

Workshop on  
Modernisation of the National Statistical System  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI)  
12 – 14 November 2018  
Tehran

## Background

The 2025 vision and mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Statistical System (ISS) are:

**Vision:** *"An integrated system which is accountable, trusted by the general public and professionals, the provider of **high-quality** official statistics and the pioneer in Asia"*

**Mission:** *"Production and dissemination of official statistics needed by national and international users by full consideration of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and using state-of-the-art technologies and **modern** methodologies, especially register-based methods"*

The Statistical Centre of Iran serves as the secretariat of the High Council of Statistics—the highest statistical policy-making body of the ISS-- is the *de facto* focal point and coordinator of the ISS. Its 2025 vision and mission statements are:

**Vision:** *"We are the only authorized entity of Iran Statistical System trusted by the general public and professional people and are the most imminent (sic) in Asia"*

**Mission:** *"Our mission is to manage provision and dissemination of official statistics of the country and to establish **register-based** statistics system by observing the fundamental principles of official statistics"*

Three key words stand-out in these visions and missions:

- High-quality
- Modern
- Register-based

The two previous National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) of the ISS, 2005-2009 and 2011-2015, already highlighted the need for more high-quality statistics as well as the need to develop systems that would make administrative record data the main source for official statistics as priorities for statistical development in the ISS. The 2018-2022 NSDS of the ISS continues to pursue this direction and builds on the accomplishments over the past 13 years.

In the 2018-2022 NSDS macro strategies, the concepts and terminology of register-based statistics (in place of statistics from administrative records) has taken root—picking up from the development of IRANSTARS that was an output of the previous NSDS. The new NSDS now speaks of modernisation of the ISS from a wholistic point of view—progressing from modern information dissemination methods and modern technologies (i.e., IT). The new NSDS focuses on macro-strategies geared towards modernisation, a shift to register-based statistics and stronger quality management, namely:

### *More effective, coordinated and modern ISS*

- Revising the organizational chart, and terms of references of the components of the NSS, strengthening and developing the capacities of human resources involved in statistical activities in government agencies, ..., maximum use of the capacities of the Higher Council of Statistics and Statistical Sectoral Committees for **modernising** the National Statistical System
- Systematizing the dissemination and information supply of official statistics at the national and international levels based on the approvals of the Higher Council of Statistics through using of **state-of-the art technologies**, organizing, preparing and observing Publication Calendar of national official statistics

### *Shift to register-based statistics*

- Gradual decrease in the number of traditional surveys and replacing them with **register-based statistics**;
- Providing, developing and establishing the fundamental IT infrastructure in line with **modernizing** the NSS, focusing on the implementation of the **Statistical Registers System (IRANSTARS)**

### *Strengthening quality management*

- Implementing the **Quality Management System** and observing the statistical standards in meeting the statistical requirements

SCI is currently leading the development of action plans to implement these strategies. The *Workshop on Modernisation of the National Statistical System of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI)* will bring together ISS stakeholders whose functions and responsibilities and commitment to modernisation of the ISS are critical to achieving the visions and carrying out the missions of the ISS and the SCI.

## Objectives of the Workshop

The Workshop will serve the following objectives:

- Provide an overview of the 2018-2022 NSDS vision(s) and mission(s), the macro-strategies and the next steps-- in particular, how the NSDS defines and envisions a modern ISS – and arrive at a common understanding and shared vision for the modernisation of the ISS;
- Review current available tools, frameworks and processes used/adopted by national statistical systems, with focus on the models and standards being developed by the High-Level Group on Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS)<sup>1</sup>—GAMSO, GSBPM, GSIM and CSPA—and related tools such as SDMX and DDI;
- Introduce tools and templates for and initiate assessment of the level of organisational maturity in the context of modernisation using the Modernisation Maturity Model (MMA)—a framework

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the HLG-MOS and its ongoing work, refer to:  
<https://statswiki.unece.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=187891840>

developed by the HLG-MOS—and developing a roadmap to increase capabilities in priority areas such as the full implementation of IRANSTARS;

- Review the current state of implementation of IRANSTARS, identify the roadblocks that need to be addressed and explore possible solutions; and
- Review the current quality assurance and management systems of the ISS and explore options for improving the implementation of the system .

As a result of the workshop reviews and explorations, SCI will be in a position to prepare a draft guidance document on modernisation of the ISS focusing on the production of high-quality register-based statistics from IRANSTARS.

## Topics and Overall Design of the Workshop

To achieve the workshop objectives, the sessions flow will follow the sequence and focus on the topics below:

### ***Understanding the ISS landscape and institutional environment supporting modernisation<sup>2</sup>***

1. In the NSDS 2018-2022, what does “modernisation” mean? What criteria are used to define a modern ISS? Which organisations are to be modernised? Which processes? How far or near are they to their concept of modernisation?
  - *Participant presentations:* ISS stakeholders/participants will share their organisations’/units’ vision of how modernisation would look like and their current status of achievement.
2. To what extent do the statistical legislations/directives support the vision for modernisation?
  - *Participant presentations:* SCI presents the relevant legislations and directives and identifies the features that support modernisation, features that present roadblocks and features that are absent.
  - *Resource person*
3. What is the role of statistical coordination and the function of organisational structure in modernisation? To what extent does the organisational structure of the SCI facilitate statistical coordination across component institutions of the ISS and their relationship structure and support the vision for modernisation?
  - *Participant presentations:* Selected ISS stakeholders highlight their responses to the question. SCI to present an assessment of both SCI organisational structure and the relationship structure of the ISS, focusing on the role of statistical coordination in modernisation.

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<sup>2</sup> Workshop participants need to prepare a presentation on the responses to the questions in items 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, as may be relevant to their organization or work unit. It is assumed that these reviews have been undertaken as part of the preparation of the 2018-2022 NSDS; if not, this is a good opportunity for workshop participants to carry out quick reviews.

4. What are some examples of statistical legislation, organizational structures and national statistical systems relationship structures that support modernisation?
  - *Presentations by resource persons*: Examples of: process-oriented organisations; generic statistics law; coordinated national statistical systems

#### **Modernisation models and standards: HLG-MOS Lens**

5. What are HLG-MOS recommendations for models and standards in modernising statistical production of official statistical organizations?
  - *Presentations by resource persons*: Overviews and country experiences in the adoption of modernisation standards and models
    - *Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisation (GAMSO)*
    - *Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)*
    - *Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM)*
    - *Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA)*
    - *SDMX and DDI*
6. What is the role of statistical registers in the modernisation process?
  - *Participant presentations*: SCI to provide a status report on the implementation of IRANSTARS.
  - *Presentations by resource persons*: Country experiences in setting up and maintaining statistical registers

#### **Quality Assurance and Management**

7. What is the quality assurance and management systems in place in your organisations? Which standards have been used as the basis for these systems? What have been the results?
  - *Participant presentations*: SCI and selected ISS stakeholders to present their quality management systems and responses to the questions.
  - *Presentations by resource persons*: Overview of modernisation in the context of implementing the UN National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF); Country examples of quality assurance frameworks

#### **Way forward**

8. In relation to the abovementioned models and standards, how far is your organization on the road to modernisation? Answering this question using the lens of the Modernisation Maturity Model (MMM).
  - 8.1. Overview presentations by resource persons
    - *Modernisation Maturity Model (MMM) and its Roadmap*

- *MMM Roadmap Tools: Modernisation Maturity Assessment Template, Gap Analysis, Skills Checklist, Implementation Checklist, Evaluation, Consolidation*
  - *Recommended Practices*
  - *Successful experiences in modernisation in developing countries*
- 8.2. Initial application of the Modernisation Maturity Assessment in the ISS (Group Work)
9. Developing a roadmap for statistical modernisation in SCI and the ISS organizations
- Participants will prioritise the issues that have been surfaced out by the workshop, including those related to the implementation of IRANSTARS (Group Work)
  - Initial application of the Gap Analysis, Skills Checklist and Implementation Checklist (Group Work)

## Pre-workshop Preparations by Participants

As indicated in the workshop design, participants from agencies across the ISS are expected to share information on their initiatives and practices on topics 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7. To facilitate presentations and the discussions around these topics, each agency is requested to prepare a document that covers their responses to the questions posed in the abovementioned topics. In addition, agencies should prepare for and be ready to give a 10-15-minute talk, supported by PowerPoint presentation slides on each of the topics.

## Workshop Daily Programme

**12 November 2018**

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
08.00 – 08.30	<b>Registration</b>
08.30 – 09.15	<b>Agenda item 1- Setting the Stage</b> [ <i>Facilitator: SCI</i> ] 1.1 Welcome Statements [ <i>c/o SCI</i> ] 1.2 Introduction of participants and resource persons 1.3 Objectives of workshop and levelling of expectations [ <i>MG</i> ]
09.15 – 10.00	<b>Agenda item 2- Understanding the ISS landscape and institutional environment supporting modernisation</b> 2.1 <i>Presentations and discussion: Modernisation in the ISS</i> [ <i>Facilitator: MG</i> ] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participant presentations: Vision for modernisation, criteria used, processes being modernised and achievements</i></li> <li>• [15 minutes] NSDS 2018-2022 and modernisation [<i>SCI</i>]</li> <li>• [15 minutes] <i>Discussions and Summary of modernisation concepts and aims in the ISS</i> [<i>MG</i>]</li> </ul>

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
10.00 – 10.15	<b>AM Break</b>
10.15 – 11.00	2.1 [Continued] <b>Modernisation in the ISS</b> [Facilitator: MG]
11.00 – 11.30	2.2 <b>Presentation and discussion: To what extent do the statistical legislations and accompanying directives support the ISS vision for modernisation?</b> [Facilitator: MG] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[15 minutes] <i>Presentation</i>: What are the relevant legislations and directives of the ISS and how do these support or hinder modernisation? What are missing? [SCI]</li> <li>[15 minutes] <i>Revising the Statistics Act of Malaysia</i> [SS]</li> </ul>
11.30 – 12.00	2.3 <b>Presentations and discussion: Organisational structure as a factor and role of statistical coordination in modernisation</b> [Facilitator: MG] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[30 minutes] Views on the role of statistical coordination in achieving modernisation initiatives [IRI Planning Agency (policy-statistics linkage and two selected ISS agencies)]</li> <li>[15 minutes] SCI organisational structure and function as statistical coordinator: achievements and challenges [SCI]</li> <li>[25 minutes] <i>Discussions and Conclusions on organisational structure and statistical coordination— challenges in supporting modernisation</i> [MG]</li> </ul>
12.00 – 13.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13.00 – 13.40	2.3 [Continued] <i>Presentations and discussion</i>
13.40 – 14.15	2.4 <b>Presentations by resource persons: Policies and organizational structures supporting modernisation: Experiences</b> [Facilitator: SCI] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[25 minutes] <b>Modernisation in Malaysian Statistical System</b> [SS]: What modernisation means, the MSS vision for modernisation and how the institutional environment supports modernisation</li> <li>[10 minutes] <i>Discussion and Conclusions</i> [SCI]</li> </ul>
14.15 – 14.30	<b>PM Break</b>
14.30 – 15.30	2.5 <b>Discussions: What are the gaps in ensuring a supportive</b>

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
	<p><b>policy environment for modernisation in the ISS?</b>  <i>[Facilitator: MG]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [25 minutes] <i>Small group discussions</i></li> <li>• [25 minutes] <i>Plenary session: presentations of group results</i></li> <li>• [10 minutes] <i>Conclusions</i></li> </ul>

