

Regional Training Course on the NSDS
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Preparing the NSDS



PARIS 21

Partnership in Statistics for
Development in the 21st Century

NSDS Preparation Steps

1. Obtain an official commitment
2. Identify and engage stakeholders
3. Define organisational arrangements
4. Build the NSDS design team
5. Design the NSDS Roadmap
6. Endorse the NSDS

1. Official commitment

Need for a permanent political commitment over the whole NSDS.

- Requires a successful advocacy on statistics:
 - ✓ stress the importance of NSS matching the data requirements of the National Development Strategy.
- Commitment decision at Council of Ministers/ Cabinet or Parliament
 - ✓ to design and implement NSDS

2. Identify and engage stakeholders

- Identify NSS stakeholders
(i.e., government, including civil society, academia, private sector, trade unions, non-government organizations, etc.)
- Take into account representatives of the stakeholders
- Put in place processes to get them involved and establish dialogue
- Use NSDS launching process to confirm the involvement of stakeholders

3. Organisational arrangements

Players

- National Statistical Councils (when existing, should be used)
- NSOs (responsible for identifying and mobilising stakeholders)
- Donors (should be involved at the NSDS preparation stage)

3. Organisational arrangements

Set up a three level structure

- Steering Committee/National Statistics Council
- Technical Working Committee
- Sector Working Committees

3. Organisational arrangements

3.1 Steering Committee/National Statistics Council

- **Composition:**
 - ✓ High level officials and representatives of government as major stakeholders
- **Role and function:**
 - ✓ To give political backing
 - ✓ Reports to the Minister in charge of Statistics

3. Organisational arrangements

3.2 *Technical working committee*

- **Composition:**
 - ✓ Permanent Secretary of the Steering Committee
 - ✓ NSDS coordinator
- **Role and function:**
 - ✓ Assist in developing procedures, organising meetings, accessing and allocating funds, recruiting consultants.
 - ✓ Synthesize and articulate the work carried out at sector level.

3. Organisational arrangements

3.3 Sector working committees

- **Composition:**
 - ✓ Interested and concerned stakeholders
 - ✓ Donors/development partners (optional)
- **Role and function:**
 - ✓ Develop sector strategies and action plan
 - ✓ Assist national consultants to prepare the committee working papers

3. Organisational arrangements

Important considerations:

- Establish organisational structure through a decision of the Council of Ministers or Minister in charge of Statistics.
- Set clear roles and responsibilities of various committees, their functions and reporting mechanisms.
- Set clear terms of reference of the NSDS coordinator and consultants.

4. Building the NSDS design team

- **Composition:**

- ✓ Technical Working Committee - should be the design team (or a unit be directly attached to it)
- ✓ NSDS coordinator to lead the team

- **Role and function:**

- ✓ Main implementing body, conduct studies, write the reports, guide the overall NSDS process
- ✓ International consultant can facilitate the design, but national ownership is necessary

5. Design the roadmap

5.1 Definition

- Roadmap is the reference document for:
 - ✓ All actors involved in the design
 - ✓ Organisation of the work
 - ✓ Identification of statistical activities
 - ✓ Set up of the schedule/timeline of formulation
 - ✓ Identification of necessary resources

5. Design the roadmap

5.2 Principles

- Participatory, inclusive, based on a consensus
- Options endorsed at the highest political level
- Proposals adapted to the country conditions
- Follows a series of logical steps
- Encompasses all official statistical production
- Reflects international statistical standards, concepts and frameworks
- Takes into account the experiences in similar countries

5. Design the roadmap

5.3 Suggested template

- Introduction – to include general context, former or present NSDS, justification for a new NSDS.
- Objectives of roadmap – to include preparation of the NSDS, steps, timetable, roles, resources.
- Expected results – a final, agreed and implementable NSDS.

5. Design the roadmap

5.3 Suggested template (continued)

- NSDS costed and owned by its stakeholders.
- Intermediate reports (diagnosis, vision, strategy) validated (workshops).
- NSDS integrated in national development policy and plans.
- Organisation and division of roles precisely defined.

5. Design the roadmap

5.3 Suggested template (continued)

- Tasks and timetable defined.
- Budget and resources mentioned.
- Monitoring and revision procedures defined.

6. Endorsement

6.1 Political endorsement at the highest level to:

- Start the NSDS process.
- Approve the roadmap.
- Validate the intermediary results (diagnosis, visions, strategy, work plans).
- Approve the final version of the NSDS, including the cost of activities and funding modalities for implementation.

6. Endorsement

6.2 Participatory process

- Involves producers and users of statistics, and development partners at all phases:
 - ✓ NSDS design/formulation
 - ✓ NSDS implementation
- Consensus reached among all stakeholders

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