



Dr Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit's statement
On the occasion of World Statistics Day
October 20, 2020

Today, we celebrate the World Statistics Day, which falls on October 20, 2020, with the rest of the world. This celebration comes in response to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 69/282, which called on all countries to celebrate this occasion with the theme "**Connecting the world with data we can trust**". This day is an occasion to celebrate the important role played by official statistics in relation to collection, dissemination and analysis of economic, social and environmental data, to be presented in the form of numbers, indicators, graphs and maps to be used by the public in general and by businesses, researchers, academics, government workers, civil society organizations and the private sector in particular.

Celebrating this occasion spotlights the wise Qatari leadership's interest in the statistics sector in view of its crucial role in enhancing the ability of decision-makers to prepare sustainable development policies for the next phase of Qatar.

This celebration reaffirms the important role the Planning and Statistics Authority plays as the main source of official statistics, and the vehicle of the national statistical system for producing data that would provide objective diagnostic requirements for preparing, developing and following-up successive national development strategies, foremost of which is the National Development Strategy 2018-2022 in order to achieve Qatar National Vision 2030. The PSA is also keen to coordinate and standardize statistical concepts, definitions and sound methodologies for data producers in the country, and to raise statistical awareness by providing and disseminating economic, demographic, social, health, educational and environmental data for the private sector, and workers in the investment and business sector and in scientific research.

At the international level, the PSA spares no effort to keep pace with global advancement in the field of statistics, especially through its participation in the United Nations Statistical Commission, and as an active member of the International Statistical Institute - one of the world's leading professional



organizations. The PSA also contributes to providing United Nations organizations and other international and regional organizations with necessary data for updating their databases, and preparing international and regional reports, with a view to preserve the vital and effective role of the State of Qatar on the international statistical map.

As the PSA is committed to providing high-quality official statistics, and in order to overcome the challenges associated with the circumstances experienced by Qatar and the rest of the world by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the PSA continues to implement its programmes and projects in accordance with the innovative statistical practices that keep pace with the developments arising out of the current situation. Perhaps the most prominent projects in this regard are: The population, housing and establishments Census 2020, completion of household surveys, economic establishment surveys, preparation of GDP, prices, indexes, foreign trade statistics, preparation of SDG 2030 indicators and others.

In this context, we affirm that we are constantly working on updating our statistical system and adopting modern internationally-approved methodologies related to providing high-quality, reliable and timely data, armed with the UN basic principles of official statistics and maintaining the confidentiality of individual information and limiting its use for statistical purposes only.

In conclusion, we extend our sincere thanks to the distinguished members of the Statistics Advisory Committee for their tangible efforts in establishing a solid digital infrastructure. We also extend our thanks to data providers in government institutions, the private sector and the households for their cooperation, to all partners in the statistical process, and to data users for their continued trust and support. We would like to further thank all statisticians in the State of Qatar. May God help us all for the benefit of our beloved country.