



Concept Note

DOHA DATA FORUM ON STATISTICS AND DATA FOR INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, Date: 22-23 October 2024

Introduction:

In today's rapidly evolving world, characterized by complex global challenges ranging from climate change to economic disparities and conflict, environmental degradation, food insecurity, the role of data as a catalyst for positive change has never been more critical. A data-driven approach, enhanced by advances in machine learning and artificial intelligence, has emerged as a powerful tool not only for driving innovation but also for shaping policies and strategies aimed at achieving sustainable development goals outlined in agendas such as the 3rd National Development Strategy (NDS3) at the national level and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) at the international level.

The Second Doha Data Forum aims to explore the crucial role of statistics, data analytics, AI, and machine learning in tackling global sustainability challenges. Beyond analyzing past trends, a data-driven approach now predicts future scenarios, identifies risks, and designs targeted interventions. Machine learning can uncover patterns in vast datasets, while AI enhances tracking and monitoring for environmental and social programs. These technologies revolutionize sustainable development through accurate predictions, optimized resource allocation, and real-time decisions.

The forum also emphasizes data innovation, using advanced technologies to develop new solutions and improve processes. By fostering a culture of data innovation, the forum seeks to inspire progress towards the SDGs and NDS3.

The forum also acknowledges that the successful harnessing of data, AI, and machine learning for sustainable development requires collaborative efforts across various sectors and disciplines. Experts from diverse fields such as data science, economics, environmental studies, public policy, and social sciences converge to share their expertise, experiences, and best practices. Policymakers gain valuable insights into evidence-based decision-making, while practitioners exchange innovative methodologies and tools for data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Crucially, the forum serves as a platform for stakeholders to not only exchange knowledge but also to catalyze concrete action towards leveraging data for sustainable development. Through interactive workshops, panel discussions, and networking sessions, participants are encouraged to forge partnerships, identify common challenges, and co-create solutions that harness the transformative potential of data.

By fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange, the Second Doha Data Forum aims to empower stakeholders to harness the full potential of data in addressing global sustainability challenges. Together, we can unlock new opportunities, drive innovation, and pave the way towards a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

Objectives:

1. **Explore the Intersection of Statistics, Data, and Sustainable Development:** Foster discussions on how statistical methods and data analytics can contribute to innovative solutions for sustainable development challenges and shedding light on the latest developments in the National Data Project implemented by the National Planning Council.
2. **Showcase Best Practices and Case Studies:** Highlight successful initiatives, innovative methodologies, and case studies where data-driven approaches have led to positive impacts on achieving the NDS3 and sustainable development goals. And identify the challenges related to the availability of data in monitoring progress in implementing the aforementioned strategy.
3. **Promote Collaboration and Partnership:** Facilitate networking opportunities and collaboration among stakeholders from government, academia, industry, and civil society to catalyze collective action towards sustainable development goals.
4. **Address Ethical and Governance Considerations:** Discuss ethical, legal, and governance frameworks for responsible data use in sustainable development efforts, ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability.
5. **Empower Participants with Practical Knowledge and Skills:** Offer sideline webinars, and capacity-building activities to enhance participants' understanding of statistical methods, data analytics tools, innovative technologies, and their application in sustainable development projects.

Expected Outcome:

1. **Enhanced Understanding:** Participants will gain insights into the role of statistics and data analytics in driving innovation and addressing sustainability challenges, fostering a deeper understanding of the potential of data-driven approaches.

2. **Actionable strategies and Inspiration for Data-Driven Approaches:** Participants will leave with concrete strategies and frameworks for applying data-driven approaches to achieve the NDS3 and SDGs. By showcasing innovative solutions and best practices, the forum will inspire and motivate participants to apply similar approaches in their respective fields, leading to measurable progress in sustainable development goals
3. **Collaborative Partnerships:** The forum will facilitate new partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders, fostering a network of individuals and organizations committed to leveraging data for sustainable development.
4. **Policy and Practice Implications:** Discussions and deliberations during the forum will inform policy development and practice implementation in the use of data for sustainable development, leading to more effective and impactful interventions.
5. **Capacity Building:** Participants will acquire practical knowledge, skills, and tools through workshops, training sessions cutting-edge data technologies, empowering them to harness data for innovation in sustainable development projects.

Timeline:

A detailed timeline for organizing the Doha Data Forum, including key milestones and activities, for successful implementation will be prepared. The hybrid forum will be organized during the period 22-23, October 2024 with simultaneous interpretation from Arabic into English and vice versa. Participants can submit questions before and during the workshop, where participants joining online will join via Zoom.

Partners:

Line ministers, government bodies, UN agencies, International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), SDG Today Program, Qatar Charity, Hamad Ben Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), UK Statistics Authority, Finland Statistics, Gartner, private sector, Microsoft Corporation, . We invite interested partners and stakeholders to be part of this forum.

Conclusion:

The Doha Data Forum on Statistics and Data for Innovation in Sustainable Development aims to be a platform for driving progress towards a more sustainable and equitable future. By leveraging the power of data and analytics, we can unlock new opportunities, address pressing challenges, and build a better world for current and future generations. A brief survey will be conducted during the forum to gather feedback on the session. This feedback will be invaluable in shaping future events and initiatives. Based on the insights from the survey, post-event webinars will be hosted to deliver deeper into specific topics and address

participants' questions. This will help maximize the impact of the Doha Data Forum and empower all stakeholders to harness the potential of data for a more sustainable tomorrow.