held on 8 July 2026 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. The session brought together representatives of international and regional organisations working in occupational safety and health (OSH) to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation. SESRIC delivered a presentation entitled "SESRIC's Initiatives to Promote Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in OIC Member Countries", highlighting its capacity-building, technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing activities under the OSH Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and the work of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). SESRIC also reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening its long-standing partnership with ASEAN-OSHNET and expanding cooperation between the two networks.
- **Training Course on 'The Price of Addiction: Health Risks and Economic Losses of Tobacco':** Within the framework of its Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB) and in collaboration with the Turkish Green Crescent Society (YEŞİLAY), SESRIC organised a training course on "The Price of Addiction: Health Risks and Economic Losses of Tobacco" on 15-16 July 2026 in Amman, Jordan. The course was organised in recognition of the role of Jordan's Ministry of Health as the current Chair of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM), and a YEŞİLAY expert shared the Turkish experience with 27 staff from the Ministry of Health and relevant national institutions in Jordan. It aimed to strengthen the capacity of healthcare professionals and

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

relevant stakeholders to address the health and economic impacts of tobacco use through enhanced knowledge, improved cessation services, and stronger tobacco control efforts and collaboration. The course addressed tobacco dependence, tobacco control policies and the MPOWER strategy, the tobacco industry and commercial determinants of health, tobacco control governance, organisation of dependence treatment services, pharmacological and behavioural treatment approaches, and treatment for special populations, and included a clinical demonstration workshop.

- **Study Visit on ‘Exploring Energy Generation from Landfill’:** Within the framework of its Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB), SESRIC organised a study visit on “Exploring Energy Generation from Landfill” on 21-22 July 2026 in Konya, Türkiye, in collaboration with the Konya Metropolitan Municipality. The visit brought together five professionals and engineers from the Ministry of Electricity of Iraq, the Ministry of Environment of Iraq and the Solid Waste and Environment Department of the Mayoralty of Baghdad, with the aim of enhancing their knowledge and technical capacities in sustainable municipal solid waste management and landfill gas-to-energy practices. The programme featured technical presentations by Konya Metropolitan Municipality experts on integrated waste management and energy generation from landfill, as well as on-site visits to the Aslım Excavation and Landfill Area and the Kaşınhanı Integrated Waste Disposal and Energy Production Facility, where participants observed landfill management, waste treatment and electricity generation from landfill gas. During the visit, the delegation also met with Mr. Ercan USLU, Secretary General of the Municipality, who reaffirmed its readiness to share its experience with OIC countries and its openness to future cooperation.
- **Webinar on the Fundamentals and Practical Applications of Islamic Finance Instruments for the Uganda Islamic Finance Cooperative Union (UGIFICU):** Within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB), organised a one-day virtual webinar on “Fundamentals and Practical Applications of Participation (Islamic) Banking, Takaful (Islamic Insurance), Islamic Mutual Funds, and Sukuk” on 24 July 2026 for the executive and core steering committee members of UGIFICU. The

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

webinar brought together four TKBB experts and more than twenty UGIFICU participants. It aimed to provide a conceptual foundation in Islamic finance while sharing the Turkish experience, and to strengthen institutional capacities in Islamic finance in Uganda. The webinar addressed the global Islamic finance and participation banking landscape, practical applications of Murabaha, Ijarah and Salam financing models, Takaful, mutual funds, Sukuk and SME support, and digitalisation and Shariah governance.

- **Training Course on ‘Building Institutional Capacity for Innovative SME Financing Models’:** As part of its Project on “Empowering SME Development Agencies with Innovative Financing Solutions under the OIC-SMENET Framework”, submitted under the Poverty Alleviation theme and co-funded under the 13th Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF), SESRIC organised a virtual training course on “Building Institutional Capacity for Innovative SME Financing Models” on 28-29 July 2026. The course brought together 64 technical staff and executives of SME development organisations and relevant ministries and institutions from 10 OIC countries. It aimed to strengthen their technical capacity to understand, evaluate and facilitate innovative financing models that address persistent SME financing gaps across OIC countries. The training addressed the SME financing gap and key financing barriers; microfinance, crowdfunding and peer-to-peer lending; FinTech-enabled lending solutions, Islamic finance instruments and credit guarantee schemes; and venture capital, angel investment networks and public-private co-investment fund structures.
- **Webinar on ‘From Family Planning to Family Promotion: How to Achieve Pro-Natal Policies in the OIC Member Countries’:** Within the framework of its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB) and in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC organised a virtual webinar on “From Family Planning to Family Promotion: How to Achieve Pro-Natal Policies in the OIC Member Countries” on 28 July 2026. The webinar brought together 87 professionals from relevant ministries and institutions across 24 OIC Member Countries. It aimed to provide policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders with insights into designing, implementing and evaluating pro-natal policies, focusing on strategies that combine social, economic and institutional approaches to encourage family formation, support parents and enhance family

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

well-being. The webinar addressed the situation of families and pro-family policies in OIC countries, the evolution of population policies and demographic transformation worldwide, and country experiences from Azerbaijan, Qatar and Türkiye.

