



وزارة التخطيط التنموي والإحصاء
Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics

World Statistics Day Forum

20 October 2015

Concept Note

The United Nations General Assembly, in its 69th regular session held in New York City in June 2015, adopted a resolution designating 20 October 2015 as World Statistics Day, under the general theme “Better data. Better lives”. In addition, the General Assembly invited all member states to celebrate World Statistics Day on 20 October every five years. The adoption of this resolution comes as recognition of the international community of the importance of statistical data in formulating sustainable development strategies, and monitoring progress made by countries towards achieving national and international development goals; particularly that related to Post-2015 sustainable development agenda, namely, taking decisions and interventions in relevant national development projects in a timely manner. On this occasion and in response to the resolution of the UN General Assembly, under his patronage HE the prime Minister and the Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani , the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics will organize a forum entitled "World Statistics Day Forum" on 20 October 2015.

In its aforementioned resolution, the UN General Assembly called on the member states to observe this day and organize many activities with the aim of raising the level of awareness on the importance of data and indicators in the life of communities. It further invited the member states to rely on official statistics as a major source in formulating their policies and driving their investments in social, economic and environmental fields, and to activate the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Goals and Background:

The forum aims to achieve the following goals:

1. To highlight the importance of official statistics in formulating policies and monitoring achievements at the developmental level.
2. To provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the Data Revolution launched by the United Nations and its statistical impacts on the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda, at the national and international levels.
3. To figure out the possibility of providing data needed to formulate the second generation of Qatar National Development Strategy for 2017- 2022.
4. To strengthen the relationship and partnership between the producers and users of data in the State of Qatar, with a view to enable the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics to produce qualitative data related to the development process in a timely manner.

Expected Outputs:

The forum is expected to achieve the following outputs:

1. Participants are to be aware of the importance of official statistics in decision-making and monitoring the implementation of sectoral development strategies and projects.
2. Developing awareness of the importance of effective implementation of the World Summit decisions on the goals, objectives and indicators for Post-2015 sustainable development agenda, particularly with regard to updating and developing the official statistics in order to meet the needs of the “Data Revolution for Sustainable Development” at the developmental and statistical levels.
3. Providing initial knowledge of the statistical data needed by line ministries to formulate sectoral strategies for the period 2017-2022, and establishing partnership and effective cooperation relationships between the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics and the rest of State’s ministries and institutions.

Participants: This Forum will invite a number of senior officials from State's ministries and institutions, universities and research centers, as well as a number of senior officials in the business sector, NGOs, and civil society organizations. Representatives of international, regional, Arab and Islamic organizations will submit presentations, working papers and contributions according to the forum sessions.

The forum is expected to provide a good opportunity for participants to exchange views, ideas, experiences and contributions in support of "Data Revolution for Post- 2015 Development," and in the use of official data in planning for sustainable development.

Forum Date and Location:

The forum is scheduled to be held on 20 October 2015 at the Grand Hyatt Doha Hotel

Initial Organization of Sessions:

The forum will consist of three sessions:

1. The first session is designated for delivering keynote speeches, (HE the prime Minister and the Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani. HE Dr. Saleh M. Al Nabit , minister of Development Planning and Statistics) and declaring the results of the General Simplified Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2015. In this session, a number of dignitaries will deliver speeches.
2. The second session is entitled: "Data Revolution for Sustainable Development Agenda, and Update of Official Statistics Systems." In this session, a number of representatives of international and regional organizations will address the audience.
3. The third session is entitled: "Official Statistics for Policy Formulation, Evaluation and Reporting." In this session, a number of representatives of ministries and relevant institutions will take the floor. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions to lecturers after the completion of each session separately.

It is worth mentioning that all documents related to the Forum will be available on the ministry's website: www.mdps.gov.qa.