



Statement of H.E. Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya

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Workshop on Introducing “Engage Platform” and “Transform Fund

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Ambassadors of the Member Countries, Representatives of
International Organizations, , Distinguished Participants, Dear
Colleagues form SESRIC and IDB,
Assalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu.**



First of all I would like to welcome Dr. Hayat Sindi, Adviser to the IDB President in Ankara and thank for information that she will provide -- in advance. I also sincerely thank you all for allocating your precious time to join this Workshop.

Please allow me to start off by congratulating the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and you, for the recent launch of “engage” platform, the first ever Online Platform aims to connect innovations with market opportunities.



In addition, please allow me to congratulate IDB and you again on the newly established “Transform” fund, which provides seed money for innovators, start-ups and SMEs to develop their ideas and compose strong business proposals.

Distinguished guests,

“The transformative power of science, innovation and technology is abundantly clear”.



It can help eradicating poverty, ending hunger and malnutrition, promote sustainable economic growth, generate new quality employment opportunities, increase prosperity, optimize complex systems and value chains, promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, reduce our vulnerability to disasters and other shocks, and promote the protection of the environment and ecosystems services as well as the efficient use of scarce resources.



In its Agenda 2026, endorsed during the First OIC Science and Technology Summit on 10-11 September in Astana - Kazakhstan, the OIC adopted some key objectives in steering the science and technology (S&T) development in OIC Countries.

These included:

- Increasing the allocation for all tiers of education to 8% in national budgets;



- Achieving 20% in vocational education enrolment for 15-19 years of age cohort;
- Doubling the annual expenditure on R&D by 2025 not less than 0.3% of national GDPs;
- Increasing share of OIC Member States by 100% in scientific publications by 2026;
- Increasing the share of high technology exports to 10% of national trade by 2025; and



- Aiming for a minimum of 50 OIC universities to take place in Global Top 500 Universities Ranking Indices.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In its capacity as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, SESRIC always placed special emphasis on science and technology as an integral part of its research agenda. Over the years, SESRIC has been regularly producing reports on a wide range of issues related directly or indirectly to this domain including health, water, agriculture, education, science and technology, and environment.



One of the recent publications of SESRIC within this domain is the “Education and Scientific Development in the OIC Member Countries” that analyses and examines the major indicators in the field of educational and scientific developments in the OIC Member Countries, which has been recently updated and will be presented at the ministerial committee meeting for approval in March 2018.



SESRIC also undertakes strong and close cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations with a view to providing high-level training opportunities to an increasing number of trainees from OIC Countries.

In the context of science and technology, the Centre facilitates the exchange of experience and expertise among the OIC Countries through transferring knowledge and know-how from one member country to another.



In the area of statistics, SESRIC serves as the major socio-economic statistical and information bank for the OIC Countries and hosts the most comprehensive statistical database namely, BASEIND. Within this framework, the Centre collects and disseminates, through the utilization of cutting-edge technologies, the necessary socio-economic data and background information on the 57 OIC Countries that would make them better informed of each other's potentials and needs and, thus, facilitate their elaboration of cooperation projects and integration schemes.



Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters,

Workable technological and non-technological solutions which optimize impact are not always readily available. Engage Platform, facilitates the creation of new innovative knowledge as well as of appropriate skills in order to create an appropriate enabling environment and a more operational science-to-policy interface.



In fact, Science, Technology and Innovation are often developed in multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships between government institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector.

To this end, Engage Platform has been designed in a way that harnesses cooperation and coordination among the various stakeholders to accelerate progress by adopting co-design, co-creation or co-adaptation approaches among the OIC member states.



Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters,

Before concluding, I would like to announce that it's a great pleasure to have Dr. Hayat Sindi, the leading biotechnologist and a champion of science and technology in the Middle East as a keynote speaker today. We are very honored to have such a person who has been a source of inspirations for a countless number of young females and males, who are eager to make a difference in OIC countries.



I also would like to thank the IDB again for launching this very comprehensive tool that will provide the OIC member states with the opportunity to boost their capacities for generating innovative solutions to their development problems.

I am confident that the contribution of all stakeholders to this auspicious Meeting will assist in the enhancement of the way that Engage and Transform can operate.



In the end, let me reiterate SESRIC's commitment to the advancement of knowledge, science and technology and please rest assured that the Centre's assets and capabilities are at your disposal for the successful implementation of Engage and Transfer anytime or when needed.

Now, our colleague, Dr Atilla Karaman's will deliver a presentation to reflect the situation in OIC Member Countries in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation, then we will welcome Dr. Sindi for her speech.

Thank you for your attention.



Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu