

Egypt National Seminar on Census Data Analysis
Cairo, Egypt, 17-19 May 2010

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the Egypt Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), organized the Egypt National Seminar on Census Data Analysis in Cairo, Egypt from 17 to 19 May 2010. The National Seminar was officially opened by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director UNSD, General Ab Bakr El-Gendy, the President of CAPMAS, and by H.E Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Minister of State for Administrative Development for Egypt.

At the opening, Mr. Cheung expressed appreciation to CAPMAS for co-organizing the National Seminar, and informed participants that the seminar was part of an Italian Government funded UNSD project aimed at “Strengthening national capacity to analyse, present and disseminate census data for evidence-based policy making”. Mr. Cheung explained that the objective of the National Seminar was to promote greater level of analysis and dissemination of the data collected from the 2006 census of Egypt and that it inaugurated the implementation phase of the project. The National Seminar covered three topics: (i) population estimates and projections; (ii) calculation of wealth index; and (iii) gender analysis.

Mr. Cheung briefed the audience on the vital role of UNSD in advancing the global statistical system and also coordination of international statistical programmes and activities, including the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The 2010 World Programme recognizes population and housing censuses as one of the main sources of data for effective development planning and objective decision-making, and urges each Member State of the United Nations to conduct a population and housing census at least once in the period from 2005 to 2014 and to disseminate the results in a timely manner.

The UNSD Director informed the audience that as of the time of the National Seminar, 93 countries and areas had already conducted a census for the 2010 round with an estimated 1.8 billion people representing about 26% of the world population being enumerated. Altogether in 2010, 53 countries and areas will carry out a census enumerating an estimated 3.2 billion people representing about 41% of the world population. The peak for the census round is in 2011 when

64 countries and areas will conduct a census, enumerating about 2.3 billion people representing around 34% of the world population.

Mr. Cheung drew attention to the fact that one of the major weaknesses of past rounds of population and housing censuses was that the data collected were not adequately analyzed and disseminated, and hence not fully utilized. It was against this backdrop, he said, that UNSD initiated the current project to promote a greater level of analysis and dissemination of census data to maximize their use for evidence-based decision making. He also pointed out the important role of research and academic institutions in ensuring further and adequate analysis of census data.

General El-Geindy, President of CAPMAS, pointed out the importance of census data for monitoring the conditions of the Egyptian population and for sustainable development planning for optimum use of available resources. He highlighted the importance of making the data available and in this connection reported on how data from the 2006 census of Egypt have been used to analyze different aspects of the population. General El Gendy underlined the existing good collaboration between CAPMAS and other institutions in Egypt for greater analysis of census data.

In his statement, H.E Dr. Darwish spoke about the importance of existing data in databases, for monitoring and for service delivery to the population. In this connection, he emphasized the importance of analyzing the data and indicated that his ministry and CAPMAS work closely on this. H.E. Dr. Darwish stressed the value of linking data from the 2006 Egypt census with data from other sources for greater analysis and utilization of the data. Dr. Darwin commended the National Seminar for going beyond data collection to the analysis of the data. He also drew attention to the importance of metadata on the methods for collecting the data.