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# Training of Trainers on Quality of Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

11 – 13 December 2023
Perak, Malaysia

## Concept Note

Quality data are vital for enabling governments, international organizations, civil society, private sector and the general public to make informed decisions and to ensure the accountability of representative bodies. Effective planning, follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at local, national, regional and global levels and by multiple stakeholders.

The statistical quality framework and quality review process help promote international data quality and consistency. Achieving and maintaining public trust in official statistics requires that those statistics are produced in an objective, transparent and professionally independent manner. The United Nations Statistical Commission based on these considerations and other important principles established a set of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in 1994. These principles were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014. Many countries around the world have established a national code of practice and/or a Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF) to capture the principles and best practices, and to safeguard public trust. In 2019, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) adopted the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (Manual) that has been developed by the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks.[1] It supports countries in the development and implementation of a national quality assurance framework (NQAF) throughout their national statistical systems. It contains recommendations, an updated quality

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[1] Available at https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/data-quality/user-manual.

assurance framework and implementation guidance, including for the quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics and when different data sources are used. In addition, in 2023, the Commission endorsed a roadmap for the development and implementation of a national quality assurance framework.[2]

The IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) is also used for comprehensive assessments of countries' data quality, and covers institutional environments, statistical processes, and characteristics of the statistical products. The generic DQAF adopted in May 2012 serves as an umbrella for seven dataset-specific frameworks.

The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) was established in 1996 to guide countries that have, or might seek, access to international capital markets in the provision of economic and financial data to the public. The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) was introduced in 1997 to provide a framework for countries that aim to develop their statistical systems to help them disseminate comprehensive and reliable data. SDDS Plus was established in 2012, building on the SDDS, to guide member countries on the provision of economic and financial data to the public in support of domestic and international financial stability. The enhanced GDDS (e-GDDS) was approved in May 2015 to encourage its 111 participants to disseminate a set of critical macroeconomic data.

The e-GDDS aims to:

- Guide countries in the provision to the public of comprehensive, timely, accessible, and reliable economic, financial, and socio-demographic statistics, through the dissemination of 15 indicators.
- Provide a framework for evaluating needs for data improvement and dissemination, as well as setting capacity-development priorities.
- Encourage member countries to improve data quality.
- Foster stronger linkages with other international initiatives, including allowing the dissemination of indicators to monitor the SDGs using the open data platform (ODP) and Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX).

The 2030 Agenda explicitly calls for enhancing capacity building to support national plans to implement the sustainable development goals. The workshop will provide an opportunity to participants to learn basic concepts and frameworks on quality related to statistics, through hands-on sessions, with an overall aim to strengthen the capacity to produce a set of statistics,

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[2] Available at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/roadmap/

including indicators, to track and monitor SDGs.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop are:

1. Participants understand basic concepts of quality of official statistics
2. Knowledge on the UN Manual is provided to enhance quality of statistics according to the specific circumstances of an individual country
3. Knowledge on the implementation of NQAF is provided
4. Participants understand quality requirements when administrative and other data sources are used
5. Participants gain a holistic understanding of quality aspects for compiling and disseminating SDG indicators
6. Knowledge on DQAF is provided to enhance quality of statistics according to the specific circumstances of an individual country
7. Knowledge on e-GDDS is provided with input that is useful for the further development of SDG indicators

**Expected impact**

1. Improved data transparency and governance through publication of high-quality data including for SDG indicators
2. Increased ability to use other data sources, including for SDG indicators
3. Improved trust in official statistics

**Topics**

The workshop will cover the following:

- Overview of quality of statistics
- UN Manual and generic UN NQAF
- Quality assurance of data sources
- Quality in respect of SDG indicators
- DQAF
- e-GDDS
- Example by the Government of Malaysia (tbc)

**Participants**

Statisticians from countries of Asia and the Pacific