

**First Sub-regional Workshop on
Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Concept Note

The data and statistics requirements for supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a transformation of official statistical systems. Such a transformation calls for modernization of statistical business processes, strengthened institutional coordination, effective use of integrated statistical frameworks and leveraging partnerships forged by the data revolution that focus on using new data sources for SDG implementation. Towards this end, ESCAP is facilitating the crafting of a collective vision and framework for action for Asia and the Pacific to guide the transformation and arrive at a consensus on key action areas to be undertaken at the national, sub-regional, regional, inter-regional and global levels. A draft, for consideration of member States at the 5th session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in December 2016, will be formulated at the 24-26 August 2016 *Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming Official Statistics for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

This regional conference will be followed by facilitated discussions and capacity-building on implementation considerations at the level of sub-regions and eventually at the national level through a series of sub-regional and national workshops that will bring together SDG focal points of the national SDG coordination mechanisms and national statistical offices.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be invited to send participants to this first sub-regional workshop. Experts from ESCAP, PARIS21 and United Nations Country Teams will facilitate the workshop.

Objectives of the Workshop

This workshop is designed to facilitate discussions and build capacity to translate into concrete terms the proposed regional vision and action areas into sub-regional and national level actions. Specifically, the workshop will

1. Provide participants with a clear understanding of the emerging SDG indicator architecture and links and implications to existing indicator-based monitoring

- frameworks¹ and building national statistical capacity to provide relevant data to monitor development progress;
2. Facilitate consideration and formulation of national and sub-regional implementation strategies and actions of the proposed regional framework for action; and
 3. Support the development of appropriate indicator frameworks for SDGs implementation by equipping participants with knowledge, skills and tools needed for a systematic assessment and identification of data shortfalls due to inadequate disaggregation, reporting, financing and methodology.

The workshop objectives will be achieved by building on and sharing the results from the initiatives that have already been taken, to map availability of SDG data and indicators and assess national readiness for implementation of SDGs.

Expected Outputs

1. Recommendations on strategies and national and sub-regional actions for implementing proposed regional action framework for transforming official statistics
2. Sample output that demonstrates ability to use ADAPT for developing indicator frameworks for national development plans, including identifying gaps in data, reporting, financing and disaggregation
3. Design and operational plans for follow-on national-level workshop that specifies time-bound actions to be taken by countries to increase statistical capacity and close gaps in the production of indicators required for national and global monitoring of the SDGs

Topics of Workshop

This 5-day sub-regional workshop will cover the following:

- SDG Indicator Architecture: An Overview
- National development plans, indicators and the SDGs: Linking and integrating
- Vision and action areas for transforming official statistics to support SDGs implementation: Investing, innovation, integration and modernization
- Tools and toolkits for determining and improving ‘SDG data readiness’: Focus on ADAPT [Potential and applications for planning, costing and charting indicators for monitoring development
- Action planning: sub-regional and national implementation strategies and actions

¹ Including but not limited to national indicators under national development plans, sub-regional frameworks such as ASEAN or SAARC, and regional frameworks including UN ESCAP’s disability, CRVS

Targeted participants

To ensure that the objectives of the workshop are met, the sub-regional workshop will bring together teams of participants from countries consisting of:

- A senior representative from the planning department, ideally also serving on the SDG steering committee where they exist, or person responsible for overseeing SDG implementation from the planning organization in their respective countries
- Senior NSO staff leading the SDG work

Pre-workshop requirements:

1. Country teams will be requested to bring documents on national/sectoral development plans including information on goals and targets and data and indicators. The information should include:
 - Relevant national development plan/strategy/goals & targets
 - Name of corresponding indicators
 - Agency responsible for production
 - Frequency of production
 - Source data
 - Method of computation
 - Levels of disaggregation required
2. For purposes of the workshop, in particular learning the use of ADAPT, country teams should ensure that they have detailed information on a subset of priority indicators that may be selected on the basis of priority national development goals or SDG goals or sectors.
3. For countries for which SDG data readiness assessments have been conducted and/or have undertaken mapping of national indicator frameworks to global SDGs indicators, country teams will be invited to present the methods used for assessment and/or mapping and the results.
4. For countries with a national action plan or strategy for monitoring progress of their national development plans/SDGs, country teams will be invited to share information on the process at arriving at the action plan or strategy (including information on the coordinating mechanism put in place) and the plan/strategy.
