Sub regional technical training on work statistics (19th ICLS Resolution) and labour migration statistics for the Pacific Islands Countries (PICs)

Nadi (Fiji), 28th July – 1st August 2014

Organized by the ILO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP), and the UNESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

1. Background and justification:

In October 2013 the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (19th ICLS) adopted a new Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, that revised the existing international standards used by countries to produce their statistics on employment and unemployment. The international standards for labour force statistics currently in use by many countries are contained in the Resolution of statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment and related guidelines, which had been in place since 1982 when the Resolution was adopted by the 13th ICLS, and were therefore seen as not adequately capturing anymore employment measures in the current economic contexts.

Major changes in the new resolution include a conceptual framework to promote coherent measurement of all paid and unpaid work, a more refined measure of employment as work performed for pay or profit, separate concepts, definitions and indicators of participation in other forms of work, in particular own-use production work, unpaid trainee work and volunteer work, as well as broader measures of labour underutilization that complement the unemployment rate.

The Resolution is also meant to contribute to strengthening the knowledge base of the world of work in order to provide policy makers with better labour market information, reflecting the current broadened labour market realities.
Labour force statistics will be affected, particularly in those countries where subsistence production is high and has been included in employment. The 19th ICLS Resolution also called on the ILO to develop effective dissemination strategies in order to explain the impact of the revisions on existing series and to communicate and promote adequate use and interpretation of the new indicators.

To follow-up on the above recommendation by the 19th ICLS and assist countries in understanding and implementing the new resolution, the International Labour Organization (ILO) plans to organize a number of regional and sub-regional technical workshops on understanding and implementing the Resolution, in collaboration with various international partner agencies. The PICs will be among the first regions to receive such seminar.

The workshop constitutes also a follow-up to a similar training course on Labour Statistics and Labour Market Information and Analysis, organized by the ILO and the SPC in November-December 2011, and is therefore a continuation of the collaboration between the two institutions on labour statistics. Such collaboration was a follow-up on the political call from PICs member States for ILO and its partners to increase its support to the improvement of labour statistics and LMIS in the PICs, as a contribution to implementing the sub-region decent work agenda (the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work of 2010 for example, identifies as key outputs the strengthening of: a) “PIC governmental capacity in the collection, storage and production of socioeconomic statistics, with a specific focus on labour market information”; and b) “tripartite constituent capacity in LMIA collection, interpretation and analysis.”

The training shall also contribute to the implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistical Strategy (TYPSS) 2010-2020, whose implementation is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Labour statistics and LMIA are important components in the TYPSS 2010-2020; they are also part of the core set of statistics for the PICs, as well as part of the National Minimum Development Indicators being supported by SPC.

Last but not least the training shall contribute to the UNESCAP agenda in building the statistical capacity of its member States, particularly the PICs, to produce basic economics and social statistics by 2020. Labour statistics are prominent in the core sets of statistics, and in the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (SGRPES), as well as in the planned Regional Capacity Building Programme on Population and Social Statistics (TAG-PSS) and on Gender Statistics.

2. Back-to-back training on labour migration statistics:

One of the main recommendations of the 19th ICLS Resolution is for ILO to further conduct conceptual and methodological work on selected areas for which international standards are yet to be provided. One of these is on measuring labour migration. Indeed the Resolution IV of the 19th ICLS (Resolution concerning further work on labour migration statistics) calls on the ILO to spearhead

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the development of international standards on labour migration statistics, and to prepare a report for discussions in the next ICLS.

The ILO has started piloting the measurement of labour migration in a number of countries worldwide and in Asia, and would like to extend such pilot process in the PICs. A considerable number of ILO programmes and projects on labour migration, including in the PICs, have included components to support the knowledge base on migrant workers, and the ILO Department of Statistics aim is to leverage these processes to support the broader collection of labour migration statistics. In the PICs the ILO Project on “Enhancing the capacity of Pacific Island Countries to address the impacts of climate change on migration” intends to provide training on the collection of labour migration statistics in the sub-region, as well as supporting the collection of labour migration statistics in selected project countries. Most particularly the project intends to: (a) provide support to developing a manual on the implementation of information system for the collection of data relating to the outflow of labour migrants, (b) provide training on the identification of labour migration indicators to be measured, as well as (c) support practical implementation of data collection exercises of labour migration statistics in selected PICs.

