Restructuring/Reorganization of Federal Statistical System of Pakistan is a big achievement. Restructuring process was undertaken with the objective to make the statistical system more responsive to the national statistical data needs in changing policy environment of the Federal and Provincial governments and other users across the country.

2. Federal Statistical system was firstly reviewed in a high level policy seminar held in November, 2000 in collaboration with DFID, UK. The seminar was attended by the senior policy makers, planners, academicians and other important data users. The seminar recommended the formation of the committee to suggest reorganization/restructuring of the Federal Statistical System of Pakistan. Accordingly, committee comprising Secretary, Statistics Division (Chairman), Secretary, Planning Division, Economic Advisor, Finance Division, Additional Secretary, Finance and the Director General, Federal Bureau of Statistics was constituted which recommended, inter-alia, the merger of the three statistical organizations namely Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), Population Census Organization (PCO) and Agricultural Census Organization (ACO) into a body proposed to be known as “Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)” with enhanced powers and autonomy in operation, administration and finance. The proposal was further reviewed and recommended by the consultants from Australia, Norway and the World Bank.

3. In the light of recommendations of the consultants, the federal Cabinet in its meeting held on July 12, 2006 approved restructuring of the federal statistical system through merger of the three attached departments of the Statistics Division viz. FBS, PCO, ACO and Technical Wing of Statistics Division. The restructuring will involve enactment of a unified law, statistical capacity building through training, strengthening different Wings/ Regional/ Field Offices with computers and other facilities & infrastructure development.

4. The draft Law for the new entity, prepared in consultation with all stakeholders (Federal Ministries & Provincial Governments), was approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on October 21, 2009. The draft law, vetted by the Law and Justice Division in the form of a Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 29th April, 2011 and the Senate on 16th May, 2011 and received assent of the President on 28th May, 2011. It was published in the official Gazette of Pakistan on 31st May, 2012. Resultantly, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics was established on 23rd December, 2011. The Organizational Chart and functions of PBS are at Annex-I & II, respectively.
5. Under the General Statistics (Re-organization) Act, 2011, the strategic issues of PBS will be looked into by the Governing Council. Operational issues will be handled by a Management Committee and statistical priorities will be set up by Statistical Users Council. The Chief Executive of PBS will be the Chief Statistician to be assisted by five Functional Members in different areas.

6. After promulgation of the General Statistics (Reorganization) Act 2011, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has been established on 23-12-2011 through merger of Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), the Population Census Organization (PCO), the Agricultural Census Organization (ACO) and the Technical Wing of Statistics Division [Sub-Section 1 of Section 3 of the General Statistics (Reorganization) Act, 2011].

**GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE BUREAU**

7. The General Statistics (Reorganization) Act 2011 requires, under section 6, the constitution of the Governing Council. In pursuance of the said section, Governing Council of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics was constituted with the approval of the Finance Minister with majority of the members from private sector. The Bureau has a technical apex body namely “Governing Council” with governmental and non-governmental representatives. The Council has been provided powers for setting up objectives, frame policy guidelines of the bureau and to oversee the working of bureau effectively. All actions, decisions, guidelines, directions, orders and policies made or issued by the Governing Council shall be sent to the Bureau for compliance and implementation. Powers and functions of the Governing Council are as under:-

(a) responsible for setting of objectives and policy guidelines of the Bureau in accordance with the powers and functions provided in section 4;
(b) provide guidance and oversee the management and administrative affairs of the Bureau;
(c) review and approve policies and annual work plans relating to the aims and objectives of the Bureau and prioritize programmes;
(d) formulate procedures for allocation and utilization of funds generated or acquired through services, donations or grants, etc;
(e) approve the annual financial budget of the Bureau and recommend to the Federal Government;
(f) approve and make regulations on behalf of the Bureau subject to the provisions of section 62;
(g) review the performance of committees constituted under section 11; and
(h) do or perform such other acts, deeds and things as may be necessary and incidental thereto.

**COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

1. Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics/ Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics Chairman ex-Officio)
2. Secretary, Statistics Division  Member (ex-Officio)
3. Prof. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Vice Chancellor, Gujrat University, Gujrat  Member
4. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan  Member
5. Dr. Zeba A. Sathar, Country Director, Population Council (Pakistan Office), Islamabad  Member
6. Dr. Naveed Hamid, Professor of Economics, Lahore School of Economics, Lahore  Member
7. Dr. Mehtab Karim (Former Professor, Agha Khan University, Karachi), 69/2, 5th Street, DHA, Karachi  Member
8. Dr. Eshya Mujahid Mukhtar, Economist  Member
9. Mr. Mehmood H. Khan  Member
10. Mohsin Hassan Khan, (IMF retired)  Member
11. Chief Statistician of the Bureau  Member/Secretary (ex-Officio)

MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

8. Section 9 of the General Statistics (Reorganization) Act 2011 provides that “Governing Council shall meet as often as may be necessary for the performance of its functions and shall meet at least quarterly”. The meetings of the Governing Council will be presided over by the Chairman or, in his absence, by any other member as the Governing Council may determine.

PROVINCIAL BUREAUX OF STATISTICS

9. Provincial Bureaus of Statistics already existing in the Provinces of Pakistan will continue their statistical operations at provincial levels.
FUNCTIONS OF
PAKISTAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS (PBS)

1. To collect, compile, analyze, abstract, publish, market and disseminate statistical information relating to the commerce and trade, industrial, financial, social, economic, demographic, agriculture and any other area to be specified by the Federal Government and conditions of the people of Pakistan and to foster the evolution of product lines in response to pressing needs of society.

2. To plan, execute and publish the census of population and housing of Pakistan, the census of agriculture of Pakistan or other censuses at national level as required from time to time.

3. To facilitate policymaking by undertaking overall planning, coordination and annual programming of surveys and censuses in Pakistan.

4. To develop programmes for national censuses and surveys in line with policy priorities and plan, coordinate, execute and publish them accordingly.

5. To advise the Federal Government on the budget and development plans of the Bureau, based on annual work plans.

6. To formulate, prescribe and implement principles for conducting official statistics in Pakistan including standardization and harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications pertaining to official statistics.

7. To draw up schemes to reduce duplication in the formulation and execution of statistical programmes and to resolve differences in that respect.

8. To regulate statistical activities of national interest and as appropriate to provide overall coordination, professional monitoring, evaluation and review of statistics work in Pakistan.

9. To act as a resource base for providing expertise, statistical data including but not limited to, economic, commercial, business and industrial areas and to provide, arrange and facilitate support services in this regard, both nationally and internationally.

10. To engage in human resource development of its officers and staff, including revision in pay structure, allowances and facilities and formulate career structures as shall be prescribed by regulations.
11. To promote education and research in the field of statistics.

12. To coordinate, monitor, implement or engage, in conjunction with other authorities, international organizations, in any study or cooperation project or foreign aided technical assistance projects in the statistical field.

13. To strive and endeavour to ensure that collection of statistical data to be in accordance with practices and standards of the United Nations and other international bodies for the purpose of fulfilling the international obligations of Pakistan in the field of statistics.

14. To propose and recommend to the appropriate Government new laws or amendments in existing laws for the purposes of achieving the objectives of this Act.

15. To do all other acts, deeds and things incidental to or ancillary for the purposes of achieving the objectives of this Act and undertake any other work in relation to collection or compilation of data in accordance with directions of the Federal Government.

16. To supervise the functioning of the Institute.