



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

**Advisory Council for official Statistics
Meeting No. 9**

The Minutes

13/08/2009

Location:	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in Al-Bireh
Time:	10:00-12:15
Date:	13/08/2009
Attendees	List of attendees is annexed
absentees	List of attendees is annexed

Meeting Agenda

The opening of the meeting

1. Approval of the minutes for the previous meeting
2. The user satisfaction survey 2008
3. Data quality
4. Geographical classification and terminology used in PCBS
5. The results of the study on "The role of supporting bodies in the statistical system"
6. National Strategy for Official Statistics 2009-2013
7. Agriculture Census 2010
8. The Council's budget 2009
9. The Council's next meeting

The opening of the meeting:

The prime minister, His Excellency Dr. Salam Fayyad, the head of the Advisory Council welcomed the members and praised PCBS for its distinguished efforts especially in the institutional building and data quality that all require all of the possible support. The head of the Council emphasized the fact that PCBS has managed to maintain its sustainability and development towards its goals. The head of the Council highlighted on the role of the Acting President and her competency in leading the organization.

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 and briefly presented the major achievements of PCBS in 2009.

The agenda

The council approved the agenda with changes to the location of item 4 and item 5 in the agenda.

1. Approval of the minutes for the previous meeting

The council adopted the minutes of the last meeting without changes

2. The user satisfaction survey 2008

The methodology and results of the survey were presented by Sufian Abu Harb from PCBS highlighting evaluation areas that include statistics, publications, user services, communication media, dissemination means, and electronic services. In addition, evaluation criteria used in the survey included content, presentation, accessibility, responsiveness to user needs, professionalism, relevancy, accuracy and availability of statistics. The Council discussed the findings of the survey especially the size of the sample, and incentives of users to use the web site, and the role of the workshops organized by PCBS as an important mean for dissemination. In addition, the Council asked PCBS to study the possibility to outsource the next survey since some countries already do that.

Recommendation:

The Council was informed about the findings of the user satisfaction survey 2008.

3. Data quality

Inaya Zidan from PCBS presented to the Council the data quality, its concept and dimensions as adopted by PCBS to monitor and control the quality of the statistical data. In addition, the presentation highlighted on the forms and standards that PCBS uses in the survey's life cycle including the DEQAF and DESAP.

The head of the Council emphasized on the need to control all statistical figures that are issued by Palestinian institutions; and that PCBS is the official entity for Palestine's official statistics. The head of the Council asked PCBS to approach the Council of Ministers to issue the needed directions to oblige ministries and other governmental institutions to coordinate with PCBS before disseminating statistics; and to provide PCBS with the needed data on regular basis. Also, it was emphasized that there should be a clear plan to obtain the membership in the Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS).

Recommendation:

1. Conduct a specialized workshop on the quality of national account statistics

2. Approach the Council of Ministers to issue the needed directions to oblige ministries and other governmental institutions to coordinate with PCBS before disseminating statistics
3. Approach the Council of Ministers to issue the needed directions to oblige ministries and other governmental institutions to provide PCBS with the needed data on regular basis

PCBS is to follow up on the requirements to obtain the membership in the Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS).

4. Geographical classification and terminology used in PCBS

The member of the council Mr. Azzam Abu Soud presented the findings and recommendation of the committee that was assigned to study the the use of geographical classifications and terminologies. The committee proposed the termination in the use of the term "remaining West Bank" and thus must disseminate statistics on the level of Jerusalem as part of the West Bank. The argument presented to the Council emphasized the need to position Jerusalem as an integral part of the West Bank as this is important politically. The committee also proposed to continue using the current geographical classifications and thus no need for additional ones to emphasize the annexation wall.

Recommendation:

The use of the term “the West Bank” instead of “remaining West bank”. In case there is no data available on Jerusalem, a remark should be sufficient to explain that as the case with other governorates.

5. The results of the study on "The role of supporting bodies in the statistical system"

Dr. Adel Al-Agha presented the objectives, methodology, and the findings of the study that he conducted on the role of the supporting bodies in the statistical system. The findings also included the evaluation of the supporting bodies to the statistical system. Dr. Al-Agha summarized the recommendations based on the findings of the study most important of which the need to support the statistical units in the different ministries, support the establishment of such units in the ministries that do not have ones, the building of partnerships with the different components of the national statistical system, and the need to designate a liaison person in each ministry to coordinate the work other components.

The Council emphasized on the need to strengthen the capacity of the different statistical units and to support them with the required expertise. The Council requested the formation of a committee for the identification of any intersection between the recommendation of the study and the National Strategy for Developing Palestine’s Official Statistics along with a plan to implement the recommendations.

Recommendation:

Formation of a committee from members of the Advisory Council to identify any possible intersection between the recommendation of the study and the National Strategy for Developing Palestine's Official Statistics along with a plan to implement the recommendations.

6. National strategy for Official Statistics 2009-2013

A brief summary about the National Strategy for Official Statistics was presented by Ola Awad highlighting main phases in the preparation of this strategy in 2009. The implementation of the strategy requires the cooperation of all of the components of the statistical system with a need for a committee to coordinate national efforts for its implementation. The committee should include as members partner governmental institutions and members in the Council.

Recommendation:

Formation of a committee from the Council to coordinate the implementation of the strategy. The committee shall be headed by PCBS and include as members Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Interior and MAS. The committee shall provide the Council with semi-annual reports on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.

7. Agriculture census 2010

A brief presentation was provided by Mahmoud Jaradat from PCBS on progress made so far in the preparation for the Agriculture Census including the financial situation.

Recommendation:

The Council was informed of the progress made in the preparation for the Agriculture census 2010.

8. The Council's budget 2009

The General Secretary of the Council informed the members that the budget for 2009 was reduced to \$9,240 because there is only one study that will be prepared.

Recommendation:

The Council approved the budget for 2009.

9. The Council's next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be in the first half of December, 2009.

Ayman Dwikat
Council's Secretary

END of MINUTES