

Report of 13th Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific: Empowering and Strengthening National Statistical Systems for Monitoring SDG Indicators

as of 22 January 2018

The 13th Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific on the theme “**Empowering and Strengthening National Statistical Systems for Monitoring SDG Indicators**” held on 6-7th December, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan.

Purpose

The purpose of the **Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific** was to strengthen the leadership and management capabilities of the heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) by providing a forum to discuss, exchange views and share experiences. The topic of the Seminar was to identify specific actions required by the governments in the region and by international organizations to empower and strengthen National Statistical Systems (NSSs) for developing capability to track progress toward SDGs by compilation and coordination of SDG global, regional and national indicators. It also addressed the issues relating to what actions should be taken by the NSOs/NSS to make them effective in delivering on compilation of SDG related indicators. The seminar also helped in articulation of views of the heads of NSOs on these issues to be placed for consideration in the next session of the Committee of Statistics scheduled in 2018.

Organizers

- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations
- Statistics Division, ESCAP, United Nations
- Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)
- Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan

Background

SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, and build strong institutions and partnerships, and more. All of the goals contain important messages and challenges to all countries.

However, for the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part. Governments, with the support and cooperation of private businesses, civil society organizations must achieve the targets set in the agreed time frame. International organization should effectively support this process.

Collective Vision for National Statistical Systems

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development crystalizes the imperative to transform NSS to meet the unprecedented requirements for a very broad range of statistics and data with appropriate level of disaggregation. Member states of ESCAP have embraced this imperative of transformation with a collective vision that: “...by 2030, NSS are enabled and empowered to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of Agenda 2030.” Regional collaboration to support the attainment of this collective vision focuses on the development, promotion and application of regional resources, or such regional “public goods” as technical tools, guidelines and country experiences. Successful regional collaboration must anchor in national processes and actions. Regional collaboration is to support, not to substitute, national actions of transformation to be led by chief statisticians.

National Mechanisms for Implementing the SDGs and Role of National Statistical Offices

Countries in Asia and the Pacific are well on their way in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The specific processes and practices vary across countries. Many countries established national SDG coordination mechanisms led by such major policy agency as the prime minister’s office, ministries of planning, economy, environment, or foreign affairs. These mechanisms, together with the sectorial working groups, are responsible for integrating the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda into national development plans. The process has often been accompanied by specifying a monitoring framework and indicators. There has also been an effort on mapping of existing statistical production and dissemination to the indicators, assessment of data availability and data gaps. Some countries also began the work on updating the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to incorporate data requirements for SDG, compiling baseline information on national SDG implementation, etc.

A wide range of country practices highlight some fundamental issues regarding the exact role of NSOs. In particular, questions are raised about the role of NSOs in formulating and implementing national plans to strengthen statistics and data to meet the requirements for national and global SDG monitoring.

Outcome of Regional Conference on Collective Vision for NSSs

Planning and implementation of transformative changes of NSSs must address the interactions between the NSOs (and the broader NSSs) and the rest of the government, and also the society. An Asia-Pacific regional conference in March 2017 to advance the collective vision and framework for action made a list of recommendations on the process of developing and implementing national SDG monitoring and indicators, with very specific roles of NSOs vis-à-vis policy ministries and agencies. One of the important recommendation of the conference was that national SDG coordination body should initiate and lead the development and use of national indicator frameworks, with the NSOs providing technical advice in the proper formulation of the indicators, measurement frameworks and coordination across various data users and producers. Subsequent deliberations underscored the importance of added government commitment to strengthening NSSs to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

The Fourth Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) urged Governments to make statistics development a national development target embedded in national development plans with the highest importance.

The importance of obtaining political support for the planning and implementing efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity was also echoed in a recent inter-regional seminar on NSS review in Small Island Development States.

