**United Nations Development Account 10<sup>th</sup> tranche Statistics and Data**


**Workshop on sound institutional environment, cooperation, dialogue and partnerships for the production and utilization of SDG indicators**

**Libreville, Gabon, 3 - 5 July 2017**

<u>Information Note</u>


**Background information**

The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data acknowledges the urgent need for National statistical systems (NSS) to adapt and develop in order to meet the widening, increasing and evolving requirements of data users as well as monitoring the progress towards goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in compliance with the UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics and other global and regional initiatives. In particular, it stresses the need to build confidence, trust and capacity through coordinated measures, legal reforms, and better funding, as well as through the development of principles and guidelines, so as to support the modernisation and transformation of national statistical systems.

The UN Development Account 10th tranche on Statistics and Data (DA10) addresses these challenges and brings together the collective efforts of ten implementing[1] entities into a comprehensive programme aiming at strengthening national statistical systems to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals.

The workshop on sound institutional environment, cooperation, dialogue and partnerships for the production and utilization of SDG indicators is organized under the expected accomplishment EA1 of DA10/Pillar I: *Enhanced capacity of target countries to launch or improve institutional mechanisms and procedures, at national and local level, for the production and utilization of SDG indicators*.

**Objective and expected outcome**

The workshop will address the institutional environment for official statistics in support of monitoring progress towards the SDGs, including governance, leadership, coordination mechanisms and tools as well as dialogue and partnership between producers and users of data and statistics. The workshop will help to achieve a common and improved understanding among the participants about institutional, organisational and managerial arrangements that can best sustain the transformation and modernisation of official statistics in order to address emerging user needs

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

for high-quality and internationally comparable data and statistics including for the follow up and review of progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

The workshop will contribute to the development of guidelines, compilations of best practices and other training material at global and regional levels illustrating the impact of institutional, organisational and managerial arrangements on the capacity of national statistical systems to embrace the necessary transformation of official statistics. In particular, the outcome of the workshop and similar events to be organised in other regions will contribute to the update of the UN Handbook on Statistical Organisations[2] with the aim of providing guidance and best practices to achieve a modern, more integrated and coordinated national statistical system.

**Participants and registration**

The target groups for this workshop are senior managers of national statistical agencies and of international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners and other stakeholders. Participants are expected to actively contribute to the workshop for which substantial time will be assigned to group discussions and plenary interventions.

All participants are requested to fill out the registration form and send it to debebeh@un.org and ngogangwandji@un.org before [End registration date]. Invitation letter will be sent to registered participants for visa process.

Participants should note that they are responsible for their visa arrangements. However, they are requested to inform the organizers if there is no Gabon embassy in their country of residence to explore possibility to facilitate visa issue on arrival.

**Date and venue**

The Workshop will be held on 3-5 July 2017 at the [Conference Centre to be determined, Conference Centre address], Libreville, Gabon.

**Working language**

English and French will be the working languages with simultaneous interpretation.

**Communication**

Information relating to the meeting will be available on the website of the workshop http://www.uneca.org/sdg-indicators-2017. The reports and all technical documents, including presentations, will be posted on that website.

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[2] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/hb/

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<u>Draft annotated agenda</u>

The 3-day workshop consist of sessions broadly covering the relevant strategic areas and objectives of the Cape Town Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, incorporating some of the main conclusions from the series of regional conferences on a Transformative Agenda.

**Opening session** (day 1)

After the welcome address by the host country, UNSD and ECA will discuss the implementation of the Cape Town Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data and other relevant global and regional initiatives followed by a broad discussion on the objective and expected outcome of the workshop in regards to the African context.

**Session 1: Institutional Framework** (day 1)

This session will consider how national statistical legislation may, from an institutional perspective, ensure the production and dissemination of high-quality statistics and data to address global, regional and national sustainable development agendas. In particular this session will address regulatory frameworks, ensuring consistency with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and African Charter on Statistics to: (1) enhance the status and professional independence of producers of official statistics and the coordination role of national statistics agencies; (2) secure confidentiality and trust in official statistics; (3) support the access to and use of non-traditional data sources for the production of official statistics and data, such as administrative data, Big Data and geospatial information; (4) improve transparency and public access to official statistics; and (5) strengthen the availability of sustainable funding for national statistical systems.