- **SESRIC Welcomed Students from the YTB Diaspora and Diplomacy Career Programme:** SESRIC welcomed a group of students from the YTB Diaspora and Diplomacy Career Programme, organised by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), at its Headquarters in Ankara on 11 August 2026. The students learned about the OIC and SESRIC's work in statistics, research and training to support socio-economic development across OIC countries and were introduced to the Emerging Talents Capacity Building Programme (SET-CaB), which offers young professionals from OIC countries the opportunity to develop their skills and gain hands-on experience in an international organisation setting.
- **High-Level Virtual Meeting on “Women’s Leadership in Statistical Decision-Making” on 17 August 2026.** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), convened the High-Level Virtual Meeting with Women Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries under the theme “Women’s Leadership in Statistical Decision-Making” on 17 August 2026 via an online video conferencing platform. The meeting was held ahead of the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom, to be held on 29-30 September 2026 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and hosted by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT). The meeting was chaired by H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, and brought together seven Heads of National Statistical Offices from the OIC Member Countries, namely Albania, Bahrain, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, and Yemen.
- **SESRIC Welcomed a Delegation from the African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC):** SESRIC welcomed a delegation from the African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) at its Headquarters in Ankara on 18 August 2026. During the visit, the delegation was informed about the history, structure and mission of the OIC, as well as SESRIC's work in the areas of statistics, research, and training and technical cooperation to support

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

socio-economic development across OIC countries. The two sides also explored areas of cooperation, including academic exchanges, joint events and projects, with a focus on knowledge sharing and dissemination in statistics, scientific innovation and artificial intelligence (AI).

