Speech by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Abdulaziz Al-Naimi, PSA Assistant President, at the Opening of the "Data Visualization Workshop", 5-6 June 2023

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

Dear attendees of the Data Visualization Workshop,

First of all, I would like to extend to all of you a very warm welcome and to thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this workshop, which we consider an important step towards the modernization and development of the National Statistical System in Qatar. Also, I sincerely thank our expert guests who will showcase a variety of presentations on the topic of this workshop and will contribute to providing state-of-the-art insights and methodologies that address the use of Data Visualization in many aspects that we provide their data to users of all categories. Further, I am so proud of the partnership that the Planning and Statistics Authority established with ministries, government agencies, universities, research centers, and companies operating in Qatar in order to promote sustainable development in our beloved country.

Data visualization is becoming one of the most sought-after fields in data science in general, and in official statistics in particular, due to its paramount importance in evidence-based decision-making. Without a doubt, data is attractive and invaluable when presented the right way and we believe that data visualization is a visual language that all of us — whether producers or users of data or decision makers — should use since it will provide us with a clear understanding of the story behind numbers and correlations within the data.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This workshop aims to highlight the importance of data visualization for decision-making in various societal and developmental domains, and to provide guidelines and advice on how to

build professional data visualization products relevant to the decision-makers' interests in line with the background document prepared for this purpose and the proposed framework. Thus, this will make relevant visual data and products available and widely usable at the national level, particularly in terms of building a platform at the Planning and Statistics Authority that receives the products of participants. Besides, we consider our work in this field an important resource for the central database that we are currently building and for the Open Data Portal whose responsibility has been transferred to the Planning and Statistics Authority since the beginning of this year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to thank the participants in this workshop, and the experts for their diverse and rich presentations and for their partnership with us. While wishing for your aspirations to come true, I hope this work and this partnership will continue to produce beautiful and creative visual outputs, and to adopt this culture and methodology in our work in the Planning and Statistics Authority, ministries, government agencies and relevant national institutions. I would also like to thank my colleagues for this work aimed at mainstreaming data science and using it innovatively in all our work.

May your endeavors be successful.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.