



جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء
Planning and Statistics Authority

ورشة العمل الإقليمية
بشأن تحديث الإحصاءات الرسمية
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Regional Workshop on
Modernization of Official Statistics
in the State of Qatar

Doha, 4-5 November 2019, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Doha Declaration

On Modernization of Official Statistics

in Support of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Adopted by the participants of the Regional Workshop on Modernization of Official Statistics in Support of the SDGs, held in Doha, Qatar on 4- 5 November 2019.

We, the heads of national statistical councils, the chief statisticians, deputy chief statisticians, representatives of UN and regional organizations, universities, research centers, private sector, and NGOs,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics¹ and the role of official statistics as an indispensable element in the information systems of democratic societies;

Recalling the adoption of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data² (CTGAP) by the Statistical Commission at its 48th session in March 2017 to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030³, which requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at local, national, regional and global levels and by multiple stakeholders;

Recalling the Doha Declaration on Data Revolution in the Arab Region⁴, which emphasized in 2016, that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a fundamental change and transformation of the national statistical systems in order to produce the quantity and quality of data needed to monitor the progress of the SDGs, recognizing that the data ecosystem is rapidly evolving, with new demands, new data suppliers and new data sources;

Recalling the Second UN World Data Forum Declaration on measuring the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 19-24 October 2018;

Highlighting that the CTGAP calls upon the global statistical community to take

¹ General Assembly Resolution 68/261

² See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/cape-town-global-action-plan/>

³ See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

⁴ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/RD-DOHA-Declaration-09112016-E.pdf>

action on the strategic area of modernizing and strengthening the national statistical systems with a focus on modernizing the governance and institutional framework; on applying statistical standards and new data architecture for data sharing, exchange and integration; and on facilitating the use of new technology and new data sources in statistical production processes;

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development *A World That Counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, and the basic principles for the data revolution for sustainable development⁵;

Highly appreciating the Political Declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, adopted in 24 and 25 September 2019, entitled "Gearing up for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development";

Recognizing the critical role of high-quality official statistics in informed decision-making and taking into account the setup of the statistical system in a particular country;

Bearing in mind that additional efforts and investments will be required to maintain the necessary infrastructure for the production of statistics and indicators for sustainable development⁶;

And Call upon national governments to support national statistical systems in their key coordinating role in measuring and monitoring SDGs,

We declare that the national statistical systems are committed to contributing their expertise to measure SDGs in a professional, independent and impartial way.

We are committed to:

- (a) *Contributing actively* to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 through the measurement of a focused set of SDGs indicators that are limited in number, based on a systematic framework and relying on high quality statistics;
- (b) *Increasing* availability of SDGs indicators disaggregated by vulnerable groups, committing to the principle of leaving no one behind;
- (c) *Facilitating* greater sharing of data among government departments and other partners;
- (d) *Using* the best methods for producing these statistics in the most efficient and timely way, while ensuring data quality and protecting privacy of respondents, including the use of administrative sources, geospatial information, alternate data sources, remote sensing, social media and "big data";
- (e) *Utilizing* new and open access methodologies and techniques to accelerate learning, transparency, and reproducibility to better respond to the rapidly changing data ecosystem, and to implement the Data4Now initiative to close the gap on data for development;

⁵ <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf>

⁶ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/Report-on-the-50th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf>

- (f) *Increasing* the use of GIS techniques to enhance the accessibility of small area disaggregation according to SDG indicators;
- (g) *Engaging effectively with* data producers within the official statistical system, in partnership with civil society, academia and the private sector, and *providing advice* on methods to ensure high quality of data that are produced;
- (h) *Implementing* innovative financing strategies and coordinated country-led actions for data and statistics to bridge the current funding gap and deliver on national priorities.
- (i) *Providing leadership* in the dissemination and communication of data on SDGs, and *advising* in the interpretation of data;
- (j) *Developing* statistical capacity in countries to ensure good quality reporting on SDGs.
- (k) *Scaling up* new and innovative forms of capacity development to achieve the modernization and strengthening of national statistical systems, toward implementing the CTGAP

To live up to these commitments, we *acknowledge* the importance of sharing experience and learning from each other through the established mechanisms in the Arab region provided by UN ESCWA, GCC-STAT, SESRIC, Arab Planning Institute, and AITRS.

We *recognize* the importance of good cooperation in monitoring SDGs at local, national, sub regional, regional and global levels.

We *recognize* the importance of work of the international organizations with their technical expertise in measuring sustainable development and developing broader measures of progress.

We *emphasize* the importance of efficient coordination of SDGs monitoring and reporting at the regional level between international organizations (such as UN ESCWA, UNSD, UNFPA, WHO, ILO, FAO, UN HABITAT, UNICEF, World Bank and United Nations regional and country offices and other relevant organizations), and between international organizations and national statistical systems.

We *emphasize* the importance of efficient coordination of sharing information and good practices on the implementation of 2020 population and housing census round.