

SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations



THE 40TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
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Istanbul, Türkiye

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**REPORT OF
THE STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND
TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC)**

ON

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND
MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

SUBMITTED TO

THE 40th SESSION OF THE COMCEC

Agenda Item No: 5-12

2-5 November 2024

Istanbul, Türkiye

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 40th Session of the COMCEC, which will be held on 2-5 November 2024 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues on the agendas of various OIC conferences and related meetings, particularly the sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. In this respect, the Centre continued to make a significant contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions to address the challenges and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant fields.

The Centre also continued to contribute to the efforts of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) towards enhancing and improving the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in the OIC member countries with a view to producing better national statistics and thus helping policy-makers introduce better national policies and strategies. In this context and in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and through its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre contributes significantly to the technical capacity building of the NSOs and other constituents of the NSSs of the OIC member countries.

During the period under review, SESRIC has made efforts to strengthen intra-OIC south-south cooperation by implementing a wide range of capacity building programmes and training activities on various socio-economic fields of immediate interest to the OIC member countries. Currently, the Centre has 24 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide range of areas such as agriculture, environment, disaster risk management, finance, health, water resources, poverty alleviation, public employment and tourism. These programmes are implemented in close cooperation with relevant national institutions in the OIC member countries through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits.

Furthermore, during the period under review, SESRIC signed 12 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.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND MINISTERIAL POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)	16 January 2024
2.	University of Management and Technology (UMT) in Pakistan	16 January 2024
3.	Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT)	27 February 2024
4.	Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBIA)	8 May 2024
5.	Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF)	14 June 2024
6.	Labour Centre of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC Labour Centre)	9 July 2024
7.	Halal Accreditation Agency of the Republic of Türkiye (HAK)	11 July 2024
8.	The Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB)	26 July 2024
9.	Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	2 October 2024
10.	Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan	15 October 2024 (tbc)
11.	Department of Statistics (DoS) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	15 October 2024 (tbc)
12.	Statistical Center of the Gulf Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries (GCC-Stat)	15 October 2024 (tbc)

In light of the above, this report highlights the implemented activities of SESRIC related to the following agenda items of the COMCEC, namely Intra-OIC Trade, Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation, Deepening Financial Cooperation, Improving Transport and Communications, Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector, Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security, Alleviating Poverty and Cooperation on Digital Transformation.

AGENDA ITEMS:

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

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

- **Webinar on “Prospects for Harmonising Statistics on Halal Sector”:** The webinar was organized in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, and Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) with the participation of 38 official statisticians and practitioners from 18 OIC member countries and international experts working or interested in Halal industry statistics on 11 December 2023. The Webinar provided a platform to elaborate on the possible general methodology framework of Halal sector statistics and how to develop the required standards and mechanisms to produce, harmonize, and disseminate such indicators within the national statistical systems of OIC member countries including discussions about the challenges faced and lessons learnt by all stakeholders.
- **Workshop on “Halal Industry Development in OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC Halal Capacity Building Programme (Halal-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), successfully organized an online Workshop on “Halal Industry Development in OIC member countries” on 24-25 April 2024. The workshop featured presentations by experts from BAPPENAS and various international and national institutions, including Halal Industry Empowerment Center (PPIH) of the Ministry of Industry of Indonesia, Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH) of Indonesia, the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance, National Committee for Sharia Economics and Finance (KNEKS) Indonesia, UN Tourism, Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), Turkish Halal Accreditation Agency, Halal Development Corporation (HDC) Malaysia, and National University of Bangladesh. It was attended by 220 experts and executives from relevant agencies/ authorities and national institutions in 25 OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “International Trade Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme and in collaboration with ICDT, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “International Trade Statistics” on 30-31 October 2024. The training course was provided by a senior expert from the Office des Changes of Morocco for the benefit of experts from the NSOs and relevant Ministries of OIC member countries.
- **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database:** SESRIC is hosting 157 indicators under the International Trade category of the OICStat Database, which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of enhancing the role of the private sector in economic cooperation:

- **OIC Economic Outlook 2024:** This report provides a detailed analysis of recent developments in the global economy and offers valuable perspectives on the economic landscape of OIC countries, using a wide range of comparative statistics and information. In so doing, the report highlights major constraints and challenges confronting the OIC member countries in their efforts towards enhancing their economic development and progress. This edition of the report includes a special analysis on the development of private sector and SMEs, providing a comprehensive understanding of the current challenges and opportunities faced by them, and identifies the strategies needed to overcome existing challenges and unlock their full potential.
- **Training Course on “Setting Up a Supportive Policy Framework to Promote Youth and Women Entrepreneurship”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), organized an online Training Course on “Setting Up a Supportive Policy Framework to Promote Youth and Women Entrepreneurship” on 9-10 January 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye, and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 95 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) authorities and relevant national institutions of 24 OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on “Navigating the Audit Landscape of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Public Audit Capacity Building Programme (PAU-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Court of Accounts (TCA), organized an online Training Course on “Navigating the Audit Landscape of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)” on 27-28 March 2024. The training course was provided by the TCA, for the benefit of 114 experts and executives from the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) as well as the relevant Ministries and national institutions in 17 OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Statistical Business Registers”.** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Statistical Business Registers” on 1-2 April 2024. The training course was provided by a senior statistician from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) for the benefit of 73 experts from the NSOs and relevant Ministries of 22 OIC member countries.

- **Webinar on “Fostering Collaboration between Private and Public Sectors towards Efficient TVET Systems”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the TVET Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia, organized a Webinar on “Fostering Collaboration between Private and Public Sectors towards Efficient TVET Systems” on 25 June 2024. The webinar featured presentations by competent experts from the Ministry of Education of Malaysia. The webinar brought together 74 experts from technical, vocational education, and relevant authorities of 20 OIC countries.
- **Training Workshop on “Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized an online Training Workshop on “Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics” on 16-17 July 2024 in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) of Türkiye, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with the best practices and contributions from the participating OIC member countries. The Workshop covered the concepts and methodologies for the collection, collation and dissemination of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics.
- **Webinar on “Circular Economy for Sustainable Impact Entrepreneurship”:** Within the framework of the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2024-2026, SESRIC organized a Webinar on “Circular Economy for Sustainable Impact Entrepreneurship” on 28 August 2024. The webinar featured presentations by representatives from national PES authorities, namely, the National Employment Agency of Burkina Faso, the National Employment Fund of the Republic of Cameroon, the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Relations with Institutions of the Republic of Senegal, and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire. The webinar also included a presentation by a competent expert from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and fruitful discussions on the implementation of circular economy principles in OIC African Group Member Countries. The webinar was attended by 39 officials from national PES authorities and related institutions in 8 OIC French-speaking member countries.
- **Training Course on “Diagnosing and Analysing Markets with High Export Potential for SMEs”:** Within the framework of the Resolutions 39th Session of the COMCEC and the Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PESCaB), SESRIC organized a Training Course on “Diagnosing and Analysing

Markets with High Export Potential for SMEs” on 30-31 October 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBIA) and the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye and for the benefit of the relevant national institutions in OIC member countries.

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 39 indicators under the Private Sector category of the OICStat Database including ranking values of Ease of Doing Business Index.

3. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

- **Training Course on “Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics” on 8-9 January 2023. The training course was provided by a senior expert from the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal for the benefit of 15 experts from the NSOs of 9 French-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on “Harnessing Digitalisation and AI for the Advancement of OIC Stock Exchanges”:** Within the framework of its Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with Borsa Istanbul, the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum (OICEF), organized an online Training Course on “Harnessing Digitalization and AI for the Advancement of OIC Stock Exchanges” on 21-22 May 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from Borsa Istanbul and Takasbank, in addition to a keynote speech by the Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI), for the benefit of 74 experts and executives from Stock Exchanges and relevant national institutions in 22 OIC countries.
- **Training Course on “Halal Value Chain”:** Within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) and Bank Indonesia (BI), organized an online Training Course on “Halal Value Chain” on 11-12 June 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from Bank Indonesia and other Indonesian industry players, as well as a country experience of Jordan, for the benefit of 108 experts and executives from Central Banks and relevant national institutions in 30 OIC countries.
- **Training Course on “Banking, Insurance and Financial Market Statistics”:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), organized a Training Course on “Banking, Insurance and Financial Market Statistics” on 10-11 June 2024, in Baku, Republic of

Azerbaijan. The training course was provided by a competent expert from CBRT for the benefit of 17 participants from the State Statistical Committee (SSC), the Central Bank, and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

- **Workshop on “Empowering MSMEs in OIC Member Countries through Green Climate Finance”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organized an online Workshop on “Empowering MSMEs in OIC member countries through Green Climate Finance” on 9-10 July 2024. The event, held within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB) and the OIC-VET Programme, brought together 124 experts, executives and academics from TVET National Focal Points and relevant agencies/authorities and national institutions in 30 OIC countries.
- **Training Course on “Price Statistics”:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), organized a Training Course on “Price Statistics” on 13-14 August 2024. The training course was provided by a competent expert from BPS-Statistics Indonesia for the benefit of 88 experts from the National Statistical Offices and other governmental organizations of 31 OIC countries.
- **Training Course on “Promoting Participation Finance in the OIC Countries”:** Within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), organized an online Training Course on “Promoting Participation Finance in the OIC Countries” on 4-5 September 2024. The training course was provided by renowned international academicians as well as experts from relevant national institutions in the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 103 experts and executives from Central Banks, Ministries of Finance and relevant national institutions from 29 OIC member countries.
- **TOSSD Capacity Building Webinar for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** SESRIC, the International Forum on TOSSD (IFT) Secretariat, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) jointly organized a webinar focusing on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on 10 September 2024. The Webinar was attended by the officials from the Ministries of Planning and Finance as well as line ministries in charge of managing external support from traditional or south-south providers and multilateral institutions, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and multilateral organizations of the OIC countries from the MENA region. The Webinar presented a general introduction to the TOSSD methodology, showed how countries and organizations could present in TOSSD their official support to sustainable development in developing countries and globally, and introduced TOSSD data and how it can inform financing for development discussions.

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 136 indicators under the Banking, Money and Prices; Government Finance; International Finance; and Islamic Banking and Finance categories of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

4. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the 39th 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: Implications for Trade and Tourism & Challenges for Landlocked Countries:** This report outlines the current state of the transport sector and potential constraints to connectivity that need to be addressed across OIC member countries with a special reference to issues and challenges faced by the Landlocked OIC member countries in this domain. In doing so, the report promotes the idea of a well-connected OIC region, with modern and functional transport infrastructure, easier passage at border gates, faster foreign trade, and operational economic corridors that may widen the basis and opportunities for economic growth and welfare. The report is expected to be submitted as a technical background report to the OIC Conference of Ministers of Transport once it is convened.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 9 Indicators” on 18-19 December 2023. The training course was provided by senior experts from the Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan for the benefit of 22 experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 9 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 9 Indicators” on 17-18 January 2024. The training course was provided by senior experts from the High Commission for Planning (HCP) of Morocco for the benefit of 33 experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 8 French-speaking OIC member countries.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 43 indicators under the Transportation and Communication category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

5. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

- **International Tourism in OIC Member Countries 2024:** This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of international tourism in the OIC member countries by looking into a set of key tourism indicators. Considering the ever-increasing technology adoption in the tourism sector and the changing preferences of travellers with rising digitalisation, this edition of the report focuses specifically on empowering smart and sustainable tourism in OIC countries to drive the development of the tourism sector and advocates for the adoption of innovative technologies and practices to drive the industry forward. This report was submitted to and presented at the 12th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which was held on 31 May-02 June 2024 in Khiva, Uzbekistan.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 8.9 (Sustainable Tourism) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 8.9 (Sustainable Tourism) Indicators” on 18-20 December 2023. The training course was provided by senior experts from the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStAD) of the Republic of Benin for the benefit of 18 representatives from the NSOs of 6 French-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Services”:** As part of the preparations to celebrate Khiva as the OIC City of Tourism for 2024 and within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC), under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Malaysia, organized an online Training Course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Services” on 8-12 January 2024. Competent experts and trainers from the Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) provided the training for the benefit of 109 participants from the State Committee for Tourism Development in Uzbekistan.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Tourism Statistics” on 21-22 February 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the benefit of 48 experts from the NSOs of 19 OIC member countries. The course marked the **500th Statistical Activity of SESRIC since 2007**, highlighting a significant milestone in SESRIC’s commitment to enhancing statistical capacities across the OIC region.
- **Workshop on “Developing Sustainable Ecotourism in West African OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Development of Tourism in a Network of Cross-Border National Parks and Protected Areas” and under SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), successfully organized an online Workshop on “Developing Sustainable Ecotourism in

West African OIC member countries” on 28-29 May 2024. The workshop brought together 63 experts from relevant international and national institutions, benefiting experts and executives from tourism ministries and authorities of 10 OIC West African member countries participating in the Regional Project.

- **Webinar on “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Halal Tourism in the OIC Member Countries”:** In alignment with the resolutions of the 12th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Khiva on 31 May - 2 June 2024 and within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organized a Webinar on “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Halal Tourism in the OIC member countries” on 29 July 2024. The webinar featured presentations by experts from SESRIC, ICDT, Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), the Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) of Malaysia, and the Ministry of Tourism and Handcraft of the Republic of Senegal. The webinar brought together 59 experts from tourism ministries and relevant national institutions of 20 OIC countries.
- **Project titled “Strengthening the Capacities of African Tourism Boards through Sustainable Human Resource Management Practices”:** Within the framework of the 11th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented a project in 2024 titled “Strengthening the Capacities of African Tourism Boards through Sustainable Human Resource Management Practices”. Under the Project, the following online training course and onsite workshop were conducted:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Enhancing Tourism Competitiveness through Sustainable HRM Practices in OIC African Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Enhancing Tourism Competitiveness through Sustainable HRM Practices in OIC African Member States” on 23-25 July 2024. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), Tourism Malaysia, UN Tourism and Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI/TKDK). The training course was attended by 52 participants from 17 African countries, including 13 OIC African group member countries.
 - ✓ **Workshop on “Sustainable Human Resources Management (HRM) Practices: Building Resilience in African Tourism Boards”:** Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, SESRIC organized an onsite Workshop on “Sustainable Human Resources Management (HRM) Practices: Building Resilience in African Tourism Boards” on 10-11 September 2024 at SESRIC headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with African Tourism Boards, UN Tourism, Cappadocia

