

OIC STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON
HALAL FOOD STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES
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Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Statement by H.E. Amb. Musa Kulaklikaya, Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu

It is a great pleasure for me to address this august gathering on the occasion of the OIC Stakeholders Forum on Halal Food Standards and Procedures. At the outset, I would like to express my deep thanks and gratitude to the OIC General Secretariat for hosting this important event and for their generous and warm hospitality.

Today, global Halal market is estimated to be worth more than **four trillion USD** and the value of Halal food sector is reaching over **one trillion USD**. With a strong consumer base of over 1.7 billion Muslims and increasing consumption of Halal products by the general public all over the world, the Halal market represents the appearance of a new economic paradigm that is on the tipping point of becoming a global movement. Many OIC Member Countries especially in South East Asia have already recognised that Halal has the potential to be a real engine of growth for their local economies and all began a variety of government-led initiatives to use Halal as an effective engine of growth for their economies.

Although one may comment that Halal has been around for 1400 years, it became clear with the globalisation of trade and industry, the new high-tech developments in manufacturing and processing of foods, and the complex world of ingredients, flavourings and additives, that a common perspective on Halal and the way it will be applied to the 21st century needs to be developed. In fact, OIC countries have so far taken some important steps towards this aim. The idea

to establish a sound mechanism for the harmonization of standards among Islamic countries has led to the establishment of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) which aims to provide a unified framework for the 57 OIC countries to develop same standards for certification, accreditation and laboratory services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years, SESRIC continued to be involved in various activities which are closely related to the development of unified Halal standards and procedures and promotion of Halal food industry in OIC countries and elsewhere. SESRIC had participated regularly in the meetings of the OIC Standardization Experts Group (SEG) during 2008-2009 and contributed in the preparation of OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures. Our Centre also actively participated in the First International Halal Congress, which was organized in October 2011 in Ankara, Turkey, by the Islamic Chamber Research and Information Centre (ICRIC), in cooperation with SESRIC and other partners including the OIC General Secretariat and IDB. In February 2012, we contributed to the First International Food, Agriculture and Gastronomy Congress, which was held in Antalya, by organizing and chairing a special session on Halal food industry. This panel session brought together Halal food industry practitioners, academics and representatives of standard-setting bodies under the theme “Halal Food Industry: Prospects and Challenges”. Last year in November, our Centre participated in the 9th Dubai International Food Safety Conference and contributed to the discussion through a presentation.

Distinguished participants,

Continuing with our long lasting commitment to this area, today, we will make a key note presentation on the State of Halal Food Industry in the OIC Countries: Challenges and Prospects”.

Before concluding, I would like to express our readiness at SESRIC to strengthen our cooperation with all stakeholders and we are confident that together we can introduce innovative approaches to develop and implement unified Halal food standards and procedures in OIC Member Countries.

I wish you all the success and thank you for your kind attention.

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu