

Press Release on the occasion of World Statistics Day
Wednesday, 20th October 2010

The Republic of Iraq celebrates like other United Nations member states on World Statistics Day falls on the twentieth of October 2010. The United Nations and all countries interesting in the statistics arise from increasing the importance of statistical information that is currently representing an important basic element and a principal support of the world development, so no development without proper statistics.

In Iraq Statistics find increasingly interesting by the government, especially after political transformation Iraq witnessed in 2003, the government interesting has represented in support COSIT plans and projects, in addition to it does not interfere in the preparation or publication of data and statistical indicators launched continually by the Central organization for Statistics despite the fact that some aspects of these indicators reflect weakness, or decline in the performance or realized achievement, so the statistical work in Iraq is moving away from any intervention of any kind, also the past seven years of the statistical work movement in Iraq was witnessed noticeable development in the relationship with international organizations through a highly level coordination with these organizations in the implementation of many surveys, studies and questionnaires covering the various joints of development, While on the level of coordination between the federal government, Kurdistan region and local governments in the governorates from one side, or with statistical divisions in the ministries and authorities not associated with ministry on the other hand. The official statistical work has acquired many considerable improvements and the significant one was the progress of cooperation relations and integral work with statistics commission of Kurdistan Region as a matter that motivate a satisfaction to a better future for Statistics in Iraq.

We are pleased when we celebrate on World Statistics Day to point out for number of statistical facts, which regards as bright beacons on the way of statistical movement.

First: a celebration on World Statistics Day represents indication of start implementation of the General Population and Housing Census which will conduct in the 24th of October 2010. This census, is the ninth in the history of the Iraqi censuses which began in 1927, is considered the most important census taking place in Iraq. Its importance comes from its comprehensiveness, so it will be implemented in all parts of Iraq without exception, including the governorates of Kurdistan region ... As well as it is the first census has been carried out according to the international

specifications and standards through direct coordination with the UN represented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) and in this context, international census technical advisory board has been established to support the census, which is headed for the Iraqi side by Minister of Planning Mr. Ali Ghalib Baban, while it is headed from the United Nations side by Mr. Paul Jung Chief Statisticians of the international organization. This commission had held several meetings seen through the nature of the action taken in preparation for the implementation of census and expressed of its confidence in the capability of Iraq to implement the census in accordance with international standards and specifications. The commission also assigned two international experts from Sudan and South Africa to visit Iraq and became aware of the implementation mechanism of listing and numbering, so the two experts confirmed the accuracy, integrity and scientific of procedures taken by the Iraqi side, and this commission includes international experts specialized in population censuses of countries from Brazil, India, France, Australia and Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan and Palestine in addition to the representative of Arab League, (UNPF), the European Union, the Arab Institute for Training and Statistics Research, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Second: Central Organization for Statistics accomplished, for the first time in its history, The National Strategy for Statistics in Iraq through study the current status of national statistical system and made the Five-Year plan. This Strategy was comprehensive for the components of statistical system in the State, which represents by the Central Organization for Statistics, all ministries, the authorities not associated with ministry, the private sector and other sectors from producers and users of statistical data then linked it to national development strategy to get benefit from development policies and measure its impact and to consolidate and integrate it within National Strategy for Statistics to include the features of access to the visibility and transforming what are planned to operational projects. This strategy has been prepared based on the guide of designing and preparation of the National Strategy for Statistics that prepared by (Paris) 21 (Organization of Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st century).

Third: Central Organization for Statistics implemented, for the first time in Iraq history, The National Strategy of Lightening Poverty for the years 2010-2014, which seeks to reduce poverty level from 23% at present to 16% in 2014 through achievement of six basic outcomes (Higher income to the poor from working - Improving health level of the poor- Publishing

and improving the education of the poor- achieve better housing environment for the poor - Effective social protection for the poor- less disparity among poor female and male).

Fourth: The Central Organization for Statistics implemented over the past seven years a lot of surveys, studies, questionnaires and the preparation of studies and reports on the variety of economic and social life aspects, and as a result of implementation for such activities, which are characterized by accuracy, comprehensiveness and credibility, COSIT has become important authoritative source of information sought by researchers and scholars, as well as adoption of such data by the government institutions, private sector and the international and regional organizations.

Fifth: COSIT participates in most statistical activities has been implemented by other ministries as an active member in commissions that are currying out such activities, and some of these ministries are (Health-Trade – Education - Higher Education - Labor and Social Affairs - Youth and Sports - displacement and Migration -Foreign Affairs - Defense ... etc)

Sixth: While COSIT is participating the international community in celebrating on World Statistics Day, The workers of COSIT and through this occasion emphasize to move ahead on the way of providing the accurate statistical information in place and time which helps researchers, planners and decision makers on making professional development policies that would achieve a better reality of life according to the Millennium Development Goals.

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