University and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye. The workshop brought together representatives from the African Tourism Boards in 15 OIC member countries, as well as prominent speakers and competent experts from relevant partner institutions.

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 13 indicators under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

6. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security:

- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized an online Training Workshop on “SDG 13 Indicators” on 19-20 December 2023 in collaboration with the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). 40 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant Ministries of 24 OIC member countries actively participated in the training course.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators” with the participation of 97 experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries responsible for Water of 23 OIC countries on 12-13 February 2024 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by a senior expert from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with contributions of Professors from the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) and Islamic University of Technology (IUT) through presentations on the research activities and efforts of their respective universities in the field of SDG 6. In addition, within the framework of the UN-OIC Cooperation, UN-Water contributed to the training course by presenting the work of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative (IMI-SDG6) to introduce collaboration opportunities for OIC member countries.
- **Training Workshop on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators”:** Within the framework of its StatCaB Programme, SESRIC organized an online Training Workshop on “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators” on 26-27 March 2024. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of the Republic of Cameroon and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with contributions from the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan

Africa (AFRISTAT) for the benefit of 36 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries of Agriculture as well as Ministries of Economy and Planning of 10 French-speaking OIC member countries. The Workshop covered the calculation methods and interpretation techniques related to SDG 2 indicators from the national and international perspectives.

- **Training Course on “Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)”**: Within the framework of the SESRIC Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) of Pakistan, organized an online Training Course on “Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)” on 14-15 May 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from NIBGE and the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC) for the benefit of 79 experts and executives from the Ministries of Agriculture and relevant national institutions in 25 OIC member countries.
- **Webinar on “Addressing Risks&Prevention Measures of Livestock Sector”**: SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), organized a Webinar on “Addressing Risk&Prevention Measures of Livestock Sector” within the framework of Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building (Agri-CaB) Programme on 12 June 2024. The webinar featured presentations by experts from SESRIC, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Sub-regional Office for Central Asia in Türkiye, the National Institute of Agriculture of Tunisia (INAT) of Carthage University, and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development (MARDI). It was attended by 78 experts, executives and academics from relevant agencies/authorities and national institutions in 31 OIC countries.
- **Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management for Lake Chad Basin Countries”**: Within the framework of the SESRIC Water Resources Management Capacity Building Program (Water-CaB), and in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the Centre organized a two-days online Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management for Lake Chad Basin Countries” on 16-17 July 2024. The workshop featured experts from Algeria, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Morocco, Niger, and Türkiye. The workshop brought together 30 experts from 11 OIC countries, including 4 countries that are part of the Lake Chad Basin.
- **Workshop on “Evaluating the Potential of Membrane Technologies for Desalination and Wastewater Recycling in OIC Countries”**: Within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Program (Water-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with Turkish Water Institute and Istanbul Technical University,

organized an online Workshop on “Evaluating the Potential of Membrane Technologies for Desalination and Wastewater Recycling in OIC Countries” on 31 July – 1 August 2024. The workshop was held in collaboration with Pakistan, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), Istanbul Technical University, University of Doha for Science and Technology, and University Technology Malaysia (UTM). The workshop brought together 101 experts and executives from the National Water Resources Authorities of 26 OIC countries.

- **Project titled “Promoting Food Security in OIC Member Countries through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs”:** Within the framework of the 11th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented a project in 2024 titled “Promoting Food Security in OIC member countries through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs”. Under the Project, the following online training course and onsite workshop were conducted:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Advancing Food Security through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs: Strategies and Practices for OIC Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Advancing Food Security through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs: Strategies and Practices for OIC member countries” on 27-29 July 2024. The training was provided by competent experts and academicians from the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye, Association of Ecological Agriculture, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya Food and Agriculture University/University of Missouri, Ohio University, and Near East University. The training course was attended by 95 executives and academics from relevant agencies/ authorities and national institutions in 16 OIC countries.
 - ✓ **Workshop on “Promoting Food Security in OIC Member Countries through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs”:** Within the framework of the COMCEC-funded SESRIC Project, the Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), organized an onsite Workshop on “Promoting Food Security in OIC member countries through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs” on 24-25 September 2024 at SESRIC headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Agriculture Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Agriculture Statistics” on 25-26 September 2024. The training course was provided by a competent expert from TURKSTAT for the benefit of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the Ministries of Agriculture of the OIC countries.

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

7. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- **State of Youth in OIC Member States 2024:** This report investigates the state of youth in OIC Member States by looking into some important dimensions like education and skills development; employment and entrepreneurship; health and well-being; and social participation while highlighting key challenges faced by youth in these areas. The report also displays the efforts of the OIC Member States, and draws a set of policy recommendations. This report will be submitted to and presented at the 6th Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM), which will be held in 2024 in Libya.
- **OIC Health Report 2024:** This report aims to evaluate the health performance of OIC member countries by analysing the trends in key health indicators at the OIC group level as well as at the individual country level. The report ought to focus on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic vis-a-vis progress on six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023. The report will conclude with policy recommendations for OIC member countries to overcome the public health challenges in the post-pandemic era. This report will be submitted to the 8th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers once it is convened.
- **Workshop on “Supporting Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and SDG reporting: Data and Statistics Innovations”:** SESRIC hosted the Workshop on “Supporting Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and SDG reporting: Data and Statistics Innovations” in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) at SESRIC Headquarters on 6-7 December 2023 in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye. 24 experts from 9 NSOs of OIC member countries participated in the Workshop. The Workshop aimed at addressing the main challenges in data collection and highlighting the key strengths of primary data for SDG monitoring or the VNR process.
- **Training Workshop on “Integrating Formal and Informal TVET Education in OIC-Africa French-Speaking Member Countries”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized an online Training Workshop on “Integrating Formal and Informal TVET Education in OIC-Africa French-Speaking Member Countries” on 27-28 December 2023. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills of the

Kingdom of Morocco for the benefit of 82 experts and executives from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions of 14 OIC African French-speaking member countries.

- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) Indicators” on 22-23 January 2024. The training course was provided by a senior expert from the Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan for the benefit of 15 experts from the NSOs of 9 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on “Supporting Tobacco Farmers through Tobacco Control Programmes”:** Within the framework of the Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB), SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Supporting Tobacco Farmers through Tobacco Control Programmes” on 13-14 February 2024 for the benefit of 48 experts and executives from Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tobacco control in 14 OIC member countries. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministries of Health of Bahrain and Jordan as well as the Food and Drug Authority of Indonesia.
- **Webinar on “Strategies to Support Mental Health at Work”:** Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and SESRIC Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), the Centre, as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, collaborated with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Secretariat of the Network. Together, they organized a Webinar on “Strategies to Support Mental Health at Work” on 22 February 2024. The webinar was attended by 65 officials from national OSH authorities and related institutions in 18 OIC member countries. Distinguished speakers representing the national OSH authorities of Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar, Tunisia, and Türkiye delivered comprehensive presentations throughout the webinar.
- **The 4th Meeting of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET):** SESRIC, serving as the Secretariat of the OIC-Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), collaborated with the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) of the Kingdom of Morocco, in its capacity as the Chair of the OIC-PESNET, organized the 4th Meeting of the OIC-PESNET on 29 February - 1 March 2024 in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco. The Meeting brought together 56 participants from the national Public Employment Services (PES) authorities and other relevant institutions, including the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills (MIEPEEC) of the Kingdom of Morocco, as well as 3 institutions, namely Tamwilcom, SABIL Project, and the Association for the Promotion of Education and Training Abroad (APEFE), representing 20 OIC member

countries. During the occasion, the Chairmanship of the OIC-PESNET was officially handed over from the OIC Asia Group (Türkiye) to the OIC Arab Group (Morocco).

- **Training Course on “Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Environmental Management”:** Within the framework of its Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB), SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Environmental Management” on 5-6 March 2024 for the benefit of 48 experts and executives from the relevant Ministries and National Institutions in charge of climate change in 24 OIC Countries. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change (MEUCC) of the Republic of Türkiye and the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).
- **Training Course on “Integrating Green Skills and Sustainable Practices into TVET Programmes”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Integrating Green Skills and Sustainable Practices into TVET Programmes” on 13-14 March 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 80 experts and executives from the TVET authorities and relevant national institutions of 22 OIC countries.
- **Webinar on “Renewable Energy Statistics”:** Within the framework of its Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing, SESRIC organized a webinar on “Renewable Energy Statistics” on 28 March 2024 in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and with the contributions of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Mozambique National Institute of Statistics, and the BPS Statistics of Indonesia. The webinar was attended by 80 official statisticians and experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Ministries of Energy, and relevant national institutions of 23 OIC member countries. The webinar provided a platform for discussing a potential general methodology framework for renewable energy statistics. It delved into the challenges faced by NSOs, focusing on the development of necessary standards and mechanisms for the production, harmonization, and dissemination of such indicators across the national statistical systems of OIC member countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 4 (Quality Education) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 4 Indicators” on 24-25 April 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the benefit of 57 experts from the NSOs and Ministries of Education of 18 OIC member countries.