Recommendation of ESCAP

While endorsing the collective vision and framework for action, the Committee on Statistics setup by ESCAP recognized “the critical importance of high-level government commitment to the successful implementation of the framework of action” and the necessity “to secure political, institutional and resource support and to mobilize broad-based partnership in order to achieve the collective vision of transforming NSSs in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” For this purpose, the Committee recommended that the ESCAP further consider convening the 6th session of the Committee *at a higher decision-making level*. *The recommendation of the Committee on Statistics was endorsed by ESCAP in its 73rd session held in May, 2017.*

Summary of Recommendations

The seminar was organized to seek views of Chief Statisticians or other senior officers from NSOs on how to empower and strengthen the NSSs to ensure that the NSOs deliver to the requirement of compilation of global, regional and national indicators to track progress of SDGs. This, therefore, addressed two core issues: what NSS should commit

to their countries to deliver in terms of monitoring of SDGs and what whole of the Government should do for NSS to ensure that it delivers on producing indicators for monitoring of SDGs. The recommendations were made by the two groups: one responsible for actions by NSOs and the other actions by the whole of Government. Both these recommendations were considered in a plenary session where all the participants deliberated. The recommendations from such deliberations are presented below:

1. Actions to be taken by the NSSs under the leadership of NSOs

1) NSDS that responds to current requirements

It was agreed that National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) document is an important document for making required changes in the NSSs. Many countries already have such document approved at different levels of Government in the region. These documents were prepared well before the requirement of monitoring of SDG Indicators was entrusted on NSSs. Therefore, there was a need to revisit these documents both in the context of latest demands on the system and also change in the environment in terms of data revolution. NSOs may prepare a new NSDS which may address all the requirements in the present context. The NSOs which have not yet prepared such a document may prepare it keeping in view the present requirement in terms of monitoring of SDGs. This document should be prepared in consultation and engagement of various stakeholders specially in the Government to ensure its full adoption, implementation and financing.

2) Use of ICT

- It was recognized that there was a need to transform the manner in which statistical business process are organized at present. There was need to modernize and computerize the whole process by suitably adopting latest Information and Communication Technologies. Many software tool available for various analytical, presentation and dissemination purposes should be adopted. These may include infographics, ICT applications, visualization tools, instant communication tools like social media, etc.
- Keeping in view high cost of such software from various software companies and also considering the limited resources being available in NSS, it was recommended that the NSS could consider adopting open source software which are available free of cost.

3) Staff skills development

- Limited staff available in the NSS to take up statistical work was recognized by most of the countries. It was suggested that there was need to build capacity of staff members in various areas so that they may become multi-functional and could be effectively and fully utilized in various areas of statistics including for the compilation of indicators relating to monitoring of SDGs.
- The NSO may be authorized to seek outside assistance resources for capacity building (e.g. SIAP e-learning courses) in case it is difficult to obtain the resources within the country.

4) Increasing the relevance and use of official statistics

- NSS coordinated and supported by the NSO, along with the relevant Government Ministries should play an active role in 'shaping' their work so that it becomes more 'attractive' (e.g. aligning the goals with national priorities, SDGs, etc.) to policy makers in order to secure the necessary resources.
- Statistical officers appointed in the Ministries should work together with designated persons in other ministries. The officers in NSS should customize their language depending on their audience (e.g. public, policy-makers, other ministry officials) to make the use of statistics more appealing, for example, using simple terms when explaining about statistics, or focusing more on the 'impact' of statistics data in policy making and evaluation.
- NSOs, supported by other entities of NSSs may initiate the movement to raise the statistical literacy of the public, other officials, media (e.g. teaching statistics in schools, providing statistical information in an understandable way to officials, holding briefing session with the press)
- NSOs may establish proper formal mechanisms for user engagement, for example via councils and committees with membership from various stakeholders.
- NSOs may regularly engage with stakeholders including the public media, members of the private sector organizations and promote statistical literacy amongst them.
- NSO/NSS may engage with civil society and general public by use of user-friendly dissemination tools.
- NSO/NSS may effectively utilize the results of user-satisfaction surveys and user-producer workshops and have regular dialogue to improve statistical processes to ensure higher satisfaction on use of statistical products.

2. Actions by Whole-of-government

1) Functional legislative and other instruments

- Most of the countries in the region have Statistical laws to govern statistical activities. These also state roles and authorities of the statistical personnel for carrying out their activities. Most of these laws did not address requirement of the day in terms of access to various sources of data. With the responsibility of tracking progress of implementation of SDGs through indicators, it has become necessary that NSS has access to data from various Government processes which are not easily available to NSS. Further, there is need to empower statistical offices to obtain micro-level data from various private sector sources, social media companies etc. Therefore, there may be need to up date these laws to access new forms of data and also full access to administrative data with sufficient level of detail.
- Most of the countries have provided for arrangements where the NSOs lead NSSs in terms of generation of data following international statistical standards and guidelines. However, there are a few cases where such coordination and leadership is not clearly defined. A clear statement preferably in legislation may help in better coordination.
- Governments in the region may use Generic Law on Official Statistics¹ in conjunction with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as a good reference tool for updating laws and regulations.
- Some Governments face difficulty in bringing about amendments in their existing laws and also creation of new legal instruments. Considering the urgency of work relating to monitoring of SDGs, the Governments may adopt a well formulated NSDS which may provide adequate empowerment to the NSSs to effectively perform its functions.

