

Statistical capacity building

Prepared by UNSD

Framework for discussion:

1. What would be the desired outcome of improved coordination of technical cooperation for statistical capacity building?
 - Use support and resources more efficiently and promote synergy
 - Avoid duplications
 - Identify gaps in the coverage of all relevant statistical areas and in addressing countries' needs and in geographical coverage
2. What are the shortcomings in the way the various development partners and donors implement programmes and projects today?
 - Inconsistency between international development partners strategies/approaches and national priorities
 - Inconsistency across various international development partners strategies/approaches
 - Issues linked to the increasing involvement of international agencies in capacity building activities with a broader scope—consequent overlapping and duplications
 - Different mechanisms of operation of bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors
 - Role of various agencies—some operate on specialized fields, while others cover a wider range of statistical areas
 - Ways of operating of international agencies—the ones with country/regional offices versus the ones without field offices; agencies dealing with different counterparts (NSOs or different line ministries)
3. What does coordination of technical cooperation activities imply at the different levels?
 - Coordination at the international level: Inter-agency and inter-governmental processes and the role of CCSA
CCSA can set the basic rules; UNSC can endorse rules/principles (for instance something on the lines of the 1999 Principles adopted by Statistical Commission), make recommendations, review global initiatives (such as MