

Dr. Ahmed Hussein's Speech Introducing the Regional Workshop on the Changing Role of Official Statistics in
the State of Qatar: Why Data Culture Matters

21-22 September 2022, Pullman Doha West Bay

Dear Attendees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Valued Guests,

May peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you,

I would like to welcome you all and thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this regional workshop. Thanks and appreciation are extended to those present here in the hall, as well as those who are with us online via Zoom app.

Why this Regional Workshop on "the Changing Role of Official Statistics in the State of Qatar: Why Data Culture Matters"? you may ask. Here, I would like to refer to what Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) just said:

"It is indeed very timely to consider these issues"

Indeed, the large flow of and increasing demand for data by decision makers is growing day by day. As you know, we live in a world where data is generated on all aspects of economic, social and environmental life. This data is generated through our use of portable devices, social media, remote sensing, GPS, the Internet of Things and other technologies. Hence, there is a need to use unconventional data sources, which requires us to use innovation, AI and machine learning, and to manage data creatively and timely.

We, at the Planning and Statistics Authority, affirm and adhere to the UN Basic Principles of Official Statistics in order to fulfill our commitment towards data users, facilitate their work and enable them to make timely and proper decisions, especially after the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In order to fulfill our commitment to data users, we look forward to the new and expanded role of the Planning and Statistics Authority, which is the responsibility of data stewardship, managing, purifying and expanding the scope of official statistics, and making them available to users in a timely manner. This is while creating the necessary legal environment, building partnerships, updating methodologies, improving the quality of statistics

and disseminating them through smart databases that provide decision and policy makers with their needs of the necessary products .

In terms of data culture, the PSA endeavors to raise awareness of the importance of data, explain its use in many fields, especially in the field of forecasting, and prepare graphic, visual graphs and related reports.

Honorable Guests,

Representatives of ministries and government agencies, the private sector, universities, research centers, NGOs, many UN organizations led by the United Nations Statistics Division, and Arab and Islamic regional organizations, are participating in this regional workshop. This workshop is organized in partnership with Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Charity, ESCWA and a number of NSOs, such as the UK Statistics Authority, Department of Statistics Malaysia, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics Jordan, Sudanese Statistics Authority, GCC-STAT and Institute of the Islamic Development Bank.

Most of the participants in this workshop are attending in person, while others are attending remotely via Zoom app, and the workshop is broadcasted on YouTube and Instagram. I would like here to draw the attention of colleagues on Zoom app that they can choose the language they prefer (Arabic or English), and they can ask questions directly through Chat.

Dear Attendees,

Our workshop consists of seven sessions, the first being a panel discussion, entitled "Data for Development Impact: Why We Need to Invest in Data", is moderated by HE Assistant to the President of the Planning and Statistics Authority, Mr. Muhammad Abdulaziz Al-Nuaimi. It includes four panelists .The second session, entitled "Data Usage in Measuring the Progress", is moderated by Dr. Khaled Ali Al-Qura Daghi, Director of Information Systems and Advisor to the President of the Planning and Statistics Authority. The third session, entitled "Future of Economic Statistics (Stewardship, Networks, and Ecosystems)", is moderated by Dr. Wafa Aboul-Husn, Chief of Section of Economic and Environment Statistics at ESCWA.

The fourth session, entitled "Precision in Sustainable Development with Artificial Intelligence", is moderated by Dr. Muhammad Imran, Senior Scientist at Qatar Computing Research Institute, followed by the fifth session, entitled "Modernizing Statistical Ecosystem" is moderated by Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi, Executive Director of Doha International Family Institute. As for the sixth session, entitled "Data Stewardship, Data Governance and Data Strategies", it is moderated by Dr. Juliet Ibrahim, Director of E-Health Department at the Ministry of Public

Health Qatar. The seventh and last session is an initial presentation and discussion of the recommendations which I will moderate myself. An updated version of recommendations will be prepared according to your comments within ten days. As for the final report of the workshop, it will be soon available on the PSA website, including all presentations and recommendations.

I would be grateful to the moderators for sticking to the time set in the agenda, given that a number of colleagues will be presenting their contributions remotely, from Canada, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Jordan and Palestine. I look forward to a successful regional workshop, impressive value propositions and actionable recommendations.

Once again, thank you for your participation, wishing colleagues from overseas a pleasant stay in Doha.

Peace be upon you.