

EXPO  
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QATAR



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



**Speech of H.E. Dr. Saleh Al-Nabit,  
President of Planning and Statistics Authority**

**At the Opening of Doha Data Forum for Inclusive Data Ecosystems and Effective Decision Making**

**29-30 October 2023**

**Al -Thuraya Ballroom, Pullman Doha West Bay Hotel**

In the name of God the most Merciful, the most Compassionate

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Representatives of ministries, government agencies, the private sector, universities, research centers and civil society organizations,

Our guests and partners, representative of the UN organizations, regional organizations, and Arab and international statistical agencies,

Experts and Presenters,

Peace, mercy and blessings of God,

First of all, I would like to welcome you to the opening of the "Doha Data Forum for Inclusive Data Ecosystems and Effective Decision Making" organized by the Planning and Statistics Authority under the auspices of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

We had hoped that this forum would be held in circumstances where we would not have to console ourselves and you, not only for the death of the victims, most of whom were children, women and innocent people, but also for the erosion of the human values that we have paid lip service to for too long, the decline of the ideals to which we have always upheld, and the decline of the human conscience that we have always relied on its vigilance.

Nevertheless, our consolation lies in our sheer confidence that the blatant hypocrisy, crude double standards and alignment with falsehood we see, despite its obviousness, are all doomed to decay and annihilation just like falsehood itself.

This forum comes in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its fifty-fourth session, held this year, and in response to the rapid developments that have cast a shadow over the global scene, which is witnessing fast-track changes and transformations, especially after the large-scale and far-reaching spread of artificial intelligence. Thus, we must support the digital transformation in Qatar by providing the National Statistical System (NSS) with comprehensive, accurate and reliable data that meets the needs of different beneficiaries, while enabling the country to fulfill its commitments towards achieving national development goals and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as other international commitments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The official statistics produced by PSA, in collaboration with partners, are a pillar of national knowledge; the basis for evidence-based and credible policies; the foundation of the objective accountability and international benchmarking, and a reliable source of information that enables us to measure the progress towards our development goals.

From this standpoint, our interest in organizing this forum is exceptional, since it is an intellectual platform that brings together a group of experts and specialists in the field of statistics and data science. We, undoubtedly, consider this an opportunity for us to think about ways to address emerging challenges and issues as per innovative solutions, away from stereotypes and rigidities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The official data and statistics are considered a precious national wealth of strategic value, as they constitute one of the most important elements of the infrastructure upon which the planning and decision-making processes at the institutional and national levels are based. Our previous experience in the Authority, especially in the field of preparing development strategies – in cooperation with the concerned authorities – has proven the active role played by statistical data in advancing the development process, particularly in knowing the opportunities that better support the future of development and predicting real development needs.

Moreover, data and statistics have enabled us to set measurable national goals, as well as designing development programs and initiatives with high efficiency, in line with national priorities and without wasting resources, time or efforts. This would support the Qatar National Vision 2030, which emphasizes the importance of preserving development gains for current and future generations.

Hence, we look forward to strengthening cooperation and establishing constructive partnerships with stakeholders to support, enhance access to, and sustainably develop the national data system, with special attention to the issue of capacity building, while benefiting from successful models in decision-making based on official statistics in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and the Cape Town Declaration published by the first UN World Data Forum in 2017.

Dear Guests,

I would like to thank our dear guests from outside Qatar for accepting our invitation to attend the first Doha Data Forum, wishing them a pleasant stay in Qatar, along with all colleagues who honored us with their presence. I am looking forward to enriching this forum with fruitful scientific discussions to come up with the "Doha Declaration for Inclusive Data Ecosystems and Effective Decision Making," as per a proactive vision and a holistic perspective that ensures everyone's integration, thus contributing to stimulating the transformation of the statistical system.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to those in charge of this important event from the employees of the Planning and Statistics Authority in appreciation of their efforts in organization and preparation, wishing for continued cooperation and coordination between us to support and develop our statistical system and achieve national ambitions and aspirations.

I wish you success and Godspeed in your endeavors,  
Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.