

# **WORKSHOP ON “TOBACCO QUESTIONS FOR SURVEYS (TQS): DATA ANALYSIS & DISSEMINATION”**

**16-17 August 2017**

**Ankara, Republic of Turkey**

**Welcoming Speech by Ms. Rachna CHANDORA, CDC Foundation**

SESRIC Workshop Opening Comments

On behalf of the CDC and CDC Foundation, we would like to express our deep gratitude to Ambassador Musa Kulaklikaya and our distinguished SESRIC colleagues for organizing this workshop and for warmly welcoming us to the beautiful city of Ankara.

Since 2007, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has demonstrated their deep commitment and global leadership in tobacco control by encouraging Member States to adopt the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, urging countries to introduce effective legislation for tobacco control, and facilitating cooperation with SESRIC and the Islamic Development Bank to provide technical assistance for the implementation of effective and sustainable national tobacco control strategies and programs.

We are honored to partner with SESRIC as they enhance regional and country-level capacity for tobacco surveillance and monitoring and build training programs to facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable national tobacco control strategies across OIC Member Countries.

We would also like to recognize each of the Member States represented at this workshop for your commitment to tobacco control and ongoing monitoring of the tobacco epidemic.

- Congratulations to Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan on the completion of TQS fieldwork and data analysis. We look forward to the release and dissemination of your TQS results.
- Additionally, we would like to recognize the countries that are planning for or considering TQS integration in the upcoming months: Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Palestine, Qatar, and Suriname.
- Also, we would like to recognize two countries – Indonesia and Mali – that have completed TQS and released results. We look forward to hearing more about your TQS integration experience.
- Finally, we would like to acknowledge our WHO Turkey, Turkey Public Health Institute, and TurkStat colleagues for their regional and global leadership in tobacco control. Thank you for partnering in this initiative to provide technical assistance and best practices to countries that are planning for TQS integration.

Tobacco use kills more than seven million people per year, but beyond lives lost, it causes unnecessary suffering and disease, and hinders economic development. Your commitment to tracking and monitoring the tobacco epidemic is the first step in curbing the harmful effects of tobacco use and saving millions of lives from death and disease. Thank you for your participation in the workshop and commitment to tobacco control.