Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics

Arab Republic of Egypt

Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) initiatives in international partnership for Statistical Development

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First: Structure of the statistical system in Egypt:

Egypt’s statistical system consists of a number of institutions, agencies and research centers. The system is charged with collecting and processing data to produce the kind of statistical information policy-makers, planners and researchers depend on. The system is entrusted with the cooperation with international organization to ensure international comparisons of statistical information. Egypt’s statistical system consists of three main organs:

1- The central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS):

A – CAPMAS terms of reference:

CAPMAS was established in the year 1964 by the decree of the President No. 2915 of the year 1964. the decree stipulates that:

- CAPMAS shall implement the statistics and censuses the state needs, their dates, ways and publication of results are to be determined by the head of CAPMAS.

- A commission shall be set up in CAPMAS, called (The Advisory Committee for Planning and Statistical Coordination), chaired by the head of CAPMAS. The committee is to be made up of technicians of high statistical caliber drawn from various sectors of the state and appointed by the head of CAPMAS who shall convene the said committee at least once a month. the committee is responsible for the technical study of Statistical programs and Census to be implemented in order to avoid duplication and to ensure standardization of data and results.

- No ministry nor any authority or individuals inside or outside the government, shall publish by any means of publication statistical data other than those from CAPMAS statistics. Statistics that are not inscribed in the list of CAPMAS shall only be published with the approval of CAPMAS.

B - CAPMS Structure:

(1) Statistical sector.
(2) Public mobilization sector.
(3) Information technology sector.
(4) Regional branches sector.
(5) Development administrator Sector.
(6) Under secretary for CAPMAS President Office.
2- Central Statistical departments in ministries, public institutions and the governorates:

Administratively, These Departments belong to the ministries they are part of. Technically, they are under the supervision of CAPMAS. The size of these departments varies depending on the amount of statistics they produce.

3 - Information and Decision Support Center of the cabinet:

The Center was established in 1987 where it belongs directly the Cabinet. The center implements duties assigned to it by the cabinet in the areas of the analysis of available data. The center comes up with specific indicators and recommendations to support the economic development programs.

Second: Statistical Strategy for development in Egypt

There is increasing awareness among decision-makers of the need to strengthen the statistical capacity to support the design, the monitoring and the evaluation of national development plans. Consequently there is a need to upgrade statistics through a comprehensive statistical strategy to develop Egyptian statistical system to better serve the economic and social development. Such a statistical strategy will put together a vision of the statistical system in Egypt for a period of five years, including means to achieve it. Due consideration is to be given to the needs of data users as well as to the national and international resources to be deployed to attain goals. Such goals are:

1- Assigning a priority to statistics in the state budget allocation as it is the cornerstone in the development process.
2- Updating the legal standing of the system of data collection to make it consistent with the fundamental principles of official Statistics enunciated by the United Nations.
3- Ensuring full participation of all parties concerned in setting up data bases to obtain the correct information for the national use and for the purpose of international comparisons.
4- Developing scientific methods including codes and frameworks for sample surveys to be used to measure the social and economic progress and its applications.
5- Using information and communication technology to develop statistical work, including the dissemination of statistics and the use of the information databases.
6- Upgrading the skills of workers in the statistical field by stimulating them to perform their duties efficiently.
7- Ensuring more in-depth analysis of statistical data to better serve decision makers.
8- Developing the dissemination of statistics to make it consistent with the international system.
9- Ensuring the financing of statistical activities from the government and potential donors for at least five years.

**The implementation of the statistical strategy proceeds in the following stages:**

A- Taking a decision to design a national strategy for statistical development.
B- Evaluating the current status of the statistical system.
C- Setting a vision for the statistical system at a future point including the identification of strategic options.
D- Determining how the vision could be realized through an executive plan to ensure continuity in implementation.
E- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

We will highlight these stages, focusing on CAPMAS role being the official party responsible for statistics in the State:

**A - Taking a decision to design a national strategy for the statistical development:**

Regarding this stage, the State has already lent political support to design a statistical strategy for Egypt, this is demonstrated as follows:

(1) The cabinet, having examined ways and means of developing the information sector in Egypt, commissioned CAPMAS to design the strategy along with the implementation mechanism. The stated aim is to develop the said sector so that all data and statistics issued by the state be accurate, credible, updated and consistent.

(2) Restructuring the Advisory Committee for Planning and Statistical Coordination to render it more active in designing Egypt’s statistical policy.

(3) Establishing a national committee to review and check data at national level. The committee include among CAPMAS and aims at:

- (A) Standardizing of classifications and Directories that are used at the national level.
- (B) Standardizing definitions and standards of data for all State agencies.
- (c) Standardizing of the reference period.
- (D) Standardizing the dissemination timing.

Of the most important achievements of this Committee, was the issuance of a national unified administrative manual. The CAPMAS contribution to the work of this Committee was the designing of a common central product classification (CPC) linked with the Foreign Trade system to be used by all bodies and ministries in the state involved in the work of the statistical strategy in Egypt.

The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics took into consideration the main basics and Principles of Paris21 Forum.
B – Evaluating the current status of the statistical system:

(1) CAPMAS Statistical Publications and its dissemination policies:

CAPMAS produces several statistics and censuses; the most important of which are:

(A) Statistical Yearbook (In Arabic and English).
(B) Egypt in the Figures (In Arabic and English).
(C) Population, Housing and Establishment Census (Every ten years).
(D) Economic Census (Every five years).
(E) Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey (Every five years).
(F) Industrial statistics (Annual and Quarterly).
(G) Building and Construction Statistics.
(H) Electricity and Gas Statistics.
(I ) Foreign Trade Statistics.
(J) Internal Trade Statistics.
(K) Storage, Transportation and Communication Statistics.
(L) Tourism and Hotels Statistics.
(M) Price Statistics & Indices (Wholesale and Consumer).
(N) Employment and Wages Statistics.
(O) Labor Force Statistics (Annual and Quarterly).
(P) Births and deaths statistics (Annual).

In addition CAPMAS produces many specialized studies in economic, social and demographic fields. It is to be noted that:

- Most of the statistics are issued in a hard copy and are also published on CAPMAS website on the Internet.
- CAPMAS initiated “Egypt Intranet project” – a network of information containing data bases on various economic and social areas prepared by CAPMAS as well as by other institutions. The project allows subscribers to obtain data regularly.

(A) Remarks:

CAPMAS always taking care of updating frameworks used in statistics, but there are some deficiencies in these frameworks that are used in periods between censuses, which requires working on standardize these frameworks in statistics that is produced in or outside CAPMAS.
(B) Stages of issuing statistics in the CAPMAS:

Data are collected for each statistic by the regional statistics offices spread all over the country. CAPMAS checks, processes, tabulates, and publish data. Thus, the whole operation is centralized.

(C) Adhering to international standards for publication:

CAPMAS adheres to the international standard for publication in some of its statistics such as (Consumer Price Indices, wholesale price index, industrial production index, foreign trade data, Labor force survey, housing data, employment and wages data) for the rest of the statistics, CAPMAS is in the process of applying international standards.

(D) The legal and institutional framework:

- Laws governing CAPMAS prohibit any agency from publishing data other than the statistics produced by CAPMAS. Statistics unlisted in CAPMAS could be published with the agency’s approval.

- The statistical work in Egypt is governed by law No.28 for 1982 on statistics and census which states that individuals and institutions must provide the statistical agency with all the data that matches the reality in the specified dates and form. Confidentiality of individual information is fully observed.

(2) Role of partners in the statistical system in producing and publishing data:

In addition to the publication of CAPMAS, some other institutions and ministries issue statistical publications on education, health, foreign trade and agriculture … etc. Taking into account that CAPMAS issues similar bulletins, this requires standardization of definitions and concepts with all producers of the data. The need for such standardization equally applies on codes of economic activities and products, so that data at the national level is made with the same concepts and connotations

(3) Data gaps in Egypt:

We can look at the existing gap from two sides:

(A) The time lag which is the unavailability of some bulletins in a timely manner, in addition to unavailability of some data in its regular Periodicity, for example, the data on economic activity for informal sector, is available only through the economic census every five years.

(B) The quality gap which is appears in the following:
• Lack of data on economic activity of the informal sector due to the lack of consensus on the definition of the informal private sector, particularly for activities engaged in outside establishments (for example, street vendors).

• The collection and production of data on same activity by more than one body, which may lead to inconsistencies and differences.

(4) Obstacles on data and information production in Egypt are:

(A) Low statistical awareness of some enterprises and individuals, this is due to the fear that data collected could be used by other governmental agencies such as the tax authority. This in turn calls for intensified mass media, campaigns to create the awareness of the importance of the statistical work and its positive effect on development.

(B) Lack of the technical staff in the field of statistical analysis to provide appropriate interpretation of data

(C) The difficulty of obtaining data from some sources, which leads to delays in the issuance of the data or a lack of coverage.

C – Setting a vision for the statistical system at a future point including the identification of strategic options.

Taking duly into consideration the main objectives and activities of CAPMAS as stated earlier, the said vision of statistical system in Egypt for a period of five years requires:

(1) Equipping the regional statistics offices in the governorates with the modern technological means, and having them linked it to the main center.

