

**STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP: A PLATFORM FOR
COORDINATING STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES AMONG
OIC INSTITUTIONS**

PREPARED BY

STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP

Objective:

The objectives of the Statistical Working Group (SWG) are

1. To develop a framework for coordinating statistical activities among the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Institutions and the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the member countries to ensure consistency in statistical practices, prevent duplications and facilitate improved interaction with the member countries.
2. To identify the procedures and guidelines for OIC-level data collection, data processing, data dissemination, statistical publications and statistical capacity building activities.

Key activities:

Data Collection

3. The SWG develops and follows the implementation of data collection mechanisms for the collection of data from member countries. The SWG identifies the responsibilities of the member institutions as regards to OIC-wide data collection to ensure highest functionality and cost-efficiency.
4. The member institutions of the SWG design statistical questionnaires jointly in order to collect data from member countries in a coordinated manner. Only in special cases, individual institutions may develop their questionnaires provided there is close consultation with other members of the SWG.
5. The SWG explores ways and means for increasing the response rate to the questionnaires sent to member countries.
6. The SWG may decide to resort to databases of reputable international institutions in the absence of data from national sources. The SWG determines the rules and procedures pertaining to the use of data from international sources.

Data Processing

7. The SWG coordinates the work on standardizing the definitions of indicators, and facilitates the use of a common terminology in this context across the OIC Institutions. All members of the SWG closely follow the common terminology on statistical indicators in their data collection and dissemination procedures.
8. The SWG coordinates the work on standardizing the methodologies for calculating aggregations, and facilitates the use of agreed methodologies in the publications of the OIC institutions and the member countries.
9. The SWG closely follows methodological developments in all fields of statistics with respect to internationally agreed concepts, definitions, and classifications.

Data Dissemination

10. The SWG develops the framework for enabling OIC-wide data dissemination in a coordinated manner. In this context, the design of a common database as a one-stop platform for dissemination of all statistical data on the OIC member countries in a reliable and consistent manner is essential.
11. The member institutions of SWG provide links to the databases of other members of SWG on their websites.

Publications

12. The member institutions of the SWG share their statistical publications with the SWG for feedback before they are released.
13. The SWG identifies the rules and procedures for joint publications on the OIC member countries and Muslim communities in other countries.

Statistical Capacity Development

14. The member institutions of SWG organize training programs for statistical capacity development in the OIC Member Countries in a coordinated manner. The SWG identifies the framework for the design, implementation and assessment of the activities in this context.

Working Mechanism:

15. The SWG meets once a year for a two-day meeting in early spring. The Secretariat of the SWG prepares the agenda and the other organizational matters of the meeting in close cooperation with the other members of the SWG. If need arises, an extraordinary meeting can always be held upon the consensus of the member institutions of the SWG.
16. Decisions are taken by consensus on the resolutions and the recommendations adopted during the meeting, and the Secretariat publishes and disseminates them in a timely manner.
17. The SWG functions on a task oriented basis using lead institution arrangements. The SWG identifies the lead institution for any task determined during the meetings as well as the members of the task team. Task teams can establish the most appropriate working arrangements, and hold their own meetings if necessary, without financial implications to the SWG. The lead institutions present their reports to the next meeting of the SWG.
18. The members of the SWG assume the role of the Secretariat of the SWG on a rotational basis for a one-year period.

Membership and level of representation:

19. The founding institutions of the SWG (OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, IDB, ICDT and ICCI) are natural members of the SWG. The membership of SWG is open to all OIC Institutions with statistical responsibilities.
20. National Statistical Organizations of the OIC member countries can become member of the SWG without any reservation, or participate in the SWG meetings without becoming a member.
21. Representation in the Group should be at least at the level of director of an organization's statistical services or equivalent.

Reporting Mechanism:

22. An annual report on the activities of the SWG is presented to the annual meetings of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) to establish recognition of its work and decisions.