- **Webinar on “Monitoring Health for SDGs in the Post-COVID-19 Era”:** Within the framework of the Programme of Action for 2021-2025 under the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030, SESRIC organized a webinar on “Monitoring Health for SDGs in the Post-COVID-19 Era” on 30 April 2024. The webinar provided opportunities for discussing a range of topics, including the global health situation following the COVID-19 pandemic, methods to enhance statistical indicators for assessing UHC, data-driven approaches to strengthen the resilience of healthcare systems, and the application of data and technology for health monitoring. The webinar was attended by 57 official statisticians and experts from the NSOs, Ministries of Health, and relevant national institutions of 18 OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Labour Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Labour Statistics” on 20-21 May 2024. The training course was provided by a competent expert from TURKSTAT for the benefit of the 42 experts from the NSOs and other governmental organizations of 17 OIC member countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 5 (Gender Equality) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 5 (Gender Equality) Indicators” on 20-22 May 2024. The training course was provided by a senior expert from the Statistics Department at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for the benefit of 17 experts from the NSOs and relevant national authorities of 20 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Health Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Health Statistics” on 21-22 May 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the National Health Institute (INSP) of the Ministry of Health of Tunisia for the benefit of 10 experts from the NSOs and Ministries of Health of 6 French-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Training Course on “Enhancing the Competency-based Approach in TVET Curricula and Assessment”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Enhancing the Competency-based Approach in TVET Curricula and Assessments” on 29-30 May 2024. The training course was provided by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the benefit of 29 experts from TVET authorities and relevant institutions in 12 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Webinar on “Good Practice in Preventing Discrimination at Work and Forced Labour”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), organized a Webinar on “Good Practices in Preventing

Discrimination at Work and Forced Labour” on 30 May 2024. The webinar featured presentations by experts from the ILO Türkiye Office and relevant ministries and national institutions from Azerbaijan, The Gambia, Malaysia, and Türkiye. It gathered 48 experts and executives from ministries and government agencies in 18 OIC countries.

- **Statistical Training Course on “Population and Housing Censuses”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Population and Housing Censuses” on 11-13 June 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the benefit of 23 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 8 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators” on 25-27 June 2024. The training course was provided by prominent experts at CAPMAS of Egypt for the benefit of 14 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant national authorities of 10 Arabic-speaking OIC member countries. The 3-day training course included 11 sessions and enhanced the technical capacities of the participants in conducting population and housing censuses.
- **Webinar on “Vocational Education in Business and Industry”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MoECRT) of the Republic of Indonesia, organized a Webinar on “Vocational Education in Business and Industry” on 2 July 2024. The webinar featured presentations by experts from the Division of Alignment of Vocational Education with Business and Industry of the MoECRT of the Republic of Indonesia, UNESCO International Centre for TVET (UNESCO-UNEVOC), Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, and Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic (PENS). It was attended by 50 experts, executives and academics from TVET National Focal Points and relevant agencies/ authorities and national institutions in 25 OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “Social Protection Statistics”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “Social Protection Statistics” on 23-25 July 2024. The training was provided by a competent expert from BPS-Statistics Indonesia for the benefit of 39 participants from the National Statistical Offices and other governmental organizations of 19 OIC countries.
- **Statistical Training Course on “National Statistical Coordination”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s StatCaB Programme, the Centre organized an online Training Course on “National Statistical Coordination” on 14-15 August 2024. The training was

provided by a competent expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) with the participation of 87 participants from the National Statistical Offices and other governmental organizations of 30 OIC countries.

