



**WELCOMING REMARKS FOR**  
**8<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF OIC-STATCOM**

**BY:**

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**RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC**  
**COUNTRIES (SESRIC)**

**DATE:**  
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**VENUE:**  
**ANKARA, TURKEY**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Her Excellency Mrs. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK,  
Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services of  
Republic of Turkey (tbc)**

**His Excellency Mr. Nebil DABUR,  
Director General of SESRIC;**

**Dr. Bukhari SILLAH,  
Senior Researcher  
representing Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) group;**

**Mr. Jakhongir KHASANOV,  
Professional Officer  
representing OIC-General Secretariat.**

**Member of the Bureau of OIC Statistical Commission**

**Distinguished Delegates of the NSO of OIC Member  
Countries,**

**Representative of International Institutions.**

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

**Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a  
very good morning.**

1. It gives me great pleasure and honour to be here with you today for the Eighth Session of the OIC Statistical Commission, to be held from today, **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. The Department of Statistics Malaysia on behalf of the Government of Malaysia would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to SESRIC and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for this opportunity to meet and welcome you most cordially at the official opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) in Ankara, Turkey.

2. On behalf of the Member of the OIC Countries, I would like to express my warmest and sincerest congratulations on the appointment of the His Excellency Mr. Nebil Dabur as a Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) effective 27 March 2019.

We wish you a great success in your leadership to bring the Centre along the path of continued growth and development as well as continue to achieve even higher levels of success in the future.

3. National Statistical Systems (NSS) of OIC Member Countries have an ambitious agenda to produce, deliver and communicate a vast array of official statistics in line with global statistical agenda as well as working together to become the second-largest inter-governmental organisation in statistics. To achieve these goalmouths, OIC StatsCom will be the best strategic platform in addressing these global agenda in line with the needs of OIC countries and deciding the best solutions for mutual interests in developing the respective NSS OIC Member Countries.

4. Therefore, today we gathered here for the 8th Session to discuss and resolve the three key challenges or priorities identified through a questionnaire conducted by the secretariat. This is the strategic opportunity for us to discuss and evaluate together the activities of the members in their NSS by knowledge sharing, experience and statistical expertise based on principles of mutual interest. As an outcome, we can able to review and finalised the SESRIC's future programmes as well as to address opportunities and challenges for the development of official statistics in OIC member countries.
5. Today we have the opportunity to scrutinise the:
  - (i) Progress Report on the Working Group on the Development of the New OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030;
  - (ii) Electronic Data Collection Technologies in Population and Housing Censuses;
  - (iii) A Census of Agriculture for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;

- (iv) Developing National Statistics Systems on International Labour Migration; and
- (v) To elect the Bureau for the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

6. The demand for statistics is rapidly growing in the globalised and interconnected world that creates new needs for accurate information about economies and societies. For examples, the compilation of 232 unique indicators reported towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (SDGs). As NSOs, the statistics we produce should be relevant, trusted and meets the needs of many users including the growing demand for real-time data for data driven evidence decision making. To face this divisive world, the NSOs continuously struggle to produce and disseminate a basic range of demographic, economic, social and environmental statistics.

7. As such, we as a community must work together to meet these challenges and capitalise on the best technology opportunities for data extraction and integration, as well as exchanges between official statistical producers. We need to make full use of existing best practices and capabilities by utilising new data sources, technologies and applications in order to pursue the best practices to the worldwide in various areas especially to be in line with the Agenda 2030.

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

### **New OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030**

8. As the current OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Document expires by the end of 2020, the Working Group (WG) on the Development of New Strategic Vision of OIC-StatCom in collaboration with the Secretariat has developed the **Working Group's**

## **First Progress Report on the Development of the New OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030.**

This progress report based on inputs gathered from member countries through the Questionnaire on the New Strategic Vision of OIC-StatCom 2030 that was conducted from July to September 2019.

