Palestinian statistical classifications system

Generally speaking, the demand on statistical data is steadily increasing for many uses in analyzing economic structures, social development of the various countries. So, it is urgent to standardize concepts and standards among producers and users in any country and at worldwide between countries. This requires tabulation and dissemination of statistical data in accordance with harmonized standards .Since, this age of information and globalization bring all countries of the world together as living in what has been termed the" small village" and the data exchange between producers and users (who speak different languages with purposes and goals) would be possible in providing a common language through standard classifications and coding systems . As for an example

the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics depended on tabulation and dissemination of economic data on International Standard Classification for Economical Activities (ISIC) prepared by the Statistics Division of the United Nations and compatible with all local classifications of economic activities in world countries and providing to whoever users around the world to conduct comparisons with our data a and any other countries.

Registration systems based on administrative records are the most important sources of official statistical data, and the effective use of such administrative records is only possible by using a compatible classification system with International statistical methodologies and standards. On the basis of this understanding, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics supports and assist and assistance all components of the national statistical system including statistical units in line ministries, R & D institutions, universities and institutes Of data users and produce statistical data for its own purposes or using recording systems that could be relied on as administrative records.

The consistency and compatibility of registration systems with the principles of administrative records tabulations of the standard statistical classifications adopted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics means to make most of these systems and records serving data collection and to be provided to the concerned Palestinian decision and law makers, researchers and users in general to serve their diversified and multipurposes.

This effort is to developing a comprehensive system of statistical classifications that are used at PCBS, other counterparts of international classifications and those used in other Palestinian institutions in all social, environmental , health and economic areas and within PCBS permanent and consistent coordination efforts in building a national statistical system and it would actively contribute to the independent Palestinian state – building.

What is the statistical classification?

- Classification means sorting, grouping and collecting things in bundles and groups according to a certain logic and expresses a meaning.
- Each pack is given a name or a title to distinguish it from other packages
- Classification is very simple , such as classifying people by gender to males and females , and it may be very complicated , such as classification of chronic diseases , trauma or economic activities
- Classification must be comprehensive and cover all values of each phenomenon
- Classification must be limited and exclusively cover values of a phenomenon
- Classification categories are often rating with a hierarchical structure and associated with symbols of numeric or alphabetic characters

Why do we use statistical classifications?

- Defining categories of variables
- Encoder tool (qualitative values converted to numeric values and easily entered to soft wares programs)
- A tool for statistical standardization and harmonization
- Facilitating data collection from the field (values of variable are inclusive and exclusive)
- A statistical analysis tool
- A Publishing tool and Tabulation
- Allowing conducting comparisons between results
- Allowing data exchange

The most important standards of statistical classifications:

- International Standard Classification for Economical Activities (ISIC)
- International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)
- The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)
- The Central product classification (CPC).
- International Standard Classification of scientific disciplines (ISCED)
- Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose(COICOP)
- Classification of nationalities and countries
- Classification of land uses
- International Standard Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death (ICD)
- International Standard Classification of Energy (SIEC)