**Official Visit of the President of the Bulgarian Statistical Institutes to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)**

**Ramallah, 26-03-2019 –** H.E. Ms. Ola Awad, President of PCBS, on Tuesday, received Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the Bulgarian Statistical Institute, who is in an official visit to PCBS. The meeting was attended by Mr. Georgi Milenov, Ambassador of Bulgaria to the State of Palestine.

At the beginning of the meeting, H.E. Ms. Awad expressed her sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Bulgarian people in general and the Bulgarian Statistical Institute in particular for this historic visit to the State of Palestine and PCBS. H.E. Ms. Awad also expressed her gratitude to H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Mathbouh, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Bulgaria as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for facilitating the arrangement of this visit. H.E. Ms. Awad stressed on the interest of PCBS in strengthening relations and partnership in the statistical aspects.

Mr. Milenov expressed his gratitude and appreciation to PCBS for its efforts and outstanding work, and he stressed on the depth of the brotherly relations between the two peoples as well as the Bulgarian and Palestinian leaderships. Mr. Milenov also affirmed their support to the Palestinian people and their leadership until the establishment of their independent state on their national soil in accordance with the resolutions on international legitimacy.

Mr. Tsvetarski expressed his gratitude and appreciation to PCBS for its efforts and outstanding work, and he highlighted the depth of relations and cooperation between the two institutions and their interest to further develop their partnerships toward serving the Palestinian National Statistical System.

The meeting discussed means of enhancing joint cooperation in the field of statistics, reflecting the strength of the brotherly relations between Palestine and Bulgaria, in addition to briefing Mr. Tsvetarski on the work of PCBS in all aspects of life as well as discussing the cooperation agreement between both statistical offices in the field of statistics which is going to be signed during July 2019. Moreover, a number of presentations were made on the history and the establishment of PCBS, the most important achievements, the sustainable development agenda and PCBS efforts in this regard, as well as a presentation on the GIS at PCBS, the preparations for conducting the agriculture census 2020, and several topics related to gender issues, administrative records and dissemination at PCBS.

The visit will include visits to the holy and historic sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.