9. This Strategic Vision documents will be a guideline for OIC member Countries for the period 2021-2030 that will enable countries to meet the ever-growing demand for high quality, timely and accessible statistical information for evidence-based decision-making and quantitative measurement development progress. As such, the Strategic Plan promotes a coordinated, standardised and harmonised statistical system, which produces and supplies quality, responsive, reliable and timely statistical information. **As at 24 September 2019, only 33 countries out of 56 countries are responding to the Questionnaire, which is 58.9%.**



10. In this regard, on behalf of SESRIC and as a co-chair with Iran, would like to thank you for your support by providing your valuable feedback to this Questionnaire. Your feedback will lead to specify a road map for the finalisation and adopted during the next year Session in October 2020. The outcomes of the Questionnaire will be presenting in the next session of today's meeting.

### **Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)**

11. Improving regional capabilities in the development of the statistics through systematic collaboration and learning among the OIC Member Countries will help to strengthen OIC's capacity for better proposals, visibility, and outcomes for OIC Community. Thus, the Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) has initiated by SESRIC in early 2007 in order to enhance the NSS capacity through the sharing of experiences by the more developed Countries.

12. Throughout the year 2019, under the StatCaB, 62 activities cover short-term statistics courses, study visits, technical missions and international workshops conducted by the Secretariat. Around 1,100 participants from 45 OIC countries benefited from the statistical activities provided by 15 OIC countries and 7 international organisations.
13. Congratulations for SESRIC for these great achievements! **Malaysia is one of the beneficiaries of receiving and providing expertise in making this program successful. Since 2012, 28 international training courses have been conducted by Malaysian expertise and eight (8) training courses conducted for the benefit of Malaysia.**
14. Currently, the statistics course on 'Labour Market Statistics: Harmonization and Analysis of Administrative Data Sources' is being conducted from 22-24 October 2019 at the DOSM with the

expert from **Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)**.

15. **Here, I would like to express my deep appreciation to SESRIC for its continued efforts and support to the OIC countries.**
16. **Malaysia is willing to offer continually the experience and expertise that is needed for a capacity-building program in the form of technical assistant, study visits and training under StatCaB initiatives.**
17. Also, I look forward the experts from OIC member countries volunteer to enrol in the Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) developed by SESRIC. The ROSE will play a key role in helping SESRIC identify available professionals in the relevant domain of official statistics for the SESRIC's current and future statistics activities.

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

## **Population and Housing Census in 2020**

18. Next year, **2020 round of population and housing censuses** will be carried out worldwide to gather information of the total population of a country, which provides data on numbers of people, their spatial distribution, age and sex structure, their living conditions and other key socioeconomic characteristics. We would like to thank UNSD for introducing the “**Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Data Collection Technologies in Population and Housing Censuses**” which is very beneficial for all OIC member countries.
19. To ensure the success of the implementation of 2020 round at the OIC Member Countries, recently the SESRIC collaboration with the United Nations

Statistics Division (UNSD) has organised the 'Regional Workshop on the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: International Standards and Contemporary Technologies' from 12-15 March 2019 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey. **11 countries, includes Malaysia has benefited by participation to learn and adopt the new technologies/methodologies in conducting censuses according to internationally recommended definitions and classifications.**

20. Like other NSOs, Malaysia will be conducting its 2020 round, known as MyCensus2020 and preparation is in progress actively. Modernization initiatives have been included in the transformation for the implementation of MyCensus2020 to ensure the challenges we are facing will not affect our implementation of Population and Housing Census. Malaysia would share these transformations during a briefing session shortly.

