Message from the President, Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology
for the Opening Ceremony of the
5 Day International Training Workshop on
'Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards'
Ankara, Turkey

In the name of Allah, the most benevolent, most merciful,

His Excellency Prof. A. Arif Ergin, President, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK),

Honorable Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Director General, Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries, (SESRIC)

Honorable Dr. Aicha Bammoun, Director Sciences, Islamic Scientific Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO),

Honorable Mr. Tajammul Hussain, Advisor (Programmes), Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS),

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamoalaikum, Günaydın, and a very Good Morning,

I am deeply honored and privileged to convey you the greetings of Dr. Syed Muhammad Junaid Zaidi, President, Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT) and to welcome you to this 5th cycle of International Training Workshop on "Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards" which is being organized with the joint collaboration of Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), the Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT), the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Pakistan, and The Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries, (SESRIC), Ankara, Turkey.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Information Technology in the present age has advanced at an unprecedented pace ever since the advent of modern computing. However, progress comes at a cost, which in this case, is the threat of Cyber Crimes. Whether the transgression involves Identity Theft, Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) poisoning, Cross-site request forgery or the previously thought to be harmless, Uncontrolled Format String, the perils of cybercrime are valid and the steps taken to nullify and mitigate their effects are fully justified.

Cyber Security has faced challenges from countless forms of legislation, policy changes and has also been argued against on the premise of being used illegally or unethically. However, secure data transfer and exchange requires an exceptional amount of vigilance that demands special protocols to be in place, and more importantly the sense of vulnerability to be present among individuals and the institutions that can suffer heavily as a result of a network breach in the form of finances as well as their reputations being besmirched.

Forms of Cyber Security have to consistently evolve because threats to the safety of information and data, on all levels, are ever evolving as well. The INIT has always been mindful of all necessities for the achievement of safe data exchange faced by the global community in general and the human resources of the Muslim Ummah in particular without breaching the boundaries of relevant legislation and always being mindful of the policies governing security approaches.

Honorable Guests,

The INIT is an inter-state, non-political and non-profitable entity working towards the promotion and deployment of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) among Muslim Ummah particularly those countries who opt to be its members. It aims at directing and encouraging the use of ICTs and associated systems to promote collaboration and cooperation in building human resources and institutional capacity through encouraging dialogue, maintaining databanks, assisting in training, research and development, disseminating information, automating the governmental and business processes through the mediation of ICTs and providing appropriate means.

In pursuit of its objectives, the INIT has devised certain programs and initiated and supported a large number of activities under these programs. This Workshop is being collaborated by INIT under its program of Training and Capacity Building and is the 5th of the series. Under this program, the Network promotes training and capacity building activities of the skilled personnel and encourages collaboration and cooperation in building human resources and institutional capacity.

I am fully confident that the outcomes of the Workshop will be of great value in strengthening the IT capacities and enhancing the concepts, understanding and skills of the Workshop participants. I'm also convinced that the knowledge accorded in the Workshop will certainly aid in promoting and strengthening the learning process for better internet security and data protection in the organizations being represented today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I am delighted to express gratitude towards the Turkish authorities for the facilities they have extended to organize the training Workshop. I also extend my deepest gratitude to COMSATS Secretariat, ISESCO, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology who contributed to the organization of this Workshop. My thankfulness also goes to the experts who have been very kind to travel to Turkey, and will dedicate their precious time for the Workshop. Finally, I am grateful to the participants attending from all over the world, without whose participation, this workshop could not have been possible.

May Allah bless our efforts towards achieving the objectives of the Workshop.

Thank you very much and Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatu.