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2023  
الدوحة  
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جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء  
Planning and Statistics Authority  
دولة قطر • State of Qatar



# Doha Data Forum

for Inclusive Data Ecosystems & Effective Decision Making

29-30 October 2023

## Concept Note



## Introduction:

In an increasingly data-driven world, the effective utilization of data has become crucial for informed decision-making in policy formulation and sustainable development. Recognizing the need to build a better data and official statistics ecosystem that promotes innovation, inclusivity, and maximizes the value of data, we're organizing a National Data Forum. This forum will serve as a platform for fostering collaboration, exchanging knowledge, and establishing partnerships to enhance the utilization of data for better decision-making and sustainable development in the State of Qatar

## Objectives:

The main objectives of Doha Data Forum are:

- **Promotes Innovation:** Foster a culture of innovation by promoting the development and application of data-driven solutions for addressing national challenges in various sectors, considering the recommendations of the UN statistical commission and CAPE Town Declaration.
- **Enhance Inclusivity:** Ensure the inclusion and participation of all stakeholders, including government entities, private sector organizations, civil society, academia and research centers, to collectively harness the potential of data and address societal issues.
- **Maximize the Value of Data:** Explore methods to effectively collect, analyze, interpret, and disseminate data to improve decision-making processes, thereby enhancing policy formulation and sustainable development initiatives.
- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Facilitate collaborations and partnerships between different stakeholders to promote data-sharing, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building for better data management practices.

## Key Focus Areas:

Doha Data Forum will focus on the following areas:

- **Data Governance:** Discuss policies, legal frameworks, and ethical considerations related to data collection, storage, sharing, and privacy, ensuring data governance principles are aligned with international best practices.
- **Capacity Building:** Conduct capacity-building workshops, sessions, and knowledge-sharing events to enhance data literacy, analytical skills, and data management practices across sectors.
- **Data Innovation:** Promote the development and application of innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data analytics, to derive insights and address complex challenges across sectors.
- **Inclusive Data Access:** Advocate for inclusive data access and encourage the creation of open data platforms that facilitate transparent and equitable access to data, particularly for marginalized communities and underrepresented groups.

## Methodology:

The National Data Forum will adopt a participatory approach, involving a series of, panel discussions, keynote speeches, and interactive sessions. The forum will feature presentations by subject matter experts, policymakers, data practitioners, and representatives from line ministers, academia, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas, and develop practical solutions to overcome challenges in data-driven decision-making.

## Tentative Agenda Items:

1. **The value of official statistics in the State of Qatar:** Need, status, challenges, and its future in the business data arena
2. **Data for Sustainable Development:** Analyzing the role of data in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 3rd National development strategy and fostering inclusive and equitable development

3. **Data Infrastructure and Technology:** Discussing the development of robust data infrastructure, including data management systems, interoperability, data standards, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.
4. **Data Governance and Policy Frameworks:** Exploring effective approaches to data governance, including legal, ethical, and regulatory considerations for data collection, sharing, and privacy
5. **Open Data and Data Sharing:** Promoting the use of open data and exploring strategies to enhance data sharing among stakeholders, including governments, research institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector.
6. **Data Literacy and Capacity Building:** Focusing on initiatives to improve data literacy among citizens, policymakers, and organizations, and the importance of building data-related skills for effective decision-making.
7. **Data for Social Justice and Inclusion:** Exploring the potential of data to address societal inequalities, support vulnerable groups, and promote social justice and inclusion.

### Expected Outcomes:

The Doha declaration, to be issued at the end of the forum will focus on the following:

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Facilitate partnerships and collaborations between stakeholders to promote interdisciplinary approaches and strengthen the national data ecosystem.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Generate actionable policy recommendations to improve data governance, enhance data access, and support evidence-based decision-making in policy formulation and sustainable development initiatives.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Foster knowledge exchange and capacity building by sharing best practices, case studies, and success stories in data-driven decision-making.
- **Network Expansion:** Expand the network of data practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and organizations committed to leveraging data for better decision-making and sustainable development.

### Timeline:

A detailed timeline for organizing the National Data Forum, including key milestones and activities, for successful implementation will be prepared. The hybrid forum will be organized during the period 29-30, October 2023 with simultaneous interpretation from Arabic into English and vice versa. Participants can submit questions before and during the workshop, where participant joining online will join via Zoom.

### Partners:

Line ministers, government bodies, UN agencies, International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), SDG Today Program, Qatar Charity, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), UK Statistics Authority, private sector, Microsoft Corporation, and Qatar Tourism will be our partners. We invite interested partners and stakeholders to be part of this forum.

### Conclusion:

The National Data Forum will play a crucial role in strengthening the national data ecosystem, promoting innovation, and maximizing the value of data for better decision-making in policy and sustainable development. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, this forum will contribute to building a more inclusive society and realizing the full potential of data to address complex societal challenges including the 3rd National Development Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.