- **SESRIC Organised the 1st Muslim Diaspora Forum ‘From Roots to Routes’:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, co-organised the 1st Muslim Diaspora Forum of the OIC Member States, entitled “From Roots to Routes”, on 8-9 September 2026 in Ankara, Türkiye. The Forum brought together senior representatives of national institutions responsible for diaspora affairs from OIC member countries, alongside relevant OIC and international institutions and other stakeholders. It aimed to foster the exchange of experiences and strengthen cooperation on diaspora policies and initiatives, exploring the role of diaspora communities as social, economic and cultural actors and ways of harnessing their potential for sustainable development through more coordinated and strategic approaches to diaspora engagement.
- **Round-table Discussion on “Coordinating Statistical Capacity-Building Activities for National Statistical Offices” on 8-10 September 2026.** SESRIC participated in the 17th Session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee, hosted by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) of Oman in Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Sultanate of Oman, on 8-10 September 2026, and contributed to the round-table discussion by delivering a presentation titled “Coordinating Statistical Capacity Development for National Statistical Offices: The Experience of SESRIC”. The presentation outlined SESRIC’s statistical capacity-development activities delivered under its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, including training courses, technical missions, study visits, workshops and webinars, delivered through South-South and triangular cooperation. It also highlighted the Centre’s ongoing and prospective collaboration with national statistical offices and regional and international organisations in implementing statistical programmes aligned with regional priorities and the global statistical agenda.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Experience-Sharing Workshop on ‘Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities for Social Housing through Islamic Financial Mechanisms’:** Within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) under its 13th Call for Project Proposals, SESRIC organised an Experience-Sharing Workshop on “Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities for Social Housing through Islamic Financial Mechanisms” on 7-8 September 2026 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The workshop welcomed 20 senior experts and decision makers from national housing, disaster management, social development and Islamic financial institutions across three OIC countries. It aimed to enhance institutional and human capacities, facilitate policy dialogue and draft practical recommendations for integrating Islamic social finance into national housing frameworks. Discussions covered Islamic financial instruments and microfinance models for affordable and resilient social housing, with country experiences from Egypt, Malaysia and Bangladesh.
- **Building a Resilient Water Future: A 3-Day Intensive Training on ‘Inclusive Governance, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Project Mobilisation for Water Security in OIC Member States’ on 7-9 September 2026.** The OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-COMSTECH), OIC General Secretariat and SESRIC jointly organised the online training “Building a Resilient Water Future: A 3-Day Intensive Training on Inclusive Governance, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Project Mobilisation for Water Security in OIC Member States” from 7 to 9 September 2026 in collaboration with national and regional stakeholders. The training aimed to strengthen the capacities of water-sector professionals and policymakers from OIC Member States in addressing key water security challenges through inclusive governance, data-driven decision-making, effective project development, financing and partnerships. The programme brought together experts from OIC institutions, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and specialised organisations to share knowledge, experiences and good practices on sustainable water management. On the second day, SESRIC delivered a presentation on the Centre’s research, statistical and capacity-building work on water resources management, showcasing the OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database and its Water category indicators.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **SESRIC Contributed to COSH 2026 in Malaysia with an OIC Perspective on Workplace Wellbeing and Sustainability:** SESRIC participated in the 26th Conference and Exhibition on Occupational Safety and Health (COSH 2026), organised by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Malaysia on 14-15 September 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Held under the theme “Wellbeing at Work”, the event brought together more than 1,300 delegates, 2,000 visitors, 80 exhibitors and 40 speakers, including representatives of APOSHO, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), UK. SESRIC delivered a presentation entitled “Wellbeing and Sustainability in Occupational Safety and Health: An OIC Perspective” during the Concurrent 1.1 Wellbeing and Sustainability session, highlighting the close relationship between occupational safety and health (OSH), workers’ wellbeing and sustainable working environments, and the importance of strengthening OSH systems through institutional capacity building, knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and good practice sharing. The participation reflected SESRIC’s ongoing work under the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and the OSH Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), as well as its cooperation with NIOSH Malaysia and ASEAN-OSHNET.
- **Workshop on ‘Designing Implementation Strategies for Innovative SME Financing Support Mechanisms’:** Within the framework of its Project on “Empowering SME Development Agencies with Innovative Financing Solutions under the OIC-SMENET Framework”, submitted under the Poverty Alleviation theme and co-funded under the 13th Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF), SESRIC organised a workshop on “Designing Implementation Strategies for Innovative SME Financing Support Mechanisms” on 16-17 September 2026 at its Headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. The workshop brought together 21 representatives of relevant ministries and SME development agencies from the project partner countries, namely Azerbaijan, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal and Türkiye, with guest speakers and facilitators from Istanbul University, INCEIF University, KFK - Participation Finance Surety and Tamwilcom. It aimed to enable participants to translate the knowledge acquired during the preceding virtual training course on 28-29 July 2026 into practical strategies for facilitating innovative SME financing. The

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

programme included facilitated discussions on innovative financing mechanisms, institutional arrangements, the regulatory environment and enabling conditions, along with country presentations on national SME financing landscapes, and concluded with a set of practical recommendations to improve SME access to innovative financing in OIC countries.

- **15th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) on 29-30 September 2026.** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), jointly convened the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group on 29-30 September 2026 in a hybrid format in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Session was hosted by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of Saudi Arabia. The Session brought together 89 participants from NSOs of 39 OIC Member Countries, as well as representatives from 13 international and regional organisations and other institutions, namely the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), COMCEC Coordination Office, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT), UN-Water, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Statistics Division (UNSD). The working sessions of the 15th Session focused on several areas of priority for the statistical development of OIC Member Countries. SESRIC, as the Secretariat of the Commission, presented its reports on the implementation of the Resolution of the 14th Session of the OIC-StatCom and on the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026-2030. These were followed by deliberations on the following technical agenda items:
 - ✓ From SDG Interlinkages to OIC Strategic Priorities: Shaping the Monitoring Future for OIC Programme of Action (PoA) 2026-2035
 - ✓ Modernising Population and Housing Statistics through Digital and Interoperable Data Systems

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Implementing the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA): Measuring the Digital Economy, Globalisation, Informality and Islamic Finance
- ✓ Sustainable Development Goals: Monitoring and Reporting SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators
- **Panel Discussion on “Fostering Partnerships within Statistical Ecosystems” on 30 September 2026.** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), and the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia co-organised a side event titled “Fostering Partnerships within Statistical Ecosystems” on 30 September 2026 in Jeddah in hybrid format on the margins of the 15th Session of the OIC-StatCom. The hybrid side event brought together 89 in-person and online participants from NSOs of 39 OIC Member Countries, as well as representatives of international and regional organisations. The panel discussion formed part of the Road to Riyadh series leading to the 6th UN World Data Forum, to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 9-12 November 2026, and addressed the thematic area of the Forum, “Effective partnerships for better data and a more equitable data ecosystem”.
- **Training Course on “Building a Fundamental Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Database” on 5–6 October 2026.** Within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building (OSH-CaB) Programme and the ASEAN–OSHNET Work Plan 2026–2030, SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Building a Fundamental Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Database” on 5–6 October 2026 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, in collaboration with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Malaysia. The training course benefited 45 experts and representatives from the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Petroleum Authority of Brunei Darussalam, Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHOWA), Industry HSE Group (IHSEG), Ministry of Health, Brunei Insurance and Takaful Association, and the Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA). The training was delivered by an expert from NIOSH Malaysia.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **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.

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:

- **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 (BNS), also commemorated the 105th 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 emphasizing the central role of data quality in ensuring trust and comparability.
- **Webinar on “Commit to Data” on 20 January 2026.** SESRIC participated in the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) Webinar on “Commit to Data”, co-organised by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, PARIS21 and Open Data Watch. During the webinar, H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, presented the Centre’s commitment to advancing “Open Data and Statistical Governance Modernisation in OIC Member Countries”, building on the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2026-2030. The commitment is based on measurable milestones, including capacity-building activities, peer learning and knowledge exchange through the OIC-StatCom framework, with a view to strengthening statistical governance, promoting open data practices in official statistics and supporting SDG monitoring.
- **Training Course on ‘Digital Identity and e-Government Services in OIC Countries’:** Within the framework of its Digital Transformation Capacity Building Programme (Digi-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Satellite Corporation (TÜRKSAT), the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia,

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

organised a virtual training course on “Digital Identity and e-Government Services in OIC Countries” on 8-9 April 2026. The course brought together 110 experts and representatives from relevant ministries and national institutions across 38 OIC countries. It aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices in establishing a digital ecosystem for government services, and to provide insights on privacy, security and ethics in the digitalisation of national identification and government service systems for better inclusion and accessibility. The course addressed citizen-centric e-government service design, e-government login methods and security measures, the end-to-end e-government service process, integrated cybersecurity lifecycle management, and Indonesia’s experience with Digital ID (IKD) and data exchange for e-government implementation.

- **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 UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), with the participation of 95 official statisticians and experts from NSOs, relevant ministries and national institutions of 32 OIC 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.
- **Regional Workshop on “Measuring Natural Resources in the National Accounts” on 1-4 September 2026.** SESRIC, jointly with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), organised a Regional Workshop on “Measuring Natural Resources in the National Accounts” on 1-4 September 2026 in Chiba, Japan. The four-day workshop brought together 17 officials from 11 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, including 9 officials from 6 OIC Member Countries: Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Participants were mainly from NSOs, as well as Central Banks and line ministries working on national accounts, natural resource statistics, and environmental-economic accounting. The programme provided participants with technical knowledge on compiling

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

natural resource accounts in both physical and monetary terms, including valuation methods for natural resource assets and approaches to measuring depletion. The workshop particularly focused on recent methodological developments reflected in the 2025 SNA, including the treatment of natural resource depletion, asset classification and renewable energy resources.

- **Panel Discussion on “Role of NSOs in Implementing Natural Resource Accounts” on 3 September 2026.** SESRIC, jointly with SIAP and in collaboration with OECD, organised and moderated a panel discussion titled “Role of NSOs in Implementing Natural Resource Accounts” on 3 September 2026 during the Regional Workshop. The panel featured distinguished speakers from the National Statistical Office (NSO) of Thailand and the National Statistics Office of Viet Nam, with the participation of officials from 11 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, including six OIC Member Countries: Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The session focused on the current institutional stance, key bottlenecks, inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and strategic next steps taking into consideration the digitalisation and modernisation needed to advance the implementation of natural resource accounting in alignment with international standard frameworks.
- **Thematic Session on “Dissemination Practices in the National Resources Accounts” on 4 September 2026.** SESRIC moderated the thematic session titled “Digital Dissemination Practices of the National Resources Accounts” organised on the margins of the Regional Workshop on Measuring Natural Resources in the National Accounts, held on 1-4 September 2026. The session featured representatives from the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, and the National Statistics Office of Mongolia. Emphasizing the leverage of digital transformation and modern data dissemination tools, the panel focused on leveraging online dashboards, digital visualisations, and structured metadata tools to render complex physical and monetary accounts accessible, enhancing digital user engagement, and driving data-driven decision-making in macroeconomic and environmental policies.



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
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