

Speech of His Excellency Dr. Saleh M. Al Nabit
President of the Planning and Statistics Authority
At the Opening of the Regional Workshop on
Modernization of Official Statistics in Qatar
4 - 5 November 2019
The Ritz-Carlton Doha, Qatar

In the Name of Allah Most Gracious and Most Merciful

Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of the United Nations organizations, regional organizations and statistical offices from Arab and European countries,

Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of ministries, government agencies, the private sector, universities, research centers and civil society organizations,

Dear Guests and Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you,

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to you all, and thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this unique workshop, in which many United Nations organizations, regional organizations, and a number of countries in the region will share their success stories, as well as representatives of the government and the private sector in the country, civil society organizations, universities and research centers. This workshop is a continuation of our efforts in implementing the international project on the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2016, and coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division, where Qatar was selected by the United Nations to be a role model in the field of statistical modernization and transformation.

This Workshop is held in response to the 2017 UN World Data Forum Declaration in Cape Town, South Africa, on the promotion of official statistics to meet the needs of data users and the recommendations of the UN Statistical Commission, which met in March 2019.

The Workshop also responds to the Declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2019, entitled “Gearing up for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development”, where investment in SDG-related data and statistics was emphasized, calling for a full integration of the SDGs into the monitoring and reporting systems of countries around the world, and encouraging international cooperation that supports statistical capacity-building.

This Workshop aims to resume the dialogue that began two years ago, during the first workshop on modernization of official statistics in Doha to identify priorities for transformation in the national statistical system in partnership with various international, regional and local stakeholders, with a view to taking practical steps towards a new structure of the official statistics system in Qatar. This can be achieved by benefiting from the rapid technological and methodological development at the statistical level, and the best lessons learned at the international and regional levels, such as the transformation of data and statistics into specific information and indicators to be used in the development planning process, monitoring, following up and reporting to make the right decisions, improve data production, dissemination and access to users, and use new data sources.

We anticipate that the results of this Workshop will contribute to deeper understanding of the need for the modernization of the national statistical system among all stakeholders and partners in order to support the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2018-2022, the Population Policy of the State of Qatar 2017-2022 and the objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. This in turn would lead to a major shift in official statistical system at the national level, up to the achievement of the goals and objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Dear Guests,

The modernization of the statistical system includes strengthening the promotion of many methodologies and tools related to the economic, social and environmental aspects in order to be able to produce high quality data to bridge the gap in our databases, supporting sustainable development policies, and monitoring the progress of the various sectoral strategies. The modernization process also includes the way to manage human resources, the use of contemporary technology in the statistical processes, the acquisition of knowledge and the use of advanced technological applications. This modernization process demands that we constantly search for new data sources, such as the administrative records, big data, multi-source data, building a data repository, producing high-quality data and delivering it to users in a timely manner, while maintaining confidentiality. The process of modernization further includes the preparation of standards

and guidelines, and innovation in technology, methods, means and techniques related to the process of statistical production.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, at the Planning and Statistics Authority, are aware of the importance of building effective partnerships with all stakeholders to achieve the desired progress in the modernization of our statistical system, enabling it to produce the necessary data and deploy it in decision-making. We are also aware of the importance of monitoring progress in the development process, evaluating its societal effects, providing access for it to international organizations, and following up on its dissemination at the national and international levels, identifying the ranks occupied by the State in the regional and international indices, and improving performance.

Dear Guests,

I welcome you again to this Workshop, and thank our guests from abroad for sharing their experiences and research, to help us move forward with the modernization of national statistical system to reach the ranks of NSOs in developed countries. We are more than happy that you will share with us your countries' rich experiences and success stories in many aspects of official statistics. On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to the initiative launched by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, entitled “Data4Now”, to bridge the data gap in support of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and look forward to the adoption of the Doha Declaration on the Modernization of the Statistical System at the end of this workshop.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all representatives of ministries, government agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations for helping us to contribute to the implementation of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2020 as a national project that produces high-value data for all researchers, scholars and those interested in economic, social and environmental aspects of development and its geographical and spatial associations.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Planning and Statistics Authority for their great efforts in organizing this Workshop and making it a success.

May Allah help you all in your endeavors,

May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.