(2) Continuous training of the lower-ranking employees in order to prepare the staff capable of efficiently handle modern technology and the statistical data.

(3) Applying the Decentralization in all regions in the following activities:

(A) Adjusting the forms and models used in data collection to meet modern technological advances.

(B) Enhancing the quality of the field and the office auditing of data.

(C) Processing of data and producing the final results at the local level at the smallest administrative unit.

(4) Disseminating the statistical awareness using the mass media.

(5) Standardizing the concepts, definitions and Directories used inside CAPMAS and having them linked with other bodies outside CAPMAS so that one single number for each report is issued about Egypt.
(6) restricting the role of CAPMAS to the statistics that other bodies cannot produce with full
dependence on the outside bodies in producing its specialized statistics.

(7) Creating of a national code for establishments.

D - Developing of an implementation plan to ensure continuity of development:

This plan entails the implementation of the following aspects:

(1) Conducting a comparative analysis to identify points of agreement and difference
between the various statistics.

(2) Taking technical decision to provide for comprehensive frameworks through contact with
the relevant administrative sources, as well as through the Establishments Census which.

(3) Studying the possibility of applying the sampling method for some statistics with big
societies, such as, retail trade statistics sampling is to be implemented every year and to
conduct full enumeration every five years to assess the sampling method used, which
saves time and effort.

(4) Ensuring means of quality control to enhance the level of accuracy.

(5) Limiting publications and studies produced outside CAPMAS and linking it to CAPMAS
databases.

(8) Identifying points of agreement and disagreement in similar publications issued by
different bodies.

(7) Definitions and concepts.

(8) Determining who will be responsible for the publication of each type of statistics.

(10) Reviewing the methodology of data produced by different bodies and modifying this
methodology to achieve the principles of transparency, credibility, accuracy and
timeliness of publication.

(11) Establishing a technical committee inside CAPMAS to monitor the implementation of
the resolution for the development of the information sector in Egypt.

(12) Develop a central registry for Establishments.
Third: CAPMAS initiatives in the field of international partnership for statistical development

**CAPMAS observes the international frameworks such as:**

1. The dissemination system of data (SDDS) posted by the International Monetary Fund, implemented by many countries, which builds on the key elements of the United Nations’ basic principles on official statistics. These principles revolve around four axes:
   - A- Appropriateness, comprehensiveness, timeliness and regularity of data.
   - B- The type of the data.
   - C- The integrity in the process of data production.
   - D- Availability of data to the public.

2. The Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) which provides for an integrated and flexible framework to assess the quality of data used in macroeconomic and social policies.

3. The Indicators of statistical capacity-building developed by the Secretariat of the Forum on Partnership in Statistics for Development century 21 (PARIS 21), these indicators rely on the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). And they introduce means of identifying priorities, and weaknesses in national statistical systems and monitoring progress in statistical capacity building.

4. CAPMAS is involved in current actions aiming at enhancing the quality of statistics and avoiding many of its weaknesses (reference here is made to the Prime Minister’s decision to form a statistical data auditing and coordination committee with sub-committee in CAPMAS, Ministry of Economic Development and the Information Center of the Cabinet).

5. CAPMAS is regularly coordinating with international and regional bodies to improve the national statistical system and to benefit from their experience, and their human and material resources.

6. CAPMAS participated in DATA – a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development in its first phase, which aimed at supporting the national accounts and assisting Egypt in the application of the United Nations system 93 for the national accounts. CAPMAS also participated in the second phase of the project, which aimed at supporting the Egyptian Statistical policies.

7. CAPMAS has been always keen to a train cadres of all Egyptian statistical institutions on statistical work, employing for this regard its own Statistical Training Center, and Information Technology Training Center.
8 – CAPMAS participates in projects of the Egyptian-European partnership (twinning) working to promote, develop and strengthen the statistical capacity within CAPMAS to be better able to perform its functions fully, in Compatibility with all international and European standards. Moreover the project aims at transferring information and experience of European Union experts in various fields of the project to CAPMAS.

9 – CAPMAS Participates in the mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Egypt (2007-2011). This is a planning tool in all the United Nations agencies offering development assistance to Egypt. This plan identifies a set of goals and strategies of priority for economic and social development programs in the country and it supports government institutions, the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

10 - CAPMAS participated with the European Union through Midstate 1,2 program which aims to support national statistics and works for providing the users and decision-makers with reliable statistics. The program also seeks to harmonize concepts and standards used in the calculation of statistics in accordance with the international standards. Finally the program creates databases and information exchange between statistical agencies of the Mediterranean countries and the European Union.