

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Delegates of the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries,

Distinguished representatives of Supranational and International Organisations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me, as the newly appointed Director General of SESRIC, to welcome you all at our Headquarters on the occasion of the 5th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom).

In our capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, we are indeed very pleased, at SESRIC, to organize the annual sessions of this important OIC cooperation forum in the field of statistics, in collaboration with our main partner; the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) since 2011.

At the outset, I would like to thank you all for accepting our invitation to attend and participate in the deliberations of this Session. My deep thanks and appreciations are also extended to IDB and the OIC General Secretariat for their support and contribution to the organization of this Session.

Distinguished Participants and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current session is the fifth meeting under the umbrella of the OIC-StatCom and tenth in the series of such large-scale senior level statistical meetings since the establishment of SESRIC. With the beginning of this decade, the OIC Member Countries resolved to hold their meetings in such a way that the experiences and recommended practices of the member countries and international organisations will be exchanged in a more structured manner and these exchanges will then be translated into more concrete activities.

Indeed, the realization of the OIC-StatCom is the result of such determinism that shows the desire of our member countries to take proactive steps in improving their statistical capacities. Speaking of which, this continuous interaction between the member countries and the OIC-StatCom Secretariat gives us the opportunity to learn on what fields we need to direct our efforts more profoundly to have the desired impacts. Being as one of the good epitomes of the South-South cooperation approach, the activities of OIC-StatCom at the same time firmly permeate the various aspects of the OIC's undertakings which aim at strengthening the solidarity and cooperation among the OIC Member Countries.

Dear colleagues,

As we all know, accurate, timely, reliable and consistent statistical data and information is of an utmost importance for policy-making and strategy development in any country. The role of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in preparing and making such statistical data available is, therefore, highly instrumental in helping the decision-makers develop and design prudent socio-economic development policies and strategies.

Concrete and coherent National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) should, therefore, be given special attention. Such strategies should be designed based on adequate frameworks for building and sustaining the national statistical capacities of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to enable them to produce better national statistics for better national development policies and strategies.

Given this state of affairs, it would be a good opportunity for you as representatives of these important national institutions today and tomorrow to deliberate and share your experiences and best practices on issues related to the modernisation of the National Statistical Systems through innovative approaches and effective usage of alternative channels in communicating official statistics.

During this Session, you will also discuss and share views on new approaches, priorities and initiatives for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the National Statistical Systems, particularly with a view to embracing the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Now I would like to remind you that the upcoming World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20 October 2015 in under the theme “Statistics for Better Decision-Making— Statistics for Better Development” for the second time after 2010. On that very day, besides the global statistical community showcasing their achievements and their on-going work to help this vision come true, SESRIC also wants to hear from you; i.e.,

What have been your success stories that you want to share with the official statisticians?

What are the activities to take place in your countries to celebrate World Statistics Day?

Your responses will be shared with the global statistical community through our OIC-StatCom Forum to voice the undertakings of our member countries for the World Statistics Day 2015.

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that the deliberations you will hold during these two days and the outcome of this Session in terms of your valuable recommendations and proposals will contribute significantly to the quality of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) in our member countries. In this context, I would like to assure you that, in its capacity as the Secretariat of this important OIC cooperation forum, SESRIC will continue its efforts towards enhancing cooperation among the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of our member countries with a view to support their National Statistical Systems (NSS) for the development of better national strategies and policies.

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I appreciate proactive involvement of the participants in the discussions and I would like to thank the IDB for providing their generous support.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the former Bureau Members of the OIC-StatCom, including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chair, Republic of Indonesia and Republic of

the Sudan as Vice-Chairs, and Republic of Senegal as Rapporteur for their invaluable contributions in making first four sessions of the Commission a success.