**13 November 2018**

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
	<p><b>Agenda item 3- Modernisation Models and Standards</b></p>
8.30 – 10.00	<p>3.1 <i>Presentations and discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ [15 minutes] <i>Introduction to GSBPM</i> [SS]</li> <li>○ [20 minutes] <i>Application of the GSBPM in the Malaysian Statistical Office</i> [SS]</li> <li>○ [15 minutes] <i>GSBPM as applied in SCI</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• [20 minutes] <b>Introduction to the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO)</b> [MG]</li> <li>• [20 minutes] <b>Introduction to the Generic Statistical Information Model</b> [MG]</li> <li>• [20 minutes] <b>Introduction to Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA)</b> [MG]</li> <li>• [25 minutes] <b>SDMX and DDI</b> [MG]</li> </ul>
10.00 – 10.15	<b>AM Break</b>
10.15 – 11.00	3.1 [Continued] <i>Presentations and discussions:</i>
11.00 – 12.00	<p>3.2 <i>Presentations and Discussions: Role of Statistical Registers in Modernisation of the ISS</i> [Facilitator: SCI]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [35 minutes] <i>Overview of IRANSTARS, Status of Implementation and Challenges</i> [SCI]</li> <li>• [25 minutes] <i>Statistical Registers in the Malaysian Statistical System: Evolution of the Statistical Business Register</i> [SS]</li> </ul>
12.00 – 13.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
	<b>Agenda item 4- Quality Assurance and Management</b>
13.00 – 13.45	4.1 <i>Presentations and discussions: Quality Concepts and Frameworks</i> [Facilitator: SS] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [15 minutes] <b>Overview of Statistical Quality Frameworks</b></li> <li>• [15 minutes] <b>Assuring Quality through Adoption of Modernisation Standards and Models</b></li> <li>• [15 minutes] <b>Implementing Quality Assurance Frameworks</b></li> </ul>
14.15 – 14.30	<b>PM Break</b>
14.30 – 15.20	4.2 <i>Presentations and discussions: Quality Assurance and Management Systems in Practice</i> [Facilitator: MG] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [30 minutes] <b>Quality Assurance and Management Systems in the ISS: Framework and Implementation Challenges</b> [SCI, 2 selected ISS agencies]</li> <li>• [20 minutes] <b>Quality Assurance in the Malaysian Statistical Business Register System</b> [SS]</li> </ul>
15.20 – 15.30	<b>Wrap-up of Day Two</b> [MG]

**14 November 2018**

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
	<b>Agenda item 5- Way Forward</b>
08.30 – 10.00	5.1 <i>Presentations and discussions: Modernisation Maturity Model (MMM)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [15 minutes] <b>Introduction to the MMM and its Roadmap</b> [MG]</li> <li>• [15 minutes] <b>Modernisation Maturity Assessment (MMA) Template</b> [MG]</li> <li>• [45 minutes] <i>Group Work: Filling-out the MMA Template</i></li> <li>• [15 minutes] <i>Debriefing on experience in filling-out the MMA Template</i> [Facilitator: SS]</li> </ul>
10.00 – 10.15	<b>AM Break</b>
10.15 – 11.30	5.2 <i>Presentations and Q&amp;As: MMM Roadmap Tools</i> [MG] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gap Analysis</li> </ul>

Time	Activity/ [Responsible Party]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills Checklist</li> <li>• Implementation Checklist</li> <li>• Evaluation and Consolidation</li> <li>• Recommended practices</li> </ul>
11.30 -12.00	5.3 <i>Group Work: Taking the results of the MMA initial results</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gap analysis discussions</li> <li>• Applying the skills checklist</li> <li>• Applying the implementation checklist</li> <li>• <i>Debriefing</i></li> </ul>
12.00 – 13.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13.00 – 13.30	5.3 [Continued]
13.30 – 13.45	5.4 <i>Presentation and discussion: Introduction to Capacity Development 4.0</i> [MG]
13.45 – 14.15	5.5 <i>Group Work: Developing a roadmap for modernisation in SCI and the ISS institutions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritisation of issues and challenges</li> <li>• Another look at the Implementation checklist</li> <li>• Presentation of Group Results</li> </ul>
14.15 – 14.30	<b>PM Break</b>
14.30 – 15.00	5.5 [Continued]
15.00 -15.30	<b>Agenda item 6. Setting the tone for the future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary and Conclusions [SCI]</li> <li>• Feedback and Evaluation [SCI]</li> <li>• Closing Ceremony [SCI]</li> </ul>