



**Palestinian National Authority  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL for OFFICIAL STATISTICS  
Meeting No. 10**

**The Minutes**

**13/05/2010**

<b>Location:</b>	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in Al-Bireh
<b>Time:</b>	10:00-12:00
<b>Date:</b>	13/05/2010
<b>Attendees</b>	List of attendees is annexed
<b>absentees</b>	List of attendees is annexed

**Meeting Agenda**

The opening of the meeting

1. Approval of the minutes for the previous meeting 13/08/2009
2. Follow up from previous meeting
  - Progress report on the National Strategy for Official Statistics
  - Membership of Palestine in the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
3. International Statistics Day
4. National Metadata Framework
5. Administrative records
6. Progress report on the Agriculture Census 2010
7. The Council's budget 2010
8. The Council's next meeting

**The opening of the meeting:**

The Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr. Salam Fayyad, the head of the Advisory Council congratulated PCBS for the reallocation to the new buildings, hoping that this will further empower PCBS to have better working conditions to sustain its distinguished achievements. The head of the Council emphasized that the current objectives of PCBS and its expected outputs should be incorporated into the government' achievements report covering the period June 2010 till June 2011.

The Acting President and the General Secretary of the Council expressed her gratitude for the support of the Prime Minister to PCBS. The Acting President also welcomed the members of the Council especially the new ones and briefly presented the major activities and achievements of PCBS in 2010.

**Recommendation:**

Provide the Palestinian Council of Ministers with the current objectives and expected outputs of PCBS to incorporate it into the Government's achievements report.

**The agenda**

**1. The meeting's agenda**

The council approved the agenda without changes.

**2. Approval of the minutes for the previous meeting**

The council adopted the minutes of the last meeting without changes

**3. Follow up from previous meeting**

• **National strategy for Official Statistics 2009-2013**

Nazmi Harb from PCBS presented the intersections between the recommendations of the study on the supporting bodies for the statistical system and the national strategy. Nazmi Harb highlighted the achievements of PCBS in regards to the recommendations of the mentioned study and the linkages of these achievements with the objectives of the strategy.

The discussions focused on the necessity to establish a national social and economic monitoring system in the Palestinian Territory. The Council requested that the report should highlight the planned activities against the achieved ones along with the obstacles and recommendations to overcome these obstacles.

**Recommendation:**

1. The Council took note of the report on the national strategy
2. The Council requested PCBS to establish the national social and economic monitoring system
3. Improve the report on the national strategy to include outputs against planned activities

• **Membership of Palestine in the SDDS**

Husam Khalifah from presented the efforts of PCBS and its partners to fulfill the requirements for the membership of Palestine to the SDDS. The presentation also highlighted the required indicators, the obstacles to fulfill these requirements and the

recommendations to overcome these obstacles. Palestine has already fulfilled the requirements for 14 out of 22 indicators and the shortage is in 8 indicators only.

The head of the Council emphasized on the need to fulfill the remaining requirements of the SDDS, and it is not acceptable to take Palestine 4-5 years to complete these requirements as indicated in the current status report especially that the majority of the required data is already available at the Ministry of Finance. The head of the Council asked the committee to identify the requirements and PCBS to correspond with the Palestinian Council of Minister to oblige all parties to provide the necessary data to satisfy the requirements of the SDDS.

**Recommendation:**

1. The committee (PCBS, Ministry of Finance, and Palestine's Security Exchange) is to study the required procedures and needed steps to fulfill the requirements of the SDDS.
2. PCBS to correspond with the Council of Ministers to oblige all parties to provide the required data for fulfilling the SDDS.

**4. International Statistics Day**

The Acting President of PCBS and the General Secretary of the Council briefed the members on the resolution of the Statistics Commission of the United Nations that assigned the 20 of October to be the International Statistics Day. The resolution calls on national statistics offices to conduct activities and events to celebrate this anniversary. PCBS plans to conduct a national conference that will include a national award for distinguished report or news item about Palestinians in addition to another award for distinguished employee of PCBS.

The council suggested to highlight Palestinian hot issues like the detainees, Jerusalem, and labor market in the Data Visualization expected to be shown in the conference.

**Recommendation:**

1. The Council adopted the International Statistics Day and the proposed activities in this anniversary.
2. Highlight the issues of labor market, detainees, Jerusalem in this anniversary; while poverty should be covered in these issues.
3. Formation of a committee headed by PCBS and include as members Ministry of Women Affairs, Union of Chamber of Commerce, and Association of Labor Unions to prepare the ToR regarding the competition for the best report/news item on Palestinians.

**5. National metadata framework**

Sufian Abu Harb from PCBS presented the need for developing national metadata framework, highlighting its features, objectives, and justifications. The presentation also showed the

challenges facing national statistics offices in coping with the different international frameworks.

The Council commended the development of a national metadata framework that fulfills the requirements of international standards.

**Recommendation:**

1. The Council approved the development of national metadata framework that fulfills the international standards
2. PCBS to provide the Council with comparison between the different international metadata frameworks.

**6. Administrative records**

The Council postponed the discussion on the administrative records for its next meeting because of time constraint.

**Recommendation:**

Postpone the discussion on the item: Administrative records for the next meeting of the Council.

**7. Agriculture census 2010**

The Council postponed the discussion on the progress in the Agriculture Census 2010 for its next meeting because of time constraint

**Recommendation:**

Postpone the discussion on the item: Agriculture Census for the next meeting of the Council.

**8. The Council's budget 2009**

The General Secretary of the Council informed the members that the budget for 2010 was reduced to \$9,240 because there is only one study that will be prepared.

**Recommendation:**

The Council approved the budget for 2010.

**9. The Council's next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council shall be in November, 2010.

**Ayman Dwikat**  
**Council's Secretary**

END of MINUTES