UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

and

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Regional Course on SDGs Indicators:

Measuring decent work in the context of the SDGs

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Collaborating agencies: United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (**SIAP**), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**); International Labour Organization (**ILO**).

I. Introduction:

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations summit in September 2015 and the subsequent identification of a comprehensive global indicator framework have re-emphasised the need to produce statistics at the national, regional and global levels as indispensable for monitoring progress towards the defined goals and targets. Being universal, the agenda requires more empirical evidence and benchmarks and has called for a "data revolution".

Decent work is central to efforts to reduce poverty and is a means for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. The importance of decent work in achieving sustainable development has been recognized by the 2030 global development agenda, as highlighted by Goal 8 which aims to "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all", but also as enshrined in many other Goals and Targets of the SDGs.

To contribute to the monitoring of SDGs decent work related Targets, countries will need to further strengthen their labour market statistical systems across a range of activities including:

- Implementation of the most recent labour statistics standards, such as the resolution on work statistics from the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (19th ICLS);

- Strong coordination between various data producers and data users;

- Technical capacity to plan, design and implement surveys and other statistical sources;

- Capacity to produce and disseminate relevant and sound analysis, and to monitor

progress towards Decent Work within the context of SDGs; and

- Enhance international comparability of statistical concepts while adapting global indicators to national realities.

Building on long experience in delivering training on labour market statistics, the ILO Department of Statistics, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the UNESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific have prepared this Regional Course of SDGs, with focus on SDG decent work indicators. The course is a shortened regional version of the ILO Labour Market Statistics Academy (LMSA), organised annually in Turin by the ILO Department of Statistics and the ILO International Training Centre (ITC).

II. Objectives:

The main objective of the Course is to better equip and situate national and international stakeholders in the new SDGs statistical monitoring system. It is designed to enhance institutional capacity to identify, collect, analyse and disseminate labour market information and other indicators related to decent work. It emphasises the 19th ICLS resolution on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization as an important pillar of the new SDG indicator framework, not only for targets in Goal 8 but also in other Goals related to the decent work agenda.

More specifically, the Course will aim to:

- Enhance understanding about the new SDG indicator framework including the link to the international system defined by the UN for national and global monitoring;

- Expand knowledge on how decent work-related SDGs and targets could be monitored using existing international statistical standards;

- Foster better understanding and operationalization of key international statistical standards including the 19th ICLS resolution on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization;

- Promote best practices in labour force surveys, including sample and questionnaire design;

- Promote gender mainstreaming in the production of labour statistics and in the definition of the relevant SDG indicators;

- Promote sound statistical data processing and analysis of indicators by demonstrating good practices in labour market information systems and SDG monitoring strategies.

III. Target audience:

Representatives of ILO member States in Asia and the Pacific (a) with existing regular data collection systems of labour statistics, such as those with labour force surveys, aiming to review and improve their data; and (b) countries with immediate plans to implement labour statistics systems or related surveys.

The target qualification of the Course includes:

- Labour Statisticians from national statistical offices, ministries of labour and related institutions (such as labour observatories), other ministries or government institution in charge of SDG statistical monitoring;

- Employment and development policy analysts from national statistical offices, government ministries, research and academic institutions, international organisations and donor organisations; and

- Officials responsible for managing the production and dissemination of labour market statistics, particularly for the SDG national reporting.

Countries will be invited to nominate potential participants. Nominees should be middle-level to senior-level with the above qualifications. Nominees should have experience working on labour force statistics as survey statisticians, and/or data analysts in support of policy analysis on labour market information, and have some awareness of sustainable development goals. At most two *qualified* participants per country will be accepted for the training; selection will be based on the information provided in the nomination form for the course.

The provisional list of proposed countries for the 2018 Course is as follow**: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam**. Additional institutions to be invited will include: **ADB, ASEAN, SPC, and UNESCAP** Statistics.

IV. Course methodology and content, main modules:

The training methodology for this course is designed to ensure a 'learning-by-doing' process that encourages the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices among participants. It will combine lectures by experts and practitioners with participatory individual exercises and group work. Country experience and examples will have a great part in the content.

The Course will follow a path that starts from reviewing the understanding of main SDGs decent work indicators, data sources, and data collection methods; to data processing of microdata and other sources to produce the indicators; and the interpretation and use of the indicators for analysis and policy formulation.

The Course will be organised in the following 3 modules:

Module One: Conceptual framework of SDG decent work indicators

- Statistical definition of main SDGs decent work indicators

- Mapping national practices and definitions to international definitions: Issues and practices in aiming for international comparability

- Main sources of data: international recommendations and national practice

- Data collection programmes: international recommendations, national experiences.

Module Two: Data production and analysis

Focus on data preparation, micro data management, and the use of statistical software ensuring alignment with international standards, metadata and data quality; data interpretation. Concrete work groups using STATA.

- Producing estimates of main SDGs decent work indicators: international and national practices, and comparability issues

- Presenting and using statistics on main SDGs indicators for identifying target groups left behind, national policy making, and international reporting.

Module Three: Way forward

- Country plans for SDGs decent work indicators data production, labour statistics systems, etc;

- Possible support from ESCAP Regional Programmes (Economic Statistics, Population and Social Statistics, Gender Statistics, SIAP training courses, etc.).

V. Training Design:

The training course will cover the topics listed above. It is designed to present/review concepts and definitions and measurement methods and to discuss practical issues and possible solutions relating to their applications and use. The course is organized into modules; each module consists of a set of training sessions. Training activities within each training session will be a mix of expert presentations on the main topics, country-led discussions and presentations on applications, issues and lessons learned and working-with-data/design small-group work.

VI. Preparatory Activities:

Participants to the course need to prepare a summary country report that covers the following:

● Status of labour force data and statistics

1. SDG decent work-related indicators, with a focus on those for which ILO is proposed as the custodian agency
2. Presentation of time series of available SDGs decent work indicators.

● Data collection programmes and plans covering SDGs decent work indicators.