- **Webinar on “Establishing Quality Assurance Mechanisms and Accreditation Systems for TVET Programmes”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO-UNEVOC), organized a Webinar on “Establishing Quality Assurance Mechanisms and Accreditation Systems for TVET Programmes” on 5 September 2024. The webinar brought together 182 experts and executives from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions of 29 OIC countries.
- **OIC Social Security Institutions Network (OIC-SSINET):** SESRIC initiated the necessary preparations for the establishment of the OIC Social Security Institutions Network (OIC-SSINET). A questionnaire was prepared with the aim of collecting profile information of the Social Security Institutions from the OIC member countries. The questionnaire was translated into the three official languages of the OIC (Arabic, English, and French) and circulated with the relevant institutions of OIC member countries in October 2024. The official web page for OIC-SSINET was also launched in the same month. The completed questionnaires received from the OIC member countries will be thoroughly analysed in December 2024 to better shape the OIC-SSINET. Subsequently, necessary steps will be taken to organise an online meeting with potential Bureau Members in order to constitute the Bureau of the Network. Accordingly, the draft OIC-SSINET Work Plan for the period of 2025-2030 and other important documents of the Network will be collaboratively developed with the Bureau Members. The draft Work Plan and documents of the Network will be shared with the National Focal Points (NFPs) to facilitate the organisation of the 1st Meeting of the OIC-SSINET, scheduled in the first quarter of 2025.
- **Webinar on “Sustainability and Financing Mechanism for Social Security Institutions”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Security Institutions Capacity Building Programme (SSI-CaB), the Centre organized a Webinar on “Sustainability and Financing Mechanisms for Social Security Institutions” on 26 September 2024. The webinar was attended by representatives from Ministries, Government Agencies/Institutions and relevant stakeholders in OIC member countries responsible for social security.
- **Training course on “Developing Women and Girls’ Employability Skills for Facilitating Labour Market Entry in OIC-Africa Countries”:** Within the framework of SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), organized an online

Training Course on “Developing Women and Girls’ Employability Skills for Facilitating Labour Market Entry in OIC-Africa Countries” on 30-31 October 2024. The training course was provided by the ISKUR, for the benefit of experts and executives from the relevant Ministries and national institutions responsible in the area of social development.

- **13th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom):** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organized the 13th Session of the OIC-StatCom on 15-16 October 2024, at SESRIC headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. During the 13th Session, activities undertaken since the last session were reviewed, and the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2021-2025 was discussed, along with the following technical themes:
 - Inclusive Data Collection in Social Protection
 - Ethics for New Data Sources and Technologies
 - Sustainable Development Goals: Monitoring and Reporting SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators
 - Embracing Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Official Statistics
 - 2020 Round of the World Population and Housing Census Programme: Lessons Learnt and The Way Forward
- **Workshop on “The Potential of Utilizing South-South and Triangle Cooperation Mechanism towards Alleviating Poverty”:** Within the framework of the SESRIC Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), organized a Workshop on “The Potential of Utilizing South-South and Triangle Cooperation Mechanisms towards Alleviating Poverty in the OIC Region” on 16-17 October 2024 for the benefit of experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions responsible for poverty eradication in the OIC member countries.
- **Project titled “Empowering Youth through Enhancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): A Pathway to Employment and Success”:** Within the framework of the 11th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented a project in 2024 titled “Empowering Youth through Enhancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): A Pathway to Employment and Success”. The project includes the following activities:
 - ✓ **Training Course on “Enhancing Policies and Strategies for Effective TVET Systems in OIC member countries”:** SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Enhancing Policies and Strategies for Effective TVET Systems in OIC member countries” on 1-3 October 2024, as part of its Project on

“Empowering Youth through Enhancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): A Pathway to Employment and Success”.

- ✓ **Workshop on “Strengthening TVET Strategies to Increase Youth Employment in OIC Member Countries”**: SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Malaysia and the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, will organize an onsite Workshop on “Strengthening TVET Strategies to Increase Youth Employment in OIC member countries” on 19-20 November 2024 at SESRIC headquarters in Ankara, Türkiye.
- **Training Course on “Adopting Pertinent Strategies for Upskilling and Reskilling TVET Trainers”** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the Cooperation Area 2 of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a Training Course on “Adopting Pertinent Strategies for Upskilling and Reskilling TVET Trainers” on 22-23 October 2024. The training course was provided by competent speakers from the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of experts from TVET authorities and relevant institutions in OIC countries.
- **Training Course on “Navigating Complex Employment Challenges for Public Service Providers”**: Within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Navigating Complex Employment Challenges for Public Service Providers” on 22-23 October 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO) for the benefit of experts from relevant ministries and national public employment institutions in OIC countries.
- **Training Course on “Designing and Implementing National Vocational Qualifications Framework for TVET Institutions”**: Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the TVET Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia, organized a Training Course on “Designing and Implementing National Vocational Qualifications Framework for TVET Institutions” on 30-31 October 2024. Experts and executives from TVET authorities and relevant institutions in OIC member countries benefited from the training course.
- **OICStat Database**: SESRIC is hosting 56 indicators related to poverty alleviation (SDG 1 “No Poverty” indicators) under the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

8. COOPERATION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

- **Training Course on “Strengthening Information Management Systems for Effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in OIC Countries”**: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Programme (DRM-CaB),

the Centre, in collaboration with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Republic of Türkiye, organized an online Training Course on “Strengthening Information Management Systems for Effective Disaster-Risk Reduction (DRR) in OIC Countries” on 20-21 December 2023. The training course was provided by a competent expert from AFAD of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 105 experts and executives from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of disaster risk management in 23 OIC member countries. The OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) also contributed to the training course by facilitating a technical session titled “Disaster Risk Modelling and its Applications-The Case of Pakistan”.

