

**Forum on Ethnic Groups from the Middle East and North Africa**  
**May 29, 2015**  
**Census Bureau Conference Center**  
**4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746**  
**Conference Rooms 1 and 2**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM   | <b>Bus from the Hotel to the Census Bureau</b>   |
| 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM   | <b>Check-in and Coffee/Tea</b>   |
| 9:00 AM – 9:10 AM   | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br>Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics   |
| 9:10 AM – 9:20 AM   | <b>Opening Remarks</b><br>Karen Humes, Division Chief, Population Division   |
| 9:20 AM – 9:30 AM   | <b>Brief History of the Support for the Middle Eastern or North African Category</b><br>Helen Hatab Samhan, Arab American Institute and MENA Advocacy Network  |
| 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM  | <b>Session A: Testing a Middle Eastern or North African Category on the 2015 National Content Test</b><br>Nicholas Jones, Director of Race and Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division<br>A brief overview of plans for the upcoming 2015 National Content Test followed by a question and answer session.               |
| 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | <b>Session B: The Term “Middle Eastern or North African”</b><br>Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics, Population Division<br>Presentation on the terms “Middle Eastern or North African” and “MENA” followed by expert discussion.   |
| 11:00 AM – 11:15 AM | <b>Break</b>   |
| 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM | <b>Session C: Census Bureau’s Working Classification of Middle Eastern or North African for the 2015 National Content Test</b><br>Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics<br>Presentation of the development of the Census Bureau’s Working Classification of MENA followed by expert discussion. |
| 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM  | <b>Lunch on Your Own</b>   |
| 1:15 PM – 2:35 PM   | <b>Session C, continued: Discussion: Feedback on The Census Bureau’s Working Classification of Middle Eastern or North African for the 2015 National Content Test</b><br>Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics, Population Division<br>Continuation of expert discussion.                       |

2:35 PM – 2:45 PM

**Break**

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

**Session D: Potential Data Products Featuring Middle Eastern and North African Data**

Merarys Rios, Chief, Ethnicity and Ancestry Branch, Population Division

Potential approaches to tabulating Middle Eastern and North African data in the 2020 Census followed by expert discussion.

3:30 PM – 3:40 PM

**Census Bureau Director's Remarks**

John H. Thompson, Director

3:40 PM – 4:00 pm

**Session E: Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics, Population Division

4:00 PM

**Adjourn**

4:15PM

**Bus from the Census Bureau to Airport and Hotel**