UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for High-Level Official Statisticians

30-31 May 2017
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Concept Note

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the need for quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to help with measurement of progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals, ensuring that no one is left behind.

In this context, the 2030 Agenda emphasizes the importance, among others, of the use of data and information from existing reporting mechanisms where possible; to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts; and to build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress to complement gross domestic product.

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs; https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/) has, as mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its March 2015 session,[1] developed an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. The framework classifies indicators in a three-tiered system, which reflects the challenges that national statistical systems worldwide face in fulfilling the statistics requirements of the agenda, as well as the need for the framework to evolve over time.

The need to accelerate the strengthening of statistical capacity to meet the statistics requirements of the 2030 Agenda is accompanied by a wider recognition of the

---

[1] See E/CN.3/2017/5, https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf, for the status of the work of the IAEG-SDGs.

need to transform and modernize official statistics around a standards-based architecture, also involving "… high-level political commitment to enable access to and the use of administrative sources, big data and geospatial information for statistical purposes, secured through the appropriate national legislative frameworks and through partnerships established with public and private data providers", requiring "enhanced training of, and leadership dialogues with, the senior managers of the national statistical agencies."[2]

The *Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for High-Level Official Statisticians*, scheduled to be held on 30-31 May 2017, in Baku, Azerbaijan, is being organized in the context of fulfilling the statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda and the transformative agenda for official statistics. The workshop will bring the heads and senior managers of the national statistical offices (NSOs) of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan together to exchange experiences and lessons from national SDG data readiness assessments, mappings of national indicators to the global framework, and the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of National Strategies for the Developments of Statistics (NSDSs). Mindful of the challenges that at least some of these countries are facing in producing and disseminating basic ranges of statistics, the workshop aims to facilitate discussion on priority actions for accelerated strengthening of statistical capacity, with a focus on the need to enhance the skills base of staff of entities within national statistical systems through training.

The workshop will benefit from the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistics community, generally endorsed by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at its December 2016 session, and the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Conference: Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics for the 2030 Agenda held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27-28 March 2017.

The workshop will also build on the outcomes of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)-SIAP training course on NSDSs for high-level officials of the NSOs of Central and North Asian countries held at the SIAP premises on 15-17 November 2016.

Experts from SIAP will facilitate the workshop.

---

[2] E/CN.3/2017/5, para. 4; https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-5-TransformativeAgenda-E.pdf.

Objectives

The objective of the workshop is to enhance the capacity of heads of national statistical offices and their senior managers to provide leadership to national statistical systems to prioritize actions for the accelerated development of a solid framework of SDG indicators and statistical data meeting the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the need to enhance the skills base of staff through training.

Expected outputs

1. Recommendations on priority actions for the accelerated development of a solid framework of SDG indicators and statistical data meeting the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the need to enhance the skills base of staff through training
2. Inform the work of the IAEG-SDGs through Kyrgyzstan as member of the group
3. Inform the work on the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistics community
4. Inform the work of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

Topics

The workshop will cover the following:

1. Country data availability for Tier I indicators and any needs to improve data quality, frequency and disaggregation, where relevant
2. Country / subregional readiness to produce Tier II indicators and this context, among others, needs to modernize statistical business processes, adjust legal and institutional frameworks, and enhance the skills base of staff
3. Country / subregional needs for indicators not currently included in the global framework
4. Status of implementation, evaluation and the design of the next iteration of each country's NSDS, including scope for (enhancing) relevant country-to-country exchange of expertise
5. Training needs in the context, among others, of the work of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific; scope for (enhancing) relevant country-to-country exchange of expertise; enhancing the skills of official statisticians in areas such as business case development, communication and

negotiation; imparting relevant statistical training to decision makers outside national statistical system.

Participants

- Two representatives, namely the head of the NSO and a senior colleague, of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- Representatives of national statistical systems of other countries and relevant international organizations may attend on a self-funding basis
- In addition to the chairman and a senior manager, approximately 20 AZSTAT staff members as observers

Pre-workshop requirements

1. Participants are expected to be familiar with the work:
   a. Of the IAEG-SDGs on the global framework:
      i. Report of the IAEG-SDGs for the March 2017 session of the United Nations Statistical Commission:
         - English: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf
         - Russian: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-2-IAEG-SDGs-R.pdf
      ii. Tier classification for the global indicator framework: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-04/Tier%20Classification%20of%20SDG%20Indicators_21%20Dec%20for%20website.pdf
   b. On the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community on advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda:
      i. Report for the December 2016 session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics:
         - English: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_.CST(5).1.Collective_Vision.English.pdf
         - Russian: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_.CST(5).1.Collective_Vision.Russian.pdf
      ii. Asia-Pacific Conference: Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics for Agenda 2030, 27-28 March 2017: http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-conference-taking-collective-action-accelerate-transformation-official

    c. Of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific:

        i. SIAP website: http://www.unsiap.or.jp/tnetwork/index.html

        ii. Report for the December 2016 session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics:

- English: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_.CST(5).8.Report_of_Network_SIAP.English_0.pdf
- Russian: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_.CST(5).8.Report%20of%20Network%20SIAP.Russian.pdf

2. Participants will be requested to provide relevant country information prior to the workshop as per a template to be developed by SIAP.

****