- **SESRIC Digital Transformation Capacity Building Programme (Digi-CaB):** SESRIC launched its new Capacity Building Programme on digital transformation in 2024. SESRIC’s Digital Transformation Capacity Building Programme (Digi-CaB) aims to facilitate the transfer, sharing, and exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among the OIC member countries in response to digitalisation era. Through various modalities, such as training courses, workshops, webinars, and study visits, Digi-CaB explores the new age of development. The programme addresses the increasing need for national institutions to reskill and upskill their capabilities through digital skills development.
- **Training Workshop on “Effective Labour Market Information Systems”:** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) and the SESRIC Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), SESRIC organized an online Training Course on “Effective Labour Market Information Systems” on 13-14 March 2024. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the benefit of 100 experts from relevant Ministries and national public employment institutions in charge of labour in 21 OIC countries.
- **Webinar on “Digitalisation in Food Security and Agriculture”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), organized a Webinar on “Digitalisation in Food Security and Agriculture”, within the framework of SESRIC’s Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB) and Digital Capacity Building Programme (Digi-CaB) on 9 July 2024. The webinar brought together 32 representatives from ministries and government agencies/institutions and relevant stakeholders from 12 OIC countries responsible for addressing food security, digital agriculture, and the agricultural sector.
- **Workshop on “Islamic Digital Economy in OIC Member Countries”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organized an online Workshop on “Islamic Digital Economy in OIC member countries” on 5-6 August 2024 within the framework of its Digital Capacity Building (Digi-CaB)

and Halal Capacity Building (Halal-CaB) Programmes. The workshop featured presentations by experts from the National Committee for Sharia Economics and Finance of Indonesia (KNKES), Indonesian International Islamic University (UIII), Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) and Green for South, National Shariah Board-Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) of the Republic of Indonesia, Bank of Indonesia, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office of Asia and the Pacific of the UN Office of Information and Technology, Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB) and Cameroon Ministry of Postal Services and Telecommunication. It was attended by 95 experts, executives and academics from relevant agencies/authorities and national institutions in 21 OIC countries.

- **Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Cyber Security”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized an online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Cyber Security” for the benefit of TVET teachers and trainers on 18-19 September 2024. The training was provided by competent experts from the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) for the benefit of TVET teachers from the TVET authorities and relevant national institutions of OIC countries.
- **Webinar on “Modernization of NSOs through Digitalization”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series, SESRIC organized a Webinar on “Modernization of NSOs through Digitalization” on 26 September 2024. The webinar brought together representatives from relevant international organizations and OIC countries to discuss the transformative effects and challenges of digitalisation within the National Statistical Offices (NSOs). By examining innovative practices, sharing success stories, and addressing the challenges encountered during the digital transformation processes, the webinar facilitated identifying strategies and approaches for NSOs to effectively navigate their digital modernisation journey.
- **Webinar on “Data Visualization Techniques for Communicating Sustainability Insights”:** Within the framework of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series and on the sidelines of the Second Doha Data Forum, SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Planning Council (NPC) of Qatar, organized a webinar titled “Data Visualization Techniques for Communicating Sustainability Insights” on 3 October 2024. The webinar provided techniques to equip participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), relevant Ministries, and national authorities of the OIC member countries with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively visualize and communicate sustainability data, thereby enhancing their ability to support sustainable development initiatives.
- **Special Session on “Advancement in machine learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in official statistics” at the Second Doha Data Forum:** SESRIC and the National Planning Council (NPC) of Qatar jointly organized a Technical Session on “Advancement in Machine Learning and AI in Official Statistics” during the Second

Doha Data Forum held on 22-23 October 2024. The session, conducted as a panel discussion with speakers from SESRIC, National Statistical Offices of OIC countries, and international institutions, focused on the latest innovations at the intersection of machine learning, artificial intelligence, and official statistics. From automating data collection and processing to enhancing predictive modelling and leveraging big data sources, the session explored how AI technologies are revolutionising the field of official statistics. The participants gained insights into real-time data analysis, geospatial mapping, and ethical considerations and learned how these advancements are shaping the future of evidence-based decision-making.



STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
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