

Speech of H. E. the Director General of Statistics

Amman - 01 December 2014

**Dear representatives of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD),**

**Dear Mrs. Neda Jafar: representative of the ESCWA,**

**Dear representatives of the Statistical, Economic Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC),**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the beginning of my speech, please allow me to welcome you all to this workshop. I am extremely pleased to meet with you as you represent the elite of the decision-makers, researchers, statisticians, consultants, and educators in order to start a dialogue on the theme of the workshop, namely; (the integration of the gender perspective in the production of statistics). This topic is of great interest at the level of economic and social policy-making in addition that it constitutes a gateway to improve gender indicators. The participation of the (UNSD), the (ESCWA) and the (SESRIC) is a clear indication of the importance of this subject to them.

Dear distinguished participants; the Department of Statistics (DoS) which was established in 1949 was one of the leading national institutions that were founded after independence. Thereafter, the first General Statistics Law No. 24 of 1950 has been enacted, then the Amendment Act No. 12 of 2012. The (DoS) began to produce official statistics from primary sources consistent with international standards and therefore could be used for international comparisons. The (DoS) views the use of statistical data as an effective method towards change and a contribution to draft economic and social policies.

Moreover, the (DoS) paid special attention to the gender issues with the aim to produce statistics on women and men, noting that the use of the term *Gender Statistics* means something broader than just to provide indicators on women and men. It denotes the production and dissemination of data that reflect the situation of women and men's lives and their contribution in all economic, social and political aspects. The (DoS) has expanded its data collection process, analysis and dissemination to the users and decision-makers at the national level and also at the governorate level through constructing specialized statistical databases such as the gender-related

database. These databases constitute the cornerstones for all plans, programs and projects aiming at formulating policies that reduce the gender gaps in all fields. Furthermore, it is considered as the most important method to identify the extent of economic, social, health and political integration between the sexes.

Dear participants; The Jordanian woman has made remarkable strides in various fields over the past decades. Moreover, her participation in the labor force is an important requirement in the overall development process, but is still below the desired level in comparison to men. The data from the annual Employment and Unemployment Survey report indicate that the participation rate of women in the labor force during 2013 was 13.2%. As for the fields of economic activities, it is noted that more than half of them are concentrated in the education, health and social work activities. The education activity constituted about 41.7%, the health sector and social work 14.6% of the total employed females. The results of the above mentioned report also indicate that majority of employed females (95.8%) are paid workers (51.4% of them are employed in the public sector and 44.4% in the private sector). As for the level of their participation in public life, their membership percentage in professional syndicate has risen to 31.2% in 2012, climbed to 22% in trade unions and increased to 32% in political parties for the same time period.

Despite the significant accomplishment in the field of gender data , there is still more to be done to improve the quality and quantity of the data produced in the traditional economic fields such as employment, finance, commerce, agriculture, business, communications, transportation, housing, etc. In this occasion, I would like to stress on the urgent need to produce and disseminate the data and indicators of sensitive nature or difficult to be measured in some communities, such as those related to sex violence, particularly in countries that suffer from conflicts. The **First** objective of this workshop is to become a gateway in the process of studying the successful international experiences and exchanging views on the production of gender statistics and how to integrate them in the national statistics.

The **other** objective is to enhance the role of women in the overall development process based on the importance of her presence along with the other sex in all spheres of life (being half of the society). Her presence should always be monitored hoping to bridge the gender gap and achieve gender equality. The Department of Statistics (DoS) also hopes to further strengthen cooperation with the (UNSD), the (ESCWA) and the (SESRIC) to improve the gender indicators for the benefit of the Jordanian society as a whole. I am confident that future hopes could become a reality with the help of your

valuable and appreciated efforts and the efforts of all other experts, statisticians and researchers.

To conclude , I would like to thank the ( UNSD ) , the ( ESCWA) and the ( SESRIC ) for the exerted efforts and I may take this opportunity to assert our commitment to enhance and strengthen this cooperation among our institutions for working towards a gender–discrimination-free society.

Wish all of you a happy stay in Jordan and a fruitful workshop.

Thank you all ...