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Training Workshop on Quality of Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Asia-Pacific Region

23 – 25 September 2024

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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.

Achieving and maintaining public trust in official statistics requires that those statistics are produced in an objective, transparent and professionally independent manner. The statistical quality framework and quality review processes help promoting data quality. 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 or a national quality assurance framework for official statistics (NQAF) to capture those 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 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

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

roadmap for the development and implementation of a national quality assurance framework.²

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 official statistics, 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 statistical, administrative and other data sources are used
5. Participants gain a holistic understanding of quality aspects for compiling and disseminating 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 when using different data sources
- Quality in respect of SDG indicators
- Examples by the Government of Mongolia and of other countries

Participants

Statisticians from countries of the Asia-Pacific region

² Available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/roadmap/>

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Provisional Programme

Time	Sessions and Events
DAY 1: 23 September 2024	
09:00-09:15	Registration
09:30-10:15	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Batdavaa Batmunkh <i>Chairman, National Statistics Office of Mongolia</i> Mr. Seiji Takata <i>Deputy-Director, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)</i> Mr. Matthias Reister <i>Chief, Development Data Section, Development Data and Outreach Branch, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations</i> • Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants (self-introduction) • Staff of SIAP • Staff of NSO
Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break	

Time	Sessions and Events	Lecturers
10:30-12:00	Session 1: The UN National Assurance Framework for Official Statistics	Mr. Matthias Reister
Lunch Break		
13:00-15:00	Session 2: Self-assessment exercise	Group exercise
Coffee/Tea Break		
15:15-17:00	Session 3: Implementation of the national quality assurance framework	Case studies
DAY 2: 24 September 2024		
09:30-10:45	Session 4: Overview of available implementation guidance	Mr. Matthias Reister
Coffee/Tea Break		
11:00-12:00	Session 5: Implementation of the national quality assurance framework	Group exercise
Lunch Break		
13:00-14:15	Session 6: Quality assurance for census and surveys and when using administrative and other data sources	Mr. Matthias Reister
Coffee/Tea Break		
14:30-17:00	(continued) Session 6: Quality assurance for census and surveys and when using administrative and other data sources	Case studies / Group exercise
DAY 3: 25 September 2024		
09:30-10:30	(continued) Session 6: Quality assurance for census and surveys and when using administrative and other data sources	Group exercise
Coffee/Tea Break		
10:45-12:00	Session 7: An Example: Quality Assurance of Statistics of Mongolia	N.N.
Lunch Break		
13:00-14:45	Session 8: Quality culture – self-assessment	Group exercise
Coffee/Tea Break		
15:00-16:15	Session 9: Additional topics	Mr. Matthias Reister
16:15-16:45	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing messages Mr. Seiji Takata • Awarding Certificates 	