

# **High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB)**

## **Concept note on the participation of issue partners in the work of the HLG-PCCB**

(15 August 2016; revised 12 April 2020)

### **1. Mandate of the HLG-PCCB**

The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) consists of the chief statisticians from 22 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) representing the continental regions of the World<sup>1</sup> with the chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) as an ex-officio member. The main purpose of the HLG-PCCB is to provide strategic leadership in addressing the statistical capacity needs of NSOs in the follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicator framework. To achieve this, the HLG-PCCB coordinates closely with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), its sister working group responsible for the technical specifications of the SDG indicator framework. To facilitate the exchange, the co-chairs of each group are included in each other's meetings to share updates and connect the work of these two UNSC bodies.

In January 2017 at the first UN World Data Forum (UNWDF), the HLG-PCCB launched the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) to address the key data and statistical capacity needs of National Statistical Systems (NSS), of which the NSO is the focal point. The UNWDF, now held every 2 years, under the leadership and guidance of the HLG-PCCB continues to be a primary mechanism to engage the wider data ecosystem to discuss expanding capacity needs, foster partnerships and cooperation (both inter-governmental and public-private) and showcase potential solutions. To provide a more routine mechanism to discuss these issues, the HLG-PCCB meets up to three times a year outside of the UNWDF cycle.

### **2. Purpose of this concept note**

To accomplish the HLG-PCCB's mandate, there is a clear need for a frequent and well-defined method of engagement with the wider data ecosystem<sup>2</sup> as non-members and

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<sup>1</sup> Chief Statistician are chosen as follows; 5 from the Asia and Pacific region, 3 from Northern Africa and Western Asia, 5 from Northern America and Europe, 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 4 from Sub-Saharan Africa.

<sup>2</sup> See Section E for further details.

observers (hereafter called issue partners) in its work. The intention of this concept note is to describe a set of working methods to enable the timely collection of key inputs from issue partners thereby ensuring the quality of the HLG-PCCB's outputs and the integrity and transparency of its processes; while at the same time, balance this with the need for the work to proceed in a focused, deliberate and efficient manner. This concept note describes the modalities of the HLG-PCCB engagement with issue partners, either through its in-person or virtual meetings. It outlines the involvement of issues partners on specific agenda items at meetings and in specific areas of work. This concept note will be reviewed and revised in agreement among HLG-PCCB members as needed.

### 3. Methods of engagement

Since 2016, the HLG-PCCB has adopted the practice of including issue partners in some segments of its meetings. Below are the recommended methods of engagement for the conduct and communication of HLG-PCCB work processes and products.

#### A. In-person meetings:

The HLG-PCCB will convene up to three in-person meetings per year, according to the following schedule:

Meeting schedule	Type of meeting*
March (in alignment with the UNSC every year)	Closed**
Spring / Summer	Open***
Fall (in alignment with the UNWDF every 2 years)	Open***
* In general, <i>closed meetings</i> will feature logistics and strategic planning items on its agenda and <i>open meetings</i> will feature information and discussion items on its agenda.	
** <i>Closed meetings</i> are available to HLG-PCCB members, standing issue partners, and relevant Secretariat staff only.	
*** <i>Open meetings</i> are open to HLG-PCCB members, standing issue partners and invited issue partners. Co-chairs, in consultation with the rest of the membership, may choose to invite issue partners on a thematic basis (see section E below).	

#### B. Virtual meetings and teleconferences:

Considering the availability of limited resources, the HLG-PCCB will consider the use of virtual meetings for specific topics or to replace in-person meetings when necessary. These virtual meetings will be facilitated by the Secretariat. Those meetings on a specific topic will generally be closed and used to concentrate on a specific task such as

the review and finalisation of the UNWDF programme; however, co-chairs may invite issue partners at the recommendation of members (See section E below).

### C. Electronic consultations:

The HLG-PCCB is expected to produce several outputs. These materials will be made available on the Secretariat (United Nations Statistics Division) website as described below:

1. For meeting agendas and meeting minutes/action items:

Document version	Access to non-members
Draft (by Secretariat)	Closed
Final (following HLG-PCCB review)	Open

2. For major work products outputs of the HLG-PCCB (e.g., global action plan; list of strategic priorities; schedule of deliverables; UNWDF theme proposals, call for papers/presentations, the programme and other materials):

Document version	Access to non-members
Draft (by Secretariat)	Closed
Final draft (following HLG-PCCB review)	Open
Final (following public consultation, where applicable)	Open

### D. Website communication

The HLG-PCCB will publish documents pertinent to its work when their status is “open” on the public website and when “closed” on its member-only wiki page, detailed as follows:

Open website:	<a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/</a>
Closed website (Member’s only wiki page):	<a href="https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/HLG/HLG-PCCB+for+the+2030+Agenda+members-only">https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/HLG/HLG-PCCB+for+the+2030+Agenda+members-only</a>

### E. Issue Partners:

To engage the wider data ecosystem in its work, the HLG-PCCB will invite issue partners with expertise in a specific area of interest to contribute their technical advice and share their experiences. The criteria for their invitation will depend on the strategic priorities established by the HLG-PCCB and according to the nature of the topics for discussion at each meeting or stage of a workstream. Before HLG-PCCB meetings, co-chairs will agree upon the issue partners to invite based on the recommendation of HLG-PCCB members and the items on the agenda.

**Standing issue partners:**

At its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2018, the group decided to include the Partnership in statistics for development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (PARIS21) as a “standing issue partner”. As a “standing issue partner”, the organization is invited to attend all open segments of the meetings.

**Occasional issue partners:**

Select members of the UNWDF Programme Committee members are invited to the HLG-PCCB meeting immediately following the UNWDF to reflect on the forum and its outcome.

**Potential issue partners:**

Some potential issue partners from the wider data ecosystem include but are not limited to the following:

- Experts working in specific topics
- Representatives from the Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN)
- Representatives from regional organizations such as the UN regional commissions, Eurostat, OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) among others
- Experts from the geospatial, data science and information technology sector
- Experts from the donor and philanthropic community involved in the resourcing and financing of statistics
- Experts from academia and professional bodies such as the International Statistical Institute (ISI), civil society, the private sector, and the media