3. Objectives:

The ultimate objective of this technical workshop is to contribute to better and data-informed employment policies and decent work programmes, by building the capacity of national technical staff in the production and analysis of key labour market indicators, including selected labour migration statistics, as well as contributing to the UN statistical capacity building strategies in the Region.

More specifically the training workshop will be aimed to:

(i) Increase the technical knowledge in the PICs on the recent standards of labour statistics from the 19th ICLS Resolution,

(ii) Discuss and identify better strategies and mechanisms for improving data collection of labour statistics and implementing the new resolution in the PICs, including possible proposal(s) for revising data collection tools of labour statistics in the PICs,

(iii) Provide a briefing on ongoing processes on labour migration measurement and discuss the pilot process in PICs, and

(iv) Discuss and advise possible support on the above from international partners (particularly ILO, SPC and UNESCAP), including recommendations from participants on the way forward.

4. Summary agenda and format of the meeting:

The meeting will be structured in three parts: (i) review and information on new concepts from the 19th ICLS Resolution, (ii) labour migration statistics, (iii) proposed implementation in the PICs (through various work groups and recommendations from participants at the end of the workshop). An outputs-oriented and participatory approach will combine theoretical presentations, and group/
country-specific practical work, including on-going country-level work on data collection, as well as possible work on national data that participants may be asked to bring to the training course.

Day 1:

Part I: Overview of the 19th ICLS Resolution and the new framework of work statistics
- Objectives and scope of work statistics, conceptual framework
- Concepts of employment, unemployment and persons not in the labour force
- Work groups on the processing of selected work statistics with existing country data.

Day 2:

Part I (Cont’d):
- Other forms of work
- Measures to supplement the unemployment rate
- Work groups on the processing of selected work statistics with existing country data (cont’d)
- Data sources of labour statistics in the PICs.

Day 3:

Part I (Cont’d):
- Data collection tools for stand-alone and modular LFS in the PICs
- Work groups on data collection of labour statistics and data collection tools (and recommendations on core data collection questionnaire?)
- Data collection programmes in the PICs: current countries’ practices and planned programmes (selected countries presentations)
- Work groups on data collection programmes of labour statistics (and recommendations on future programmes and needed international support).

Day 4:

Part II: Capacity building of the PICs on the collection and analysis of labour migrations statistics
• Conceptual consideration on labour migration statistics and data collection, experience from the pilot process in ASEAN countries

• Labour migration data needs and policy use and key labour migration indicators for the PICs: introduction and plenary discussions (or work groups?) - case studies?

• Data sources and data collection (tools) of labour migration data (particularly outflows migrant workers): discussing data collection tools for administrative records and households surveys

• Work groups on labour migration data sources and data collection tools (and possible recommendations for the PICs).

Day 5:

Part II (Cont’d):

• ILO support to data collection of labour migration statistics and pilot process in the PICs: introduction and plenary discussions (or work groups?)

• Recommendations on the labour migration information system in the PICs (with a focus on data relating to the outflow of labour migrants).

Part III: Way forwards on the implementation of the 19th ICLS and the labour migration information systems in the PICs

• Review and finalise proposed recommendations on future data collection programmes and data collection tools of labour statistics in the PICs

• Review and finalise proposed recommendations on the labour migration information system in the PICs.

5. Official languages and documentation:

The official language of the training workshop will be English. Key documents and presentations will be provided during the training workshop. Further documentation and background documents to the training are available on the ILO Department of Statistics website at:


6. Date and Venue:

This Sub regional technical workshop on work statistics (19th ICLS Resolution) and labour migration statistics for the Pacific Islands Countries is scheduled to take place from 28th July to 1st August 2014 at Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji.
7. Participants:

About 20 to 25 participants will be invited (2 to 3 participants per country), coming from the National Statistical Office, Ministry of Labour or National Provident Fund of the following 10 Pacific Island Countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Funding for participants is provided by ILO and the ESCAP.