

REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS)

Virtual Training

Date: November 18-20th, 2025

Information Bulletin

1. Rationale

Global development policies and reporting frameworks present an unprecedented demand for high-quality official statistics, which necessitates substantial investment in surveys and censuses. Developing countries, including those in the Asia-Pacific region, are making strides to ensure the availability and accessibility of data and statistics for informed policy and decision-making. Notwithstanding this, the global debt crisis is affecting investment in statistical production and development. This change means such countries need to build resilient, agile, and sustainable data systems to deliver the requisite data and statistics needed for evidence-based policies and decision-making.

The National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) provide a comprehensive framework through which countries can identify, prioritise, and enhance targeted capabilities at individual, organisational, and system levels for effective, efficient, and inclusive production of official statistics. In addition, countries are encouraged to adopt value for money solutions through the following considerations;

Firstly, data producers need to efficiently coordinate and strengthen partnerships with users to improve prioritisation of data and statistics at the national level. Most statistical systems in low- and middle-income countries still lack strong coordination, are grossly fragmented, and have underdeveloped administrative data systems at both the sectoral and sub-national levels. These challenges threaten data integration, data quality assurance, and timely response to the existing and emerging data requirements.

Secondly, considering the declining resource flow for statistics arising from the global financial architecture crisis, LMICs must leverage the NSDS framework. The NSDS process will help countries to define data priorities at national, regional, and global development frameworks and objectives. In addition, NSDS processes enable countries to determine capacity gaps at all levels and design strategies that will enable them to respond to existing and emerging data needs at minimal cost.

Thirdly, statistical offices are facing competition and are pushing for the modernization and transformation of their systems to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the production and use of official statistics. Consequently, NSSs should adapt to innovation and new technologies to enhance the availability and accessibility of relevant data and statistics, thereby supporting evidence-based policies and informed decision-making. Mainstreaming Transformation and Modernisation (T&M) enablers in NSDSs can help build agile, resilient, and sustainable statistical systems.

The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), developed a unique training course for NSSs, NSO leaders, and national planning senior managers to improve strategic planning for data and statistics development, as well as to adopt innovative tools and methods. This course will provide an overview

of the NSDS Guidelines and the need for countries to design effective NSDSs. In addition, the course will feature special topics on Voluntary National Reviews, climate change data, Transformation and Modernisation (T&M) Enablers, with a hint on NSO Artificial Intelligence (AI) Readiness, as well as communications around NSDSs.

2. Quick overview of the proposed toolbox: NSDS and special topics

National strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS)

In 2024, approximately 99% of low- and Middle-Income countries had institutionalized statistical planning in their statistical systems. An NSDS provides a country with an understanding of its current context and a vision of the desired future state. The NSDS is a strategic planning framework, process, and tool that enables developing countries to plan, organize, manage, and continuously maintain dynamic statistical systems that respond to current and emerging data requirements for evidence-based policy and decision-making at the national, regional, and global levels.

The NSDS design and implementation process presents an opportunity for mainstreaming topical issues and capacity development in the National Statistical System (NSS) at the individual, organisational, and system levels, targeting the smart use of resources, skills, and knowledge, as well as management, Political power, and incentives. Bridging the Gap Between Data Producers and Data Users at all levels increases ownership, effective demand, and dialogue about priorities and efficient resource use for statistical development.

NSDS and Voluntary National Reviews

National Statistical Systems are the backbone of SDG implementation, and as such, their functioning and financing are intrinsic to the successful realization of the 2030 Agenda. NSOs are the unsung heroes of the VNR. Their presence in the VNR process is often limited to the provision of SDG indicators, and they are not recognized as key institutions, which can strengthen SDG implementation and increase SDG ownership. The latter can occur when NSOs can utilize their mandate fully to advance access to administrative data sources, implement open data practices, and play the role of a data steward to form strategic partnerships with the broader data ecosystem, including civil society, academia, and the private sector. This section introduces the new VNR module of the NSDS Guidelines, based on PARIS21's work with countries on the VNR, NSDS, and insights from the [2024 analytical report on the role of data in the VNR](#).

NSDS and climate change data

As the climate crisis moves from hypothetical to real, the global community is only starting to discover the myriad of impacts it is having. For various reasons, traditional approaches to gathering data do not produce the data and statistics that countries and international organisations need to tackle climate change. PARIS21's "ecosystem" approach provides a framework that can help gather and analyse data across different entities and departments that do not have a systematic approach to collaboration. Several small islands that are on the frontline of the climate crisis are eager to adopt this approach to data to improve their resilience and adapt to climate change. PARIS21 developed a framework and toolkit to mobilize climate change data ecosystems, supporting countries' efforts in this area.

NSDS and Transformation and Modernisation Enablers

The transformation and modernization of statistical systems and processes is essential for securing and maintaining resilient, agile, and sustainable statistical systems amid shifts in the global

economy. Investment in the modernisation of statistical systems can help NSSs to efficiently produce granular, disaggregated, timely, and relevant data and official statistics. Innovation and new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, offer transformative potential for improving administrative data systems and digital tools along the data value chain. Innovation and new technologies create opportunities for partnering with the private sector. It also increases the availability and accessibility of data to potential users, thereby giving meaning to the Power of Data (PoD).

