

**2nd Workshop on Modernization of Official Statistics in the
State of Qatar
25-26 September, 2018
Doha, Qatar**

Concept Note

The provision of data to support the implementation of the goals of both the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2018-2022 requires a transformation in the official statistical system. This transformation, in turn, requires modernization of the statistical process and procedures, enhancement and modernization of institutional structure, effective use of integrated statistical frameworks and innovation in population and housing census processes for the 2020 cycle. This also requires the development of effective data dissemination tools using sophisticated electronic applications. The modernization process requires partnerships with ministries and government agencies, business sector, universities, research centers and civil society organizations. This modernization process should take into account the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) adopted at the United Nations Data Forum in 2017, which sets out a strategic framework for strengthening national statistical capacity-building to support the implementation of the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, while focusing on the use of new data sources such as big data, and at the same time enhancing the traditional sources to provide more and better quality data. The process of modernization also requires integrating the innovation methodology into all areas of formal statistics production processes, while focusing on identifying user needs, including building and providing data and indicator platforms to users in order to monitor the achievement of the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and to use them in the preparation of national reports, such as Qatar's Voluntary National Review submitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held in August 2018.

To this end, the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) has prepared a document entitled "Modernization of Official National Statistics to Support Qatar's Sustainable Development Goals: A Road Map" as a vision to guide the transformation process and reach consensus on key areas of action to be considered. In this context, MDPS will hold the 2nd Workshop on Modernization of Official Statistics to shed light on the priority aspects that should be given due attention in the modernization process in order to promote official statistics in the State. This activity comes within the framework of the transformation of official statistics project to support the Sustainable Development Agenda which is being implemented by Qatar as a lead country in this field, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division.

Expected Goals and Targets:

The 2nd Workshop on Modernization of Official Statistics in Qatar aims at resuming the dialogue that began last year during the 1st workshop on modernization of official statistics held last December to determine the priorities of transformation in the national statistical system in partnership with various stakeholders. The workshop will focus in particular on:

1. Discussing priority actions and measures with partners who are data producers and users to improve the production of accurate and reliable statistics that support the monitoring of national and international development goals.
2. Highlighting several priority issues that contribute to a quantum leap in the statistical system, such as active communication which aims to build a distinct reputation for the statistical system as a provider of evidence to decision makers, and to transform data and statistics into specific information used for development planning.
3. Emphasizing innovation in many statistical areas, such as data collection and compilation, dissemination and provision of statistical products to users, and the use of new data sources.
4. Highlighting some of the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda and its data needed and how they are achieved and related to the Sustainable Development Strategy 2018-2022.

The results of this workshop are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the modernization process of the national statistical system and its importance in supporting the implementation of the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2018-2022. It is further expected to make a quantum leap in the official statistical system in collaboration with partners using innovation in the statistical process, build statistical capacity, increase productivity and provide data to users through user-friendly platforms that enable decision makers to prepare the necessary national reports in a timely manner.

Workshop Language:

Interpretation will be available from Arabic to English and vice versa during the workshop sessions.

Target Participants:

The workshop will be attended by international experts from the UK, Netherlands, Italy, Denmark and the United Nations Statistics Division, ESCWA, SESRIC, as well as officials and experts from the executive ministries, research centers, HBKU's Qatar Computing Research Institute, NGOs and Microsoft.

Venue:

The Ritz- Carlton, Doha.