**Sub-regional workshop on data and metadata sharing and exchange for English-speaking African countries**

*Kigali, Rwanda, 19-21 September 2018*

*Concept note*

The UN Development Account 10th tranche brings together the collective efforts of ten implementing[1] entities into a comprehensive programme of action centred around strengthening national statistical systems to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals. Through four main pillars, the programme will support national capacity to measure and report on the 2030 Agenda. The Pillar I of the programme namely 'means of implementation', focuses on enhancing the capacity of developing countries to strengthen statistical institutional environments and production processes across multiple statistical domains to measure, monitor and report on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data recognizes the need to facilitate the application of modern technologies and new data sources in mainstream statistical activities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as tracking the progress of the SDGs. In particular, it calls for the modernization of the statistical standards, including those aimed to facilitate data integration and automation of data exchange across different stages of the statistical production process. To this end, the action plan stresses the need to define and implement standardized structures for the exchange and integration of data and metadata on the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development and at all levels (global, regional, national and sub-national), following the SDMX and related standards, and to promote interoperability of these systems to facilitate such integration.

The workshop on data and metadata sharing and exchange is organized under the following expected accomplishment of the programme "*Enhanced capacity of african countries to launch or improve institutional mechanisms and procedures, at the national and local level, for the production and utilization of SDG indicators*". The workshop is organized by the African Centre for Statistics, the United Nations Environment and the United Nations Statistics Division.

**Expected Purpose**

The workshop will allow experts from national statistical systems, IT experts and experts from international organizations to review and discuss requirements for the development of common data repositories across national statistical systems and the use of innovative software and tools for data and metadata sharing and exchange in support of the reporting, dissemination, and

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[1] The 10 implementing entities are UNSD, UNCTAD, UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UN-ODC and the 5 Regional Commissions – ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA

utilization of SDG Indicators. They will address and discuss how to mainstream statistical data and metadata storage and exchange through the adoption of open standards and technologies such as SDMX.

## Expected Outcome

This workshop will raise awareness among the countries on the advantages of using common data and metadata portals and open standards and technologies for exchanging and reporting data and metadata in the framework of the SDG indicators. The workshop will also raise awareness of tools available to support data and metadata exchange using the SDMX standard, and how these can be used to facilitate the exchange of SDG indicators in various scenarios as related to reporting and dissemination infrastructure available in the country. The workshop will also review the Principles of SDG Indicator Reporting and Dissemination Platforms and guidelines for their application in the context of data sharing and exchange.

A summary note including main challenges, case examples, and suggestions on how to use common data and metadata portals and open standards and tools for exchanging and reporting data and metadata will be prepared. Best practices identified under this activity will be documented on the e-learning portal.

## Participants and registration

The target groups of this workshop are experts from national statistical systems, IT experts and experts from international organizations. It is expected that participants will actively contribute to the workshop where considerable time will be devoted to group discussions and plenary interventions.

Participants should note that obtaining a visa for Rwanda is their responsibility. Visa and entry conditions in Rwanda are available at https://www.aeroport-kigali.com/visa_on_arrival_rwanda.php.

## Date and venue

The workshop will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 19 to 21 September 2018.

## Working language

This workshop is for English speaking African countries. Therefore, English will be the main working language.

## Structure of the Workshop:

The 3-day workshop will consist of five main sessions as follows:

The first substantive session will focus on setting the stage through the presentations and discussion of Principles of SDG Indicator Reporting and Dissemination Platforms and guidelines for their application and the different standards for data and metadata exchange and sharing, including the Statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) and open data initiatives. It will

allow the participants to explore and discuss the key characteristic of statistical platform to ensure compliance with these standards.

The second session will introduce the fundamentals of data modelling applicable to SDMX data and metadata exchange. The participants will learn about the foundations of data exchange modelling, such as concepts, code lists, Data Structure Definitions (DSD), and Metadata Structure Definitions, and how these can be used in designing an SDMX solution for data and metadata exchange. Exercises will be provided to illustrate the fundamentals of data modelling.

In the third session, the pilot SDG Data Structure Definition will be introduced. The participants will have a chance to familiarize themselves with the concepts, codes, and dimensionality of the SDG DSD. Draft SDG metadata concept scheme will also be introduced.

The fourth session will introduce SDMX tools that can be used to facilitate data and metadata exchange. The participants will see a demonstration of how tools can be used to establish SDMX exchange of SDG indicators using an existing dissemination database. The participants will also see how tools can be used to extract SDMX data compliant with the SDG DSD from Excel files, and an exercise will be given on the use of such tools.

The last session will discuss collective efforts to effectively implement international standards for data and metadata reporting and sharing systems. The participants will share national experiences, challenges, and lessons learned with regard to dissemination and exchange of data and metadata. It will also allow the participants to discuss the ways and means to effectively use or implement these standards to facilitate access to and use of SDG indicators.

Draft Agenda

- I.     Opening
- II.    Session 1:  Standards for data and metadata sharing and exchange, and principles and guidelines for SDG Indicator Reporting and Dissemination Platforms
- III.   Session 2: Fundamentals of data modelling
- IV.    Session 3: Introduction to pilot SDG Data Structure Definition and draft metadata concept scheme
- V.     Session 4: Tools for data and metadata exchange: a demonstration of establishing SDMX-based data exchange of SDG indicators
- VI.    Session 5: The way forward to improving the efficiency of dissemination and exchange of SDG indicators and metadata
- VII.   Closing