

Statement by the State of Palestine

On behalf of her Excellency Ms. Ola Awad, I would like to say few words in remembrance of Hans Rosling.

Remembering Hans Rosling (1948- 2017), Professor Hans has passed away, he was a visionary and a great educator who made data and numbers come alive.

Hans was well aware that appearances can be deceiving in a world crowded with contradictions. That is why Hans had always looked beyond all types of barriers.

Hans was a creative thinker, who looked beyond numbers, and took us on a journey of reflections and storytelling. He gave us bubble charts, animated scatter plots and “The Joy of Stats’. He inspired statisticians worldwide. He paid great attention to the smallest details, but always thought about the big picture. A success of Hans was in converting statistics into action, and that action on impact on his audience. When he presented statistics, it became a dramatic event that graduated with time full with locomotion. He spoke about statistics the same way as a sports reporter about a decisive football match. All viewers became fixed to the story, and wanted to know how it will end, like if they would be at a movie theatre.

And each of Hans' stories was unique, like a new novel or a movie. He had a good sense of contextualizing each statistical subject, and in showing us the relativity of development and progress through the history of data.

Finally, I feel compelled to convey to you one of the tips that he gave me and I will always appreciate....When Hans visited Palestine in October 2010 to participate in our celebration of World Statistics Day, I asked him what is your advice to empower data presentation. He looked at me and simply said, just smile.... smile to the data, then data will be more meaningful and powerful.

PCBS Palestine, NSOs and the International Association for Official Statistics and its Journal join the statistical community in mourning Hans’ death.