## **Literacy Statistics (Communication and Dissemination)**

21. As you know several online-based tools on the information and statistics of OIC Member Countries have been developed and maintained by SESRIC for users worldwide, who are interested in OIC Member Countries Statistics. For example, **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database, OIC-Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF), SESRIC Motion Chart Generator, online publications and so on.**
22. Information and statistics for these online-based tools collected from **the International statistical sources and national statistical sources.** The profiles the most recent information with fact and figure on OIC Member Countries and presented under 9 sections, namely Background, Geography and Climate, Society and Demographics, Government and Politics, Economy and Sectors, Country in Figures, International Partnerships, Logistics, and Special Links for each country.

Currently, the OICStat hosts 780 socio-economic indicators under 24 categories for the 57 OIC Member Countries, dating back to 1985.

23. The compilation and dissemination of data from national statistics sources is available as long as countries provide data to OICStat. Therefore, I would like to request the member countries to update the national information regularly to ease SESRIC to gather the information for its database updated regularly.
24. The trillions of data created each day. It is worth, if people are not able to understand and use these numbers! How do we help people become aware of the dangers of misinterpreting data and how can we help them learn the necessary skills? Thus, NSOs need to step up and improve statistical literacy in societies to create awareness.

25. DOSM has practised the several methods of **communication and dissemination** to strengthen statistical literacy among the public including students at school and university. All the publicised data can be obtained through our portal, [www.dosm.gov.my](http://www.dosm.gov.my), free download publications (e-statistics), mobile apps as well as the general email for the users to communicate with us for any enquiry about the data and can communicate with me via my personal email.

26. Other than, DOSM also practices:

- (i) The Engagement sessions with the community and respondents to create awareness among Malaysians;
- (ii) The social media platform, as a medium to improve accessibility and foster statistical literacy through visualisation and infographic;



- (iii) WhatsApp Group to relevant users, journalists and media to communicate directly and any further information can be responded promptly;
- (iv) Online statistical access through the mobile applications such as BizCode@Stats and MyLocal Stats to enable users access the classification code and statistical information up to the district level;
- (v) Briefing session and Stats Talk on the economic performance to stakeholders and Media. Most recently, Stats Talks for Malaysia's Parliament Members conducted successfully. Aimed to understand the statistics for the formulating the national socio-economic development policy and for evidence-based decision-making.
- (vi) Outreach programme and Exhibition widely conducted at School, University, government and private agencies annually.; and

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the higher learning Institutions and private/government agencies to promote the use of statistics and create opportunities for new scientific findings in statistical research for national developments.

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

### **62<sup>nd</sup> ISI WSC 2019**

27. In August 2019, Malaysia through Department of Statistics Malaysia has achieved international excellence by hosting the 62<sup>nd</sup> International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress 2019 (ISI WSC 2019) and World Stats (WSC) Run 2019 that received overwhelming worldwide participation with 2,500 delegates and over 7,000 runners. This shows the ability of the Islamic countries' in organising such prestigious events.

28. By hosting this event, we have with most memorable and impressive experiences that will last a lifetime. The networks around the world, more than 130 countries have strengthened, especially with international experts. This is our best excellent opportunity that allows us to get to know and interact with each other directly. Malaysia is also a place of history or extraordinary for more than 2,500 delegates attending and sharing their findings and research works in the various statistical disciplines and applications over the past five days. This is the strategic platform to prove our ability and strength to host this prestigious event worldwide. We enlightened by developments in statistical science and shifted paradigms to embrace the advanced application of statistics in innovation and decision-making.

## **Concluding Remarks**

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,**

29. Before closing my remarks, I would like to thank all the OIC member countries for the support and for your trust extended on Malaysia as the Chair of the OIC-StatCom Bureau, 2018-2019 as well as all the people who have worked to make the Eighth Session of OIC-StatCom succeed.
30. I also take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to all members of the Bureau for your time, support and contributions that you had given to the Bureau.
31. Finally, I look forward to very successful meetings and proactive involvements from all of us during this session to strengthen and improve the goals of OIC Statistical System towards achieving the NSO mission.

32. With this, I end with Terima kasih, Thank you for your time and attention.

Have good times in Ankara.

Thank you.