

Workshop on the implementation of the SDG indicator framework

Concept note

I. Background

During the period leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, there was widespread acknowledgement by member States and the UN system of the critical need to strengthen at all levels the capacity of statistical systems to produce timely and reliable statistics and data to assess implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. The ten-year implementation plan (2014-2023) of the Africa Agenda 2063 has also placed huge demands for statistics on African countries. The demand for disaggregated data will certainly pose difficulties and increase the level of complexity for developing countries, many of which face challenges to produce even basic statistics which meet international standards.

The first challenge that countries must grapple with is the development of national indicator framework. The discussions on indicators must be driven by country priorities as reflected in their existing policies, plans and programmes. Countries have committed to implement SDGs and adopt all the targets that are relevant to them. The African countries have also adopted the Agenda 2063, which also has to be taken into consideration in the development of the national indicator framework. Several countries have started the process of integrating the SDG goals and targets into their policies, national development plans as well as in various other sectoral plans and programmes. This is what is now being termed as 'localization' or 'domestication' of SDGs. The discussion on national indicator framework must follow the above-mentioned process of localization and cannot precede it. There is another challenge that the countries are facing in the process of localization of SDGs. Many countries are in the middle of their plan period and it is proving to be a challenge to integrate SDGs into the existing development framework which may also have an impact on the work for the development of indicators at the national level..

In view of the enormous demands that will be placed on the United Nations to provide support to developing member States in the area of statistics and data, 10 entities¹ of the UN Secretariat have joined hands to implement a comprehensive programme of action centred around strengthening national statistical systems to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals. The programme called the Development Account (DA) programme on data and statistics will be collaboratively implemented by the 10 entities during the period 2016-2019. The Programme by definition and design aims to strengthen national statistical systems to respond to the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda. Through these efforts, it also supports national capacity to assess its internal readiness for measuring and reporting on all of the 17 Goals, and defining the short-term and long-term actions needed for increasing its capacity to produce accurate and timely data in a sustainable manner.

II. Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop is to reflect on the preparation of national indicator frameworks based on national, regional and global priorities, and on the roadmaps for the development of a clear set of strategies to strengthen national statistical systems and their deliveries in line with the Global Action Plan.

This opening workshop aims in particular at:

- Guiding countries in the development of a comprehensive national indicator framework to measure, monitor and report on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Agenda 2063 and other national and regional development policies;
- Identifying major challenges in the production and utilization of SDG indicators for Africa
- Supporting at country level the incorporation of main recommendations for the development of statistical capacities from the Global Action Plan, and other key decisions from intergovernmental processes, into multi-year programmatic instruments such as the national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS);
- Reflecting and sharing best practices on the implementation of the indicator framework, according to recommendations and priorities articulated in national strategies through conducting data gap assessments.

The workshop will also allow for increasing awareness of the Programme among other bilateral and multilateral partners and eventually for improving coordination and synergies, leveraging financial support, and avoiding overlap with activities conducted by other partners.

¹ UN Statistics Division, ECA, ESCAP, ESCWA, ECE, ECLAC, UNEP, UNODC, UNCTAD and UN Habitat

III. Participants

The workshop is targeting Directors General of national statistics offices, senior statisticians from the relevant DA10 implementing entities, and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, and partner institutions.

IV. Date and venue

The workshop is being organized as a post event of United Nation World Data Forum from 19 to 20 January in Cape Town, South Africa. This will leverage on the presence of the DGs at the Data Forum, and avoid the possibility of meeting fatigue by having yet another meeting with the same meeting.

The venue is: Cape Town international Convention Centre, Convention Square, 1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town, 8001.

V. Working language

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

VI. Communication

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

VII. Information note

All participants are requested to register online from one of the links below, making sure that all mandatory fields are completed.

The links are: <http://undataforum.org/WorldDataForum/registration/> or <http://undataforum.statssa.gov.za/>.

Those who need a travel visa to South Africa will have to apply for the same immediately, as the application process might take a while and please do let us know if you need any extra support/information.

For additional information please contact:

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Draft Agenda

Workshop on the implementation of the SDG indicators framework

Cape-Town, South Africa, 19-20 December 2016

Day 1-19 January

Registration

Opening / Outline of the DA10 / Objective of the Workshop (45')

- *UNSD*
Short outline of the DA10 programme for data and Statistics and setting the global context
- *ECA*
The African context and objective of the workshop

Session 1: SDG Indicators – global, regional and national frameworks (120')

Chair: *Country member of the IAEG-SDGs (Algeria)*

Presentations:

- *Country member of the IAEG-SDGs (Botswana)*
The global indicator framework
- *ECA*
Initiative for a regional indicator framework
- *Other entities/partner organizations*
Other initiative(s) at global and/or regional levels
- *Selected countries (Senegal, Uganda, Rwanda, Congo)*
Developing national SDG Indicator framework - issues and challenges

Discussions

Session 2: Global Action Plan and its translation into regional and national development strategies (120')

Chair: *Country member of the HLG (Cabo verde)*

Presentations:

- *Country member of the HLG (Rwanda)*
Global Action Plan (GAP)
- *ECA*
Regional development initiative
- *Other entities/partner organizations*
Other initiative(s) for the development of regional and national strategies
- *Selected countries (Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania)*
Revamping national statistical development strategy in support of the production and utilization of SDG Indicators

Discussions

Day 2-20 January

Session 3: SDG country reporting systems (90')

Chair: *Country member of the IAEG-SDGs (Uganda)*

Presentations:

- *Country member of the IAEG-SDGs (Cameroon)*
The Secretary-General global reporting system
- *ECA*
Initiative for a regional reporting system; including for the 2063 Agenda
- *Other entities/partner organizations/countries*
Other national, regional and/or global reporting systems
- *Selected countries (Togo, Ethiopia)*
Contribution of national statistical systems in national SDG review and reporting systems

Discussions

Session 4a: Breakout Session (60')

Themes and questions for each group to be prepared in advance by the entities (ECA – UNSD – other entities) considering the regional context.

Group 1a Developing a national indicator framework in the context of the SDG and other national and regional development policies

Group 1b Developing a national indicator framework in the context of the SDG and other national and regional development policies

Group 2a Developing National Development Strategies and Plans in the context of the Global Action Plan and Agenda 2063²

Group 2b Developing National Development Strategies and Plans in the context of the Global Action Plan and Agenda 2063

Group 3 SDG review and reporting systems – Data and metadata sharing and dissemination

Session 4b: Reporting to plenary and discussions (90')

Conclusions and the way forward (60')

Moderator: *UNSD*

Panelists:

- *Country*
- *Country*
- *ECA*
- *Other entities/partner organizations (max 3)*

Close session of Director Generals of NSOs (60')

² <http://agenda2063.au.int/>