This session will start by discussing international and regional principles and supporting regulatory frameworks followed by country presentations on national good practices and challenges in developing and enforcing sound statistical legislation. Substantive time will be allocated for in depth discussions and further sharing of national experiences on the topics covered in this session.

**Session 2: Governance, programmatic tools and funding mechanisms** (day 1)

This session will focus on the mechanisms and tools that support the coordination of the national statistical systems, the coherence and comparability of its products and services, and the alignments of programmes and measures for the enhancement of national statistical capacity for

the production and utilisation of SDG indicators. This session will also share best practices on how National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and other programmatic instruments can incorporate in flexible and modular ways recommendations provided in various assessment exercises such as reviews of national statistical systems or gap assessments while securing adequate human, financial and technical resources necessary for development of statistical capacities.

The discussion will include different governance mechanisms and tools that can secure a coordinated implementation of a development strategy across the system and in particular about the prerogatives and functions of the lead statistical agency and its chief executive (Chief Statistician). Contributions will also include sound mechanisms and tools for the coordination of NSS to ensure efficient and effective delivery of coherent and comparable statistical outputs at global, regional and national levels and illustrate best practices in incorporating recommendations from various reviews and assessment in NSDS. Contributions will be followed by questions, comments and discussions.

## Session 3: Leadership, partnership, communication and dialogue (day 2)

This session will consider how to interact with the data communities outside the NSS, policy makers, civil society, researchers and other stakeholders in order to secure the access to innovative data sources, to acquire the human financial and technical resources for statistical activities, and eventually deliver products and services that are fit-for-purpose. This session will go beyond legal provisions that enforce such interactions and will focus on best national practices on strategic alliances and behaviours that could strengthen partnerships of national and international statistical systems with stakeholders involved in the production and use of data for sustainable development. The role of data communities outside the traditional national statistical system and mapping agencies will also be discussed. This session could conclude with some thoughts on how to measure and communicate (advocacy) the comparative advantages (value) of official statistics for monitoring progress towards the national development plans, Agenda 2063 and SDGs and eventually secure, if not increase, resources allocated to official statistics.

## Session 4: Quality assurance and quality monitoring (day 2)

Session 4 will focus on quality assurance frameworks and quality monitoring in terms of institutional environment, data sources, methodology, statistical processes and output. Participants will share best practices and discuss future development in adapting quality standards to a rapidly changing data eco-system and to the use of innovative technologies for the production of statistics and data. As data are the source and input of the statistical production chain, the use of administrative data, geospatial information and other data sources to complement traditional statistical surveys and censuses (mix-mode) will necessarily impact the way to assess and communicate the quality of statistical products. It would be interesting to contemplate how statistical agencies could engage with various data communities outside the national statistical

systems in order to gradually improve accessibility, accuracy and coverage of alternative data sources.

**Breakout session** (day 3)

The breakout session will broadly cover topics presented and discussed in the four previous sessions (sessions 1-4). Participants will be split in 3-5 groups to discuss a set of prepared questions. The objective of the breakout session is to identify good practices, opportunities and challenges in enhancing institutional capacities at national, regional and global levels for the production and utilization of SDG indicators. Participants will also be invited to propose ways to embrace opportunities and address institutional challenges including through specific programmes and actions supported by multilateral and bilateral donors. For each group, a speaker will deliver a short report in plenary on the main outcome of the discussion that will be commented by a panel and participants. It is expected that the reports and discussion in plenary will lead to the conclusions of the workshop including proposal for future institutional capacity building activities.

**Conclusion and closing remarks** (day 3)

The conclusions and major outcome of the workshop prepared by the panellists and the team of rapporteurs will be submitted to participants for validation, followed by closing remarks and farewell by UNSD, ECA and the host country (DG of NSO).