Recalling its resolution 64/267 of 3 June 2010, in which 20 October 2010 was designated as World Statistics Day, the General Assembly endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and decides (Resolution 69/282 of 3 June 2015) to designate 20 October 2015 as the second World Statistics Day. The general theme for this event is: “Better data, better lives: taking advantage of modern technologies to improve national statistical systems”.

Censuses and surveys are important statistical operations. They allow for having a large array of economic and social information. It is clear that without reliable data, it is very difficult to make the right decisions in terms of economic and social development policy. It would also be extremely difficult to know the needs of the population and take the right measures to meet them. The data also make it possible to assess and monitor the achievement of objectives.

Nowadays, to achieve progress in this era of data revolution, it is necessary to make use of the rapid emergence of new technologies. This is, once more, a challenge for official statistics. Algeria carried out its first Economic Census (RE) from May 8th to August 31st, 2011. The main feature of the first RE was the use, for the first time, of the optical scanning technology for the exploitation of questionnaires. Moreover and through The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Algeria is planning to carry out its sixth General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH) in 2018. As part of the framework of the United Nations recommendations for the 2020 round of censuses of population and housing, advocating greater use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in statistical operations, ONS intends to use, for the first time, tablets (equipped with mobile chips) as a collection tool instead of the paper questionnaire.

Our National Statistics Office is motivated by the fact that “Technology” allows statistical processes to meet important society requirements and expectations, namely:

- Timeliness of data;
- Accuracy;
- Relevance;

so as to achieve “Quality” improvements as it is recommended by all international guidelines on the subject.
ICT use at ONS: Current Status

As ICT use is very delicate, ONS in its quest of producing quality statistics while maintaining efficiency in its use of resources has already taken the following steps:

→ **In 2011:**
  - Use of the optical scanning technology for the exploitation of Economic Census questionnaires.
  - Use of CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) in interviews in a number of surveys.

→ **Since 2012:**
  - Switching over of all publications to the website in order to move progressively towards a paperless environment.

→ **Since 2014:**
  - Testing of use of PDA in CPI data collection.

ICT use at ONS: The Way Forward

For all these reasons, widening the scope of consultations with our different partners would be an essential and necessary condition in order to be on track for ONS’ 2015-2019 plan of ICT implementation which consists of, namely:

- Constitution of Institutional Memory Project through the use of digitization technologies.
- African Information Highway Project through the establishment of a Data Portal in collaboration with the African Bank for Development.
- RGPH (Population and Housing Census) 2018: use of ICT in monitoring mapping updates and tablets in data collection.
- Greater use of administrative sources and registers.

In fine, this will be the main steps of our way of operating data revolution.

The use of tablets and mobile technology to administer a census in Algeria has the potential to improve data quality and reduce data treatment and dissemination times.

The United Nations Statistical Commission review of the 2010 international census round stated “Flexibility and keeping up with the pace of new technologies will be key for the 2020 round”. Through this project, Algeria will be on pace with global trends in using IT for statistical operations.