

**Opening address by
Dr Sameera Al-Tuwaijri, Director of SafeWork**

Mr Diop, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me special pleasure to greet you on the occasion of this special anniversary Meeting of CIS Centres. This is the third time that I open a CIS Meeting, and the first time that I do so on our home ground in Geneva.

By now I recognize many of you, and I am pleased that I can do so not only as a colleague but also as a friend. I very much value this special quality in the CIS network, where people work together as occupational safety and health information professionals, but also as friends of long standing.

I take this occasion as well of greeting those of you who attend their first CIS Centres Meeting. An effective association is one that continuously renews itself through the acquisition of new members, especially when they are from parts of the world not well represented in the network so far.

This 50th anniversary Meeting is a good opportunity to examine what CIS has achieved until now, and to look at what it may do in the future.

We have only two days for this Meeting, let us use it well. I hope much can be achieved during this time. I look forward to the presentations by the individual Centres, for it is important for us to know what happens at the country and regional levels. I also look forward very much to the group discussions, whose outcome will contribute significantly to CIS's future.

I thank you for your attention, and wish you good luck in your deliberations.