2) Institutional positioning

- It was noted with concern that in some countries the position of Chief Statistician is not senior enough to effectively coordinate statistical activities across ministries. It was therefore, recommended that the position of Chief Statisticians may be elevated to the level which may facilitate inter-ministerial coordination and also feasible to ensure quality of statistics.
- To effectively have access to the data available in the Ministries and also to develop importance of statistics in evidence based decision making, it is necessary that each

¹ ECE/CES/STAT/2016/3

ministry has an established statistical Unit (function) (Unit in case of large countries, function entrusted to one of the existing staff of the Ministry in smaller countries). This statistical unit (function) may have its own visibility and have necessary statistical expertise relevant for the work of that Ministry. Considering that achieving this aim would require large scale expansion of statistical activities and resources in some countries, one approach could be to focus first on Ministries/sectors which are critical to monitoring of SDG Indicators.

- In case of evidence based policy making the statistical units in the Ministries will have to assist the policy units to understand the statistics before it is put to use. However, the NSS has to be professionally independent from the policy formulation units of the Ministries
- Effective statistical coordination across the Ministries could be achieved through establishment of a high-level advisory body on statistics whose members should be heads of line ministries. The work of this committee may be coordinated by the NSO.
- The advisory committee in the country should create concrete action plans for each statistical unit in the Ministries and develop agreed statistics release calendar in order to ensure that such statistics is released in public domain according to specified timeframe. In turn, this will also ensure that NSO released indicators entrusted to it to the public and policy makers according to calendar.
- There should be proper and adequate acknowledgement of the source of official statistics used in policy formulation and planning and there should be commitment to support statistical activities from the rest of government.

3) Ensuring policy-level support

- Key Ministries (for example Planning and Finance) in the Government may be closely involved in development of NSDS and development of statistics programme. This statistics programme may be integrated with the overall development plan and annual plans of the Government.
- It has been recognized that integrated information systems generate consistent and reliable information. Government in various Ministries may ensure putting in place an integrated information system which would mean integration of data collection, management, analysis and dissemination.
- To build consensus across political parties, it may be desirable to set up a forum in parliament to discuss issues relating to accessibility, quality and usage of statistics by policy making bodies. This will ensure long term continuing support to statistical activities.
- NSO/NSS should have continuous discussions with those who decide on the financial resources within the government.

- Micro-level data may be made available to the general public, including policy makers and research analysts after the Ministries in charge of various statistical units and the NSO develop on-site facilities for secure handling of micro-data.

4) Human and financial resources

- It was noted as a concern that in many countries, NSS staff are recruited following standard rules and procedures of a Civil Service Commission or similar, with no provisions for assessing applicants against the specific requirements of statistics positions within the government. It was recommended that recruitment in NSSs by the Government (specially by the ministries in charge of personnel affairs) may be made keeping in view the requirement of the job. There is a need to set a standard of quality for human resources to be recruited for various jobs in the national statistical units of the ministries and in the NSO. Effort should be made to recruit those who have adequate knowledge and training in statistics.
- It is recognized that there may be need for additional resources than those currently available for successful implementation of the 2030 agenda. There has to be system in the Government to ensure that the requirement of NSS are met on priority. NSO may be given mandate to decide on the requirement of the needs of NSS.

5) Public and private partnerships

- There is need to have close relationship with media, non-government and private organization to promote the knowledge of statistics. These activities can be performed by suitably authorizing by the concerned ministries and encouraging NSS to regularly interact with NGOs, private sector organizations, public media personnel and other social organizations.
- There is a need to create a pool of persons who are statistically literate. To create a bigger pool of people equipped with statistical knowledge, the Government should encourage schools to start teaching statistics related topics.
- There is a need to generate interest in, knowledge of and resources for statistics. The Government should use SDGs to promote public and private partnerships in the field of statistics and tracking the progress.

Session 1: Where we stand: global and regional commitments to meet the statistics needs for the 2030 Agenda

- Representatives first looked into whether and how the global and regional commitments were aiding in meeting the statistics needs for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The questions of 1) how the NSOs were benefiting from the global and regional commitments to strengthen SDG statistics, 2) what were the key priorities to follow up the 2030 agenda and to track the progress of SDGs and 3) how can global and regional commitments can be implemented to improve the quality of SDG indicators were raised.
- Representatives shared their experiences that the relevant global and regional commitments have sparked discussion about SDGs, assisted them to target indicators within their countries and also helped to align NSDS with SDGs. In addition, the global and regional commitments have been used as a base reference, for the work of the NSOs.
- Representatives have also shared that due to the mandate that policy-decisions should be based on evidence, this does address the statistics needs for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, the matter of the delicate line between statistics and the usage of statistics for policy was discussed and it was mentioned that statistics needs to be independent of policy intervention, but that there was still a strong need to 'get closer' to the policy makers who would use statistics to form policy.
- On the other hand, representatives shared their difficulties by raising the question of commitment on the 'usage' of statistics as a support for implementation. In addition, although there is a mandate for increasing statistical activities regarding the SDGs through the regional and global commitments, the lack of funding or specific methodologies for the work, the lack of knowledge on SDGs from high level policy makers and the lack of contribution from the decisions makers or private sector were cited as difficulties in implementing the work of the NSOs.

Session 2: Envisioning a national statistical system that delivers on the 2030 collective vision

- Representatives from China, Japan, Mongolia, Philippines, Georgia, Russian Federation and Lao PDR gave presentations on what kind of work their NSOs were conducting to meet the SDG related needs, how they have reoriented their focus within their system and what kind of changes they are pursuing in their NSOs in order to deliver on the 2030 agenda.

Session 3: Accelerating transformation efforts: Commitments needed

- The session identified issues to be included in the draft outcome document for the 6th session of the Committee on Statistics.
- The presentation placed the work of the following two groups.
 - Group 1 to focus on action & related commitment by the national statistical office
 - Group 2 to focus on action & related commitment by whole-of-government
- Both groups considered the changes needed to arrive at NSSs that deliver the 2030 vision. The groups

outlined related actions and commitments (by NSOs and other government institutions, respectively) for each of the five action areas of the collective vision and framework for action.

Documents regarding Seminar

Annex 1. Concept note

Annex 2. Actual Programme

Annex 3. List of participants along with country/ organization represented

Presentations and other details are available on the website of SIAP at the following link: http://www.unsiap.or.jp/programmes/ms_materials/ms13.html

Annex 1. Concept Note

Thirteenth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific

6-7 December 2017, Tokyo, Japan

Empowering and Strengthening National Statistical Systems for Monitoring SDG Indicators

Concept Note

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are designed to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, and build strong institutions and partnerships, and more. All of the goals contain important messages and challenges to all countries. However, for the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part. Governments, with the support and cooperation of private businesses, civil society organizations must achieve the targets set in the agreed time frame. International organization should effectively support this process.

Collective vision for National Statistical Systems

The role of statisticians has become especially important in the context a systematic follow-up and review framework at the global, regional and national levels. Role of official statisticians, specially of National Statistical Systems (NSS) has undergone a major change in this century specially after the responsibility entrusted in monitoring implementation of SDGs. Official statisticians earlier used to develop standards on statistical products and processes, and used to ensure that these are adhered to in production and dissemination of data and statistics. This has undergone a major change in terms of responsibility for development of new data and statistics to meet demand of a large number of indicators which are to be compiled to monitor progress of implementation of SDGs. Therefore, the new role of NSS has become, in addition to their traditional role, to be a coordinator in production of statistics from various administrative processes and use the micro data available from business sector. NSS in all the countries are expected to be accountable and responsible for compilation of SDG indicators all over the world.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development crystalizes the imperative to transform NSS to meet the unprecedented requirements for a very broad range of statistics and data with appropriate level of disaggregation. Member states of ESCAP have embraced this imperative of transformation with a collective vision that: *"...by 2030, NSS are enabled and empowered to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and*

timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of Agenda 2030.” Regional collaboration to support the attainment of this collective vision focuses on the development, promotion and application of regional resources, or such regional “public goods” as technical tools, guidelines and country experiences.²

Ultimately, achieving the ambitious regional collective vision will rely on, first and foremost, national resolve and actions to strengthen their statistical systems. This is because the vision of transformation is articulated in system-level improvements, in national context, spanning the five areas, ranging from user engagements and investing in statistics, quality assurance and trust in statistics, integrated statistics, business processes and infrastructure, and development of appropriate skill base. Without concrete steps that national statistical systems and their partners initiate and maintain for transformation, none of the improvements are possible.

Successful regional collaboration must anchor in national processes and actions. After all, regional collaboration is to support, not to substitute, national actions of transformation to be led by chief statisticians to address national priority information needs arising from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, active contribution of perspectives and experiences from tracking national issues is key to the development of relevant regional resources that would benefit the entire community.

National Mechanisms for Implementing the SDGs and role of National Statistical Offices

Countries in Asia and the Pacific are well on their way in implementing the ambitious 2030 Agenda. The specific processes and practices vary across countries. Many countries established national SDG coordination mechanisms led by such major policy agency as the prime minister’s office, ministries of planning, economy, environment, or foreign affairs. These mechanisms, together with the sectorial working groups, are responsible for integrating the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda into national development plans. The process has often been accompanied by specifying a monitoring framework and indicators. There has also been an effort on mapping of existing statistical production and dissemination to the indicators, assessment of data availability and data gaps. Some countries also began the work on updating the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to incorporate data requirements for SDG, compiling baseline information on national SDG implementation, etc.³

On the other hand, a wide range of country practices also highlight some fundamental issues regarding the exact role of National Statistical Offices, as National Statistical Systems broadly, vis-à-vis their policy counterparts in developing, compiling and using national monitoring frameworks and indicators. In particular, questions are raised about the role of National Statistics Offices in formulating and implementing national plans

² ESCAP (2016) Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1).

³ ESCAP (2017). “Report of Asia-Pacific Conference: Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics for Agenda 2030”.

to strengthen statistics and data to meet the requirements for national and global SDG monitoring. For instance, national SDG coordination bodies in some countries do not include National Statistical Offices. Similarly, discussions and formulation of indicators for national SDG implementation were conducted without participation of National Statistical Offices. Mapping of indicators against existing data sources in some cases was carried out by various members of the NSS in parallel, led and coordinated by another government agency rather than the National Statistical Office. While in a few countries, the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics have been revised to incorporate actions to strengthen SDG-focused data, in other countries discussions on efforts to improve SDG data are disconnected from the planning and implementation of NSDS. Similarly, the discussions on establishing data platforms for national SDG monitoring in many cases are independent of requirements for providing statistics and data to global entities for compiling global SDG indicators.

Outcome of Regional Conference on Collective Vision for NSS

Planning and implementation of transformative changes of NSS must address the interactions between the National Statistical Offices (and the broader NSS) and the rest of the government, and also the society. The emphasis on SDG implementation can be leveraged to step up efforts to operationalize existing instruments such as the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the national contexts. An Asian-Pacific regional conference in March 2017 to advance the collective vision and framework for action made a list of recommendations on the process of developing and implementing national SDG monitoring and indicators, with very specific roles of National Statistical Offices vis-à-vis policy ministries and agencies. For instance, the conference recommended that national SDG coordination body or the relevant policy organization should initiate and lead the development and use of national indicator frameworks, with the national statistical offices providing technical advice in the proper formulation of the indicators, measurement frameworks and coordination across various data users and producers. Such arrangement would ensure the political, institutional and resource support for the development and implementation of the indicators as well as their technical rigor and coherence with the overall plan to improve statistics and data.⁴

Subsequent deliberations underscored the importance of added government commitment to strengthening national statistical systems to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The Fourth Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) hence “urged Governments to make statistics development a national development target embedded in national development plans with the highest importance.”⁵ The importance of obtaining political support for the planning and implementing efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity was also echoed in a recent inter-regional seminar on NSS review in Small Island Development States.⁶

⁴ ESCAP (2017). “Report of Asia-Pacific Conference: Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics for Agenda 2030”.

⁵ ESCAP (2017) Report of the Fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/FSD(4)/3), Chair’s Summary, para. 24.

⁶ ESCAP (2017) “Inter-regional Expert Seminar on NSS Reviews in SIDS: Seminar Report”, Available

Recommendation of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Indeed, in endorsing the collective vision and framework for action, the Committee on Statistics setup by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) recognized “the critical importance of high-level government commitment to the successful implementation of the framework of action” and the necessity “to secure political, institutional and resource support and to mobilize broad-based partnership in order to achieve the collective vision of transforming NSS in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”⁷ For this purpose, the Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific further consider convening the 6th session of the Committee *at a higher decision-making level. The recommendation of the Committee on Statistics was endorsed by ESCAP in its 73rd session held in May, 2017.*

Seminar

Considering the progress made so far in compilation of SDG Indicators and the present status of NSS in the region, the seminar shall address two key issues of concern. These are needs for empowerment and strengthening of NSS in the region.

I. Empowering NSS

How do we empower NSS?

National Statistical Offices and Systems have been part and parcel of Governments with varying degrees of responsibility across the region in terms of data collection, compilation and processing and providing inputs to planning process and in evaluation of programmes undertaken by the Governments. Many countries have functional legislative instrument to empower statistical offices and system to collect information from various entities. In some countries, such instruments do not exist or have become dated or dysfunctional.

Another important aspect relating to empowerment of NSS is institutional positioning of the statistical units in various Ministries/ Departments of Governments. This involves a regular and dedicated structure in the Ministries to ensure regular flow of data and statistics for planning and policy making specially in the context of SDG implementation by the concerned Ministries. This requires support from the Chief executives of these Ministries to perform this function.

Implementation of SDGs is not the responsibility of only Governments. This requires public and private partnership with private businesses, civil society and people at large. Each of them will have to play key role in ensuring that the targets set in achieving the SDGs are fully achieved by 2030. Role of NSS also gets enhanced in view of need for

from: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/NSS_Reviews_in_SIDS_Seminar_Report_1-3Aug2017.pdf

⁷ E/ESCAP/73/24 Report of the Committee on Statistics on its fifth session, Recommendation 5/1

interaction with multiple stakeholders. The question would be whether NSS are ready to take this responsibility and whether such systems have been put in place.

II. **Strengthening NSS**

How do we strengthen NSS?

NSS have been put to an unprecedented demand of large number of indicators. Do they have adequate resources to meet the challenge? These resources may be in the form human resources, financial resources or infrastructure. Chief statisticians will have to make a realistic assessment of the needs of the NSS based on a thorough exercise and development of National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) especially in the context of SDG indicator framework. Another important question is whether such requirements have been projected and made part of National Development Plans. In this context, it is also important to ensure that NSS use their resources more effectively and efficiently. Effectiveness of NSS could be achieved by effective use of information and communication technologies. Furthermore, it is necessary that sufficient resources quantitatively and qualitatively are provided by the Government to NSS. Capacity building of the staff engaged in production and dissemination of statistics is crucial factor in its effective performance. Although capacity building needs time and costs, it is the key to strengthen NSS.

Role of international organizations is of immense importance in developing and disseminating statistical standards and ensuring that these standards are fully and effectively implemented by the countries so that comparable data and statistics for SDG monitoring may be generated. There is greater responsibility of international organizations in development of capacity of statistical personnel to provide quality and timely data for compilation of SDG Indicators.

Expected output of the Seminar:

National actions are essential to realizing the aspiration for advancing official statistics to meet the demands for statistics and data for SDG implementation. The management seminar will:

- A. Outline the contours of a statistical system that delivers on the 2030 collective vision, i.e. *leads the development of and delivers innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of Agenda 2030.*
- B. Identify changes needed to arrive at national statistical systems that deliver on the 2030 vision.
- C. Recommend relevant and effective national actions and related commitments required by the national statistical office, the whole-of-Government and other key national and international stakeholders to achieve national statistical systems that deliver on the collective vision.

Building on these two key outputs, the Seminar will identify issues to be included in the draft outcome document for the 6th session of the Committee on Statistics.

Annex 2. Actual Programme



13th Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific Empowering and Strengthening National Statistical Systems for Monitoring SDG Indicators

6-7 December 2017, Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

Actual PROGRAMME

Date/Time	Sessions and Events
DAY 1 - 6 DECEMBER 2017	
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome message from ESCAP Mr. Hongjoo Hahm <i>Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP</i> • Welcome message from the Government of Japan Mr. Toshimitsu Miyake <i>Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan</i> • Objectives of the 13th SIAP Management Seminar Mr. Ashish Kumar <i>Director, SIAP</i>
Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break	

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
10:20-12:00	<p>Session 1: Where we stand: global and regional commitments to meet the statistics needs for the 2030 Agenda</p> <p><i>The session provided an overview of regional and global commitments for the implementation of 2030 Agenda, detailing commitments that pertain to the role of statistics and related needs for statistics development. There were three presentations followed by discussion.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific Regional roadmap and the collective vision and framework for action Asia-Pacific Conference: Taking collective action to accelerate transformation of official statistics, Bangkok, March 2017: (a) Status of national indicator frameworks; (b) Recommended action by national statistical systems and whole-of government action 2. The status of SDG indicators and related training efforts in Asia and the Pacific 3. The regional commitments in the global context Global indicator framework Cape Town Plan of Action, status of implementation 	<p>Chair and facilitator: Mr. Naoki Makita, <i>Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), MIC, Government of Japan</i></p> <p>Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, <i>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP</i></p> <p>Mr. Jan Smit, <i>Senior Statistician, SIAP</i></p> <p>Ms. Josie Bance Perez, <i>Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority</i></p>
Lunch hosted by Director-General of Statistics Bureau, MIC, Government of Japan		

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
13:15-14:00	<p>(continued)</p> <p>Plenary discussion Questions:</p> <p>Key priorities for regional action on statistics moving forward</p> <p>Maximizing the benefits of global commitments to progress regional & national efforts</p> <p>(i) How are NSO/NSSs benefitting from regional and global initiatives to strengthen SDG statistics?</p> <p>(ii) What are the key priorities of regional efforts to follow up and review the 2030 Agenda and how do they link to national efforts to track progress of the SDGs?</p> <p>(iii) How can the implementation of global commitments be maximized for improving the availability of SDG indicators by countries in the region?</p>	

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
	<p>(continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation in action: Focus areas and lessons learnt <p><i>Presentations by interested member States that have been or are in the process of transformation. The presentations provided insights as to how the reforms had addressed one or more of the five action areas of the Asia-Pacific collective vision and framework for action, in the context of national SDG implementation.</i></p>	<p>Ms. Ping Wang, <i>Deputy Director General, Department of Statistical Design and Management, National Bureau of Statistics of China</i></p> <p>Mr. Hideaki Nakamura, <i>Senior Research Officer, Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), MIC, Government of Japan</i></p> <p>Ms. Bayanchimeg Chilkhaasuren, <i>Vice Chairman, National Statistics Office, Mongolia</i></p> <p>Ms. Josie Bance Perez, <i>Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority</i></p>
Coffee/Tea Break		
16:15-17:00	(continued)	<p>Ms. Maia Guntsadze, <i>Deputy Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia</i></p> <p>Mr. Alexander Surinov, <i>Head, Federal State Statistics Service, Russia</i></p> <p>Mr. Bouppha Samaychanh, <i>Head, Lao Statistics Bureau</i></p>

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
DAY 2 - 7 DECEMBER 2017		
09:30-10:15	<p>(continued) <i>Summary reflections from Session 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to drafting groups for Session 3 <i>The presentation placed the work of the following two groups.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Group 1 to focus on action & related commitment by the national statistical office</i> - <i>Group 2 to focus on action & related commitment by whole-of-government</i> 	<p>Chair of session 2</p> <p>Mr. Ashish Kumar, <i>Director, SIAP</i></p>
Coffee/Tea Break		
10:30-12:15	<p>Session 3: Accelerating transformation efforts: Commitments needed</p> <p>The session identified issues to be included in the draft outcome document for the 6th session of the Committee on Statistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national statistical system that delivers on the 2030 collective vision: Role, functions, staff and business operations <p>Trigger presentations The group work benefited from trigger presentations and country presentations in plenary</p> <p>Potential of existing tools to support change processes (for Group 1) NSDS, ADAPT, GSBPM country experience</p> <p>National policies and plans for SDG implementation: Potential roles of the national statistical office (for Group 2) National SDG data roadmaps ESCAP diagnostic tool National SDG mechanisms</p>	<p>Chair and facilitator: Ms. Josie Bance Perez, <i>Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority</i></p> <p>Ms. Millicent Gay Tejada, <i>Regional Programme Coordinator, PARIS21 Secretariat</i></p> <p>Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, <i>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP</i></p>
Lunch hosted by Director-General of Statistics Bureau, MIC, Government of Japan		

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
13:15-16:05	<p>(continued)</p> <p>Country presentations (for Group 2)</p> <p>National policies and plans for SDG implementation: Potential roles of the national statistical office</p> <p><i>The two groups work in parallel.</i></p> <p><i>Both groups considered the changes needed to arrive at NSSs that deliver the 2030 vision. The groups outlined related actions and commitments (by NSOs and other government institutions, respectively) for each of the five action areas of the collective vision and framework for action.</i></p>	<p>Ms. Aishath Shahuda, Chief Statistician, <i>National Bureau of Statistics Maldives</i></p> <p>Ms. Indumathie Ranjanadevi Bandara, <i>Additional Director General, Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Group 1 Chair: Mr. Boupha Samaychanh, <i>Head, Lao Statistics Bureau</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Ailepata Simanu, <i>Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Service and Strategic Division, Samoa Bureau of Statistics</i></p> <p>Group 2 Chair: Ms. Aishath Shahuda, <i>National Bureau of Statistics Maldives</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita, <i>Government Statistician, Tonga Statistics Department</i></p>

Coffee/Tea Break		
Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
16:20-17:05	<p>(continued) <i>The session continued in plenary.</i></p> <p><i>The groups present the outcome of their work.</i></p> <p>Recommended NSO action for consideration by the Committee on Statistics, by Group 1</p> <p>Recommended whole-of-government action for consideration by the Committee on Statistics, by Group 2</p>	<p>Group 1 rapporteur</p> <p>Group 2 rapporteur</p>
17:05-17:15	Summary of the Seminar and Closing	Mr. Ashish Kumar, <i>Director, SIAP</i>

Annex 3. Names of Participants

Country/Organization	Name
Afghanistan	Mr. Ahmad Jawed Rasuli
Bhutan	Mr. Chhime Tshering
Cambodia	Mr. Song Khin
China	Ms. Yuhuan An
	Ms. Ping Wang
	Mr. Lin Tao
Cook Islands	Mr. Yingdong Jia
	Ms. Mii Tuatini Taggy Tangimetua
Georgia	Ms. Meri Daushvili
	Ms. Maia Guntsadze
Hong Kong, China	Ms. Shui Yu Marion Chan
Indonesia	Mr. Mohammad Ari Nugraha
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr. Omidali Parsa
	Mr. Toshimitsu Miyake
Japan	Mr. Naoki Makita
	Mr. Hideaki Nakamura
	Mr. Hiroyuki Kitada
	Ms. Naoko Kurita
Lao PDR	Mr. Boupha Samaychanh
Maldives	Ms. Aishath Shahuda
Mongolia	Ms. Bayanchimeg Chilkhaasuren
Myanmar	Ms. Wah Wah Maung
Nepal	Mr. Suman Raj Aryal
Philippines	Ms. Josie Bance Perez
	Ms. You Jung Seo
	Mr. Byung Chul Min
	Ms. Jeong Hee Rhee
Republic of Korea	Mr. Wonbo Sim
	Mr. Alexander Surinov
Russia	Mr. Igor Kharitonov
Samoa	Ms. Ailepata Simanu
Solomon Islands	Mr. Douglas Job Kimi
Sri Lanka	Ms. Indumathie Ranjanadevi Bandara
	Ms. Oarawan Sutthangkul
Thailand	Mr. Tarit Ratanasak
	Mr. Elias dos Santos Ferreira
Timor-Leste	Mr. Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita
Tonga	Mr. Vilami Konifelenisi Fifita
Vanuatu	Mr. Simil Johnson Youse
Viet Nam	Mr. Pham Quang Vinh
ADB	Mr. Kaushal Joshi
ISI	Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki
ITU	Mr. Rati Skhirtladze
PARIS21	Ms. Millicent Gay Tejada
UNDP	Mr. Tetsuo Kondo
ESCAP	Mr. Hong Joo Hahm
	Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen
SIAP	Mr. Ashish Kumar
	Mr. Makoto Shimizu
	Mr. Jan Smit
	Ms. Miriam Christine Hodge
	Mr. Alick Mjuma Nyasulu
	Mr. Evan Thomas Brand

