

**Opening Statement by Mr. Hayri Marashlioglu, Deputy Secretary General of the  
Economic Cooperation Organization at the Regional Training Workshop on  
“Compilation of Quarterly National Accounts for ECO Member States”**

**8-11 March 2015, Tehran**

**Honorable Dr. Golestan, Head of Office of the Head, Public Relations and  
International Cooperation of the Statistical Center of Iran**

**Honorable Head of the Statistical Research and Training Center**

**Esteemed Participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset and on behalf of H.E. Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Dr Shamil Aleskerov, I would like to convey sincere thanks to the Statistical Centre of Iran and Statistical Research and Training Centre for providing this grace opportunity for conducting this regional training workshop in Tehran. I dedicate the appreciation of our Organization to the United Nations Statistics Division for their continuous support to the statistical capacity building programme of our Organization. It is my distinct privilege to welcome the delegations from the ECO Member States whose participation in the Training Workshop is an essential input by ECO to the combined effort of co-organizers of this training. Special thanks in this regard are being conveyed to H.E. Dr. Adel Azar, the Head of the SCI for hosting the workshop and providing necessary arrangements for the delegates.

**Esteemed Colleagues**

Over the previous years, development of statistics in our region has generously been contributed by the Statistical Centre of Iran through providing hands-on statistics trainings to the ECO National Statistical Offices that has essentially expanded the regional cooperation on statistics capacity. A major part of these efforts has been focused on the development of implementation of the System of National Accounts that strengthens macro-economic statistics which is of high importance for countries in designing their national economic policies and programmes. Progress in this area has been realized by invaluable support of the UNSD with its contribution on provision of professional training to our Organization and the ECO National Statistical Offices.

In continuation of such constructive cooperation, this regional training workshop on “Compilation of Quarterly National Accounts for ECO Member States” opens a new window for national accountants and statisticians of ECO NSOs to develop their knowledge on compilation of Quarterly Accounts that provides key macro-economic indicators on quarterly basis in national level for economic policy making bodies/authorities and to support economic research studies in the countries. Participants from six ECO member countries have shown their interest to benefit from the training by

new knowledge and experiences in integrating the cross sector commonalities through statistics.

I am pleased to inform you that the 25<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Council of the ECO was organized last week at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran that resulted in adoption of the work programme of our Organization for 2015-16. One of the major parts of this work programme belongs to development of statistics in the region which considered the continuation of implementation of statistics capacity building programme through active cooperation of ECO NSOs and collaboration of international partners.

I would like to put importance to the development of the ECO Statistical Network that has played important role in development of statistics in our region. It is of worthy to appreciate the Statistical Centre of Iran for their continuous support to functioning of this useful regional statistics website that provides a platform for sharing and disseminating the latest updates on statistics and statistical activities in our region. I would like to take the opportunity to request the ECO NSOs and to encourage them for more active participation in development of this unique statistical network by submission of updated data, statistics, information and news related to development of statistics in our region.

#### **Dear Participants**

Today, the System of National Accounts as ever before is in the forefront of global statistics activities. It is also in the hearts and minds of ECO National Statistical Offices. In this context, we thank the UN Statistics Division for providing high profile resource persons, Mr. Benson Sim whom we are grateful for conducting the training sessions throughout these four days. From ECO perspective, it would be particularly useful if the training could help bring the SNA standards into line with the statistical needs in the region and to entail a critical impact for generation of comparable data in ECO NSOs, to be harmonized under the 2008 SNA in their employing common concepts and definitions.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again re-iterate sincere thanks of the Economic Cooperation Organization to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its continuous support to statistics activities in the ECO region. In the same respect, expression of the profound gratitude is to the organizers of the training workshop, the Statistical Center of Iran, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Statistical Research and Training Centre.

I wish a successful training workshop and a pleasant stay in Tehran for all dear participants.

Thank you for your attention.