PARIS21 and UNECA have developed guidelines to support the mainstreaming of T&M Enablers, as well as Innovation and new Technologies, in the NSDS. The two guidelines are designed to assist NSOs and other government institutions in establishing systems and developing capabilities that enable them to attain a desired data maturity level.

NSDS and communications

A communications strategy provides both a strategic vision and a roadmap for communications over the long term. The strategic foundation of a strategy helps align communications activities and messaging with national statistical office processes and frameworks, such as NSDS. A communications strategy helps an organisation map out a series of activities and programmes that not only enable it to engage with key stakeholders (internal and external) in an effective and streamlined way, but also help it reach its core objectives.

3. Objectives and Expected Results

The objective of the training course is to strengthen the capacity of NSOs and national planning agencies senior managers to, a) Prepare NSDSs that can be effectively implemented to cope with prevailing global economic crisis; b) learn how NSDSs can bolster SDG monitoring efforts to the overall agenda for statistical development at the country-level, c) understand the need for transformation and modernisation in the evolving digital environment for official statistics, and, d) learn how to communicate NSDSs to advocate for its design and implementation. The training will also include the sharing of country experiences to broaden knowledge about evolving NSDSs in dynamic global environments and promote peer exchange, among other objectives.

More specifically, participants will:

- i. Understand the modern NSDS life cycle and considerations for developing NSDS that nurture resilient, agile, and sustainable statistical systems.
- ii. Discuss special topics, namely, the Voluntary National Review, Climate Change data, Transformation and Modernisation Enablers, Innovation and New Technologies (Artificial Intelligence), and considerations for effective NSDSs.
- iii. Explore best practices related to communications necessary to advocate for the NSDS during its development and implementation.
- iv. Share country practices and experiences in designing and implementing cost-effective NSDSs, the Role of NSOs in Voluntary National Reviews, and the adoption of Transformation and Modernisation Enablers in NSDSs.

4. Participants

The training course is targeted at senior managers of NSOs and national planning agencies in Asia-Pacific:

- a. NSO – responsible for the overall planning and design of the NSDS/strategic plan on statistics and/or implementation of the NSDS; committed to carry out and lead in coordinating the

NSDS activities and processes; have knowledge and/or involved in the preparation of national indicator monitoring framework.

- b. National planning agency – responsible for the preparation of the national development planning framework specifically in designing the indicator monitoring framework for the national plan / SDGs and has keen understanding of data and statistics.

Participants are expected to share/present country practices and experiences in national development planning and strategic planning in statistics to enrich cross-country learning. Please be prepared to participate in interactive breakout sessions during the training.

5. Date and venue

- 18-20 November 2025
- Virtual sessions: 90 minutes for each day.

6. Proposed Training Agenda

Time (Tokyo time)	Agenda Item	Facilitator/Trainer/ Speaker
DAY 1: Tuesday 18 November 2025		
16:00 - 16:15	Welcome participants and housekeeping information	SIAP
16:15 – 16:25	Opening message Director SIAP Deputy Head of PARIS21	SIAP PARIS21
	Overview of the training programme <i>Objectives/goals; agenda</i>	PARIS21
16:25 – 17:00	Designing NSDSs in time of funding uncertainty: • Defining priority and impactful actions • Realistic costing and partnerships • Adoption of new methodologies	PARIS21
	Experience sharing: Prioritisation and alignment to global, regional and national indicators -DD/SS	NSO, Bangladesh
17:00 – 17:30	Discussions	All participants
DAY 2: Wednesday 19 November 2025		
16:00 - 16:45	From Data to Impact: Leveraging the NSDS in the Digital Era. • T&M Enablers - Understanding your data maturity level and working towards the desired state. • Understanding AI Readiness for an NSO.	PARIS21 All participants
	Experience sharing: How Transformation & Modernisation has strengthened their data maturity. Discussions	NSO, Indonesia
16:45 – 17:30	Climate change data as a cornerstone of a future-ready NSDS:	PARIS21 All participants

Time (Tokyo time)	Agenda Item	Facilitator/Trainer/ Speaker
	- An ecosystems approach to climate change data through strategic planning - Inviting new actors to amplify the impact of data Discussions	
DAY 3: Thursday 20 November 2025		
16:00 - 16:45	Integrating the Voluntary National Review (VNR) perspective in the NSDS process to strengthen the role of NSOs. - Bridging NSO mandate with the SDG implementation. - Harnessing NSDSs to support the "Leave-no-one behind" principle.	PARIS21 All participants
	Experience sharing: How NSOs in the Asia and the Pacific engaged key data actors in the 2025 VNR process. Discussion	NSO (TBD), UNESCAP
16:45 – 17:15	Communicating the NSDS Key communications practices to advocate for the NSDS development and implementation. Discussions	PARIS21 All participants
17:15 – 17:30	Evaluation and closing	SIAP & PARIS21