

**The Third Forum to enhance Arab Statistical Capacity**  
**Sana'a- Yemen 17-18 April 2007**  
**Final report, Sana'a declaration and recommendations**

1. Under the asepces of his Excellency, President Ali Abdulla Saleh, President of Yemen, The CSO Yemen organized in cooperation with PARIS21, League of Arab States and ESCWA the Third Forum to enhance Arab Statistical Capacity in Sana'a during the period 17-18 April 2007 as a continuation of first Forum organized in Jordan 2003 and the second forum organized in Oman 2005.
2. The Forum started by opening speeches of the deputy prime minister for economic affairs/minister of planning and International Cooperation Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi, the chair of the organizing committee, the President of PCBS Mr. Luay Shabaneh and the representative of the director of PARIS21 Secretariat Mr. Raul Suarez.
3. This forum aimed at identifying the progress made the Arab NSOs in implementing the NSDS, challenges and obstacles facing it.
4. The agenda covered the following themes:
  - Progress made in implementing NSDS
  - Financing NSDS
  - Mainstreaming sectoral statistics
  - National statistical coordination
  - Training of Arab statisticians
  - Arab and regional initiatives for data collection
5. Confirming the text of Muscat declaration 2005 for launching national statistical strategies in the Arab region, and in light of the efforts made by the Arab statistical offices to implement it, the forum declares the commitment of Arab countries to continue their efforts to design and implement the NSDS as soon as possible, and recommends the following:

**First, call the Arab NSOs to:**

1. Start implementing the NSDS not later than the end of 2007, and request those countries who did not design their NSDS to accelerate their effort to deign their NSDS.
2. Focus their cooperation with donors on the financing the NSDS according to the national needs.

3. Strengthen the relations with stakeholders in implementing the NSDS, including private sector and civil society.
4. As for training, the forum calls the NSOs to:
  - Utilize training opportunities provided by all training bodies including SESTRIC and AITRS.
  - Improve their national training centers
  - Focus of training of trainers
  - Allocate some proportion of its annual budgets to training.
  - Put efforts to include statistical training in national training plans.
  - Focus of training the users and stakeholders.
5. Put effort to make legislations and laws that ensures good coordination in the national statistical system , improve administrative records, unify definition and the national level and implement international standards.
6. Mainstream sectoral statistics.

**Second, call League of Arab States to:**

1. Cooperate with AITRS to organize a meeting for concerned Arab and international organizations to improve statistical curricula in the Arab colleges to be in line with latest developments.
2. Continue the implementation of Arab PAPFAM and call the all partners to provide required financial support to expand the project and improves its methodologies and procedures.
3. Call the Arab funds to support the implementation of the NSDS and put it on its priority list

**Third, call financing institutions and regional banks to:**

1. Contribute to financing the implementation of the NSDS in the Arab region.
2. Increase their importance to finance statistics as an essential input for development as happens in other regions in the world.

**Fourth, call ESCWA to:**

1. Prepare an assessment of the best practices of national statistical coordination and its mechanisms (national councils, advisory boards, direct coordination with users, etc). This assessment should include the legal requirements and to be implemented at the level of all Arab countries, and to be accomplished before the end of 2008
2. Coordinate with the World Bank/PARIS21 to include the Arab region in the ADP and International Household Survey network in coordination with LAS.

**Fifth, call PARIS21 to:**

1. Continue its technical support and its efforts to mobilize resources to statistical offices to assist them to prepare and implement the NSDS.
2. Establish a task team on training in the Arab region. This team should focus among other things, on establishing an inventory of training and data analysis institutions in the Arab region and disseminate this inventory to Arab states and regional organizations.
3. Monitor progress in preparing and implementing the NSDS in the Arab region, and establish a website about statistical development in coordination with ESCWA and LAS.
4. Cooperate with the WB to organize a seminar for the Arab NSOs about the microdata tool kit developed by the WB in cooperation with ESCWA and LAS.
5. Organize a seminar within the framework of the Metagora project, in measuring democratic governance coordination with the AITRS.

**Sixth, call decision makers in the Arab countries to:**

1. Support statistical work and strengthen the role of NSOs administratively and financially to empower their role in comprehensive development.
2. Enhance interaction between NSOs and planning institutions and decision making centers to support planning process.
3. Complete and activate the legislative structure for the statistical systems in support to the role of NSOs.

4. Encourage government institutions to support the NSOs in preparing and implementing the NSDS.

### **The Fourth Forum**

1. The participants confirmed the importance of inviting policy makers and representatives from the private sector and civil societies in the coming statistical forums.
2. Egypt welcomed hosting the fourth forum in 2009.

Finally, the participants decided to submit an appreciation and thanking message to President of Yemen Ali Abdulla Saleh for his asepses of this forum, and for the hospitality and good reception, and the enabling environment provided by Yemen.

The participants decided also to thank the CSO of Yemen and the organizing committee for the remarkable preparations of the forum.