



Plenary session 8: Statutory issues

I. Discussions on the forthcoming forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission – countries' participation and contribution of the region on proposed agenda items

1. The forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission is scheduled in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017. The provisional annotated agenda for the 2017 session will soon be available on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division (unstats.un.org).
2. As has been done in previous sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, it is important for African countries to speak with one voice and thus harmonize their contributions to the deliberations on items for discussion and decision. It is therefore proposed that countries be assigned items on the agenda, take the lead in preparing Africa's common positions on them, and make the intervention during the discussion. Countries are requested to indicate their willingness to lead the preparation and presentation of the assigned topics on behalf of the continent. Comments are also welcome from everyone on the issues to be considered in coming up with the common positions on the agenda items. Please send such inputs either to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) or directly to the assigned countries.

Items for discussion and decision	Reference document	Countries to prepare and lead Africa's interventions
1.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Demographic Statistics	
2.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics	
3.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on social statistics	
4.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics of drugs and drug use	

5.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics	
6.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys	
7.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agricultural statistics	
8.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts	South Africa/Egypt
9.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics	
10.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme interim activities	Uganda
11.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics	
12.	Report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators	
13.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics	Senegal/Cabo Verde¹
14.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental–Economic Accounting	Mozambique
15.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics	Cameroon
16.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics	
17.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics	
18.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers	
19.	Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building	
20.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the World Bank on statistical capacity-building	
21.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators	Botswana / United Republic of Tanzania
22.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Post-2015 Monitoring	South Africa (suggestion)

¹ Rwanda intervened last year on modernizing official statistics.

23.	Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	
24.	Report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks	
25.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange sponsors on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata	
26.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	
27.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities	
28.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	
29.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Europe on regional statistical development in Europe	
30.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System	
31.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group	
32.	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics	

II. **Renewal of members of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building, and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

3. According to the global governance mechanism on Sustainable Development Goals that is put in place, it is planned to rotate both members of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators every two years; therefore, the Africa Region should make ready its proposal for the new members prior to the coming session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (see the terms of reference for the two groups in annexes I and II). There is a need to ensure that subregions will be progressively represented while rotation is done.

A. **Renewal of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building**

4. The current African members of the High-Level Group are:
- (a) Côte d'Ivoire
 - (b) Mozambique
 - (c) Rwanda

- (d) South Africa
- (e) Tunisia

B. Renewal of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

5. The current African members of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators are:

- (a) Algeria
- (b) Botswana
- (c) Cabo Verde
- (d) Cameroon
- (e) Senegal
- (f) Uganda
- (g) United Republic of Tanzania

III. The way forward

6. The Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices–Statistical Commission for Africa is invited to express views and guidance on the contribution of Africa to the forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

7. Countries are invited to indicate the agenda item they want to lead in preparing the interventions of Africa.

8. The meeting is invited to take decisions on how to renew members of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

Annex I

Terms of reference for the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for post-2015 monitoring

1. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for post-2015 monitoring aims to establish a global partnership for sustainable development data, and in this function will:

(a) Provide strategic leadership for the Sustainable Development Goals implementation process as it concerns statistical monitoring and reporting;

(b) Promote national ownership of the post-2015 monitoring system and foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination for post-2015 monitoring, including to ensure consistency between national and global monitoring and reporting;

(c) Address the need for funding of statistical capacity-building, including by developing proposals and advocating for resource mobilization and their management and monitoring, and identifying ways to leverage the resources and creativity of the private sector;

(d) Advise on how the opportunities of the data revolution can be harnessed to support the Sustainable Development Goals implementation process, taking into account the levels of development of the countries;

(e) Review and make recommendations, as appropriate, and in cooperation with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, on the issue of common (cross-country) data infrastructures to exploit the possibilities of new technologies;

(f) Reach out and promote dialogue and partnerships between the statistical community and other stakeholders working on the implementation and monitoring of globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

2. In undertaking its work, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building will consult closely with the co-chairs of the newly created Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on issues related to statistical capacity-building and other issues as required and reach out to existing joint initiatives for statistical capacity and technical assistance – such as those taking place under the Partnership for Statistics in Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21), the Memorandum of Understanding of the Development Banks with the United Nations on cooperation on statistical activities, and other coordination and cooperation agreements – in order to avoid any duplication of work.

3. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building will consist of 15 to 20 representatives of national statistical offices, with a balanced geographical representation, following broadly the distribution in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and will include regional and international agencies as observers. Members of the High-level Group will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms² and should preferably not be members at the same time of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The United Nations will act as the secretariat of the High-level Group. The members of the High-Level Group will elect two co-chairs.

² Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Statistics, and the Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

4. The Group will operate under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission and will report to it annually, seeking its guidance.

5. The mandate and functioning of the High-level Group will be reviewed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2017 at the Commission's forty-eighth session.

Annex II

Terms of reference for the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

1. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators will:

(a) Develop an indicator framework and a list of indicators for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, taking into account existing efforts by different groups of countries and organizations, including regional and international agencies, regional commissions, academia, civil society and other relevant international organizations, to be adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session in 2017;

(b) Provide technical support for the implementation of the approved indicator and monitoring framework over the 15-year period leading up to 2030; ensure the use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions; share experiences on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals; and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity-building;

(c) Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;

(d) Report on progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, based on global and regional aggregates, as mandated;

(e) Regularly review capacity-building activities in statistical areas relevant to Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and make recommendations to be considered by the United Nations Statistical Commission, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for post-2015 monitoring and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;

(f) Review and support work by the Secretariat for the development of a Sustainable Development Goal data-user forum, tools for data analysis and an open dashboard on the state of sustainable development goals.

2. Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators will consist of 28 representatives of national statistical offices and include, as observers, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies, including those responsible for global reporting on the Millennium Development Goals, to provide important technical advice and support as needed. Members of the Group will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms³ for an initial period of two years (after which some are expected to be rotated as agreed by the respective regional mechanisms) with a view to ensuring equitable regional representation and technical expertise and including members of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Non-member countries may send their representatives to participate in the activities of the Group as observers.

3. The United Nations Statistics Division will be the secretariat of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Member States that are part of the Group will elect two co-chairs. The existing global monitoring groups, generally composed of representatives of national statistical systems and experts from international agencies, working on specific

³ Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Statistics, and the Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

indicators, will contribute to the Group's work as deemed appropriate by the Group. In addition, as deemed appropriate, global monitoring groups will be formed bringing together national and international experts that will support the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on the selection and definition of indicators, and data compilation and reporting, to monitor progress in new and emerging areas covered by the new goals and targets.

4. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators will conduct its work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and will invite experts, as appropriate, from civil society, academia and the private sector to contribute their expertise and experiences on indicators and innovative data compilation methods.

5. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators will meet physically twice a year, and otherwise conduct its work electronically. Participation in the physical meetings is self-funded. A limited number of developing countries that are members of the Group may receive funding, if available and according to practices followed by the Group. In this connection, a trust fund is expected to be established to mobilize resources in support of the work of the Group.

6. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators will report annually to the United Nations Statistical Commission and seek guidance from it. In its report, the Group will provide an annex listing the activities of various groups relevant for post-2015 monitoring.