



**MESSAGE OF
H.E. DR. YOUSEF A. AL-OTHAIMEEN,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC,

TO

THE EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
OF ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(OIC-STATCOM)**

**ANKARA, TURKEY
23-25 OCTOBER 2019**

Bismillahi Arrahmani Arrahim

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,
Honorable Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director General of SESRIC,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

It is a great pleasure for me to address the Eight Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) taking place in Ankara. Let me, at the onset, express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its continuous support for the various activities of the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) as well as other OIC institutions. Allow me also to express my sincere gratitude to the SESRIC for the elaborate preparations for this session. By the same token, I wish to commend all delegates, who have come to Ankara from their capitals to give their valuable contributions to intra-OIC cooperation in the area of statistics and data collection.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,**

Gathering the chief statisticians of all Member States with the common goal of establishing statistical standards, formulating concepts and methods, and their application at national and OIC levels, the OIC-StatCom represents our community and its will to contribute to progress and wellbeing in our countries.

Accordingly, the OIC-StatCom, as a purposeful cooperation mechanism of our Organisation, contributes to the OIC deliberations at the various levels by bringing the voice of statistics into the political processes. The past practices have demonstrated that the official statistics are essential for setting a strong foundation for evidence-based assessments and making considered and effective decisions.

In this context, I am pleased to note that the impressive work of the OIC-StatCom on advancing the agenda for more and better data and statistics to measure all aspects of

development in our countries has resulted in a wider intra-OIC cooperation for generating new capacities and using innovation to solve the data challenges facing OIC Member States.

It is also gratifying to note that this session would consider, among other issues, the current status of implementation of the Strategic Vision Document for the OIC-StatCom, which was approved by this Commission in 2012. This vision document has changed the philosophy of cooperation efforts of our national statistical organisations, from simply establishing relations for better understanding and discussing issues on certain common interests, to more closely working together towards fostering closer cooperation in the domain of statistics and data collection. It is essential to take stock of the implementation of the Strategic Vision Document. This exercise would enable us assess the progress as well as identify the constraints experienced in implementing this comprehensive document for intra-OIC cooperation on statistics and data collection. This will in the long run provide the necessary inputs to the OIC-StatCom's ongoing work on elaboration of a new strategic vision document for the next decade. It is obvious that the contribution of the OIC-StatCom and its members is crucial in this context.

In a similar vein, it is worth mentioning that the OIC-2025: Programme of Action has laid out an agreed agenda for action towards promoting socio-economic development in our countries. Monitoring the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action not only requires collecting data on specific topics, but also ensuring the availability of timely disaggregated data. This new unprecedented demand for data has been quite a challenge for national statistical systems, as they have the primary responsibility of collecting data. Therefore, there is a need for the OIC-StatCom to discuss data gaps and related priorities for capacity-building in data development in relation to implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. This will lead to more data and statistics used in OIC decision-making, as we prepare for the mid-term review of this strategic programme in 2020.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,**

The previous sessions of the OIC-Stat-Com underscored the importance of building strong statistical systems and better financing to produce needed statistics and data. Therefore, I call on you and all our development partners to scale up efforts in statistical

capacity building, while ensuring that efforts are carried out in a sustainable way. Similarly, linking resource allocation directly with measurable outputs and focusing on filling the gaps in statistics and data should be among the main priorities of the OIC-StatCom and its members. Furthermore, there is a need for members of the OIC-StatCom to coordinate their capacity-building efforts to strengthen statistical capacities at national and OIC levels. We see the necessity to a coordinated effort in the OIC-StatCom to enhance and sustain statistical capacity in our countries.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the OIC General Secretariat's commitment to working closely with you to further strengthen and enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the development, production, dissemination and communication of statistics.

I thank you for kind your attention and wish all of you successful deliberations.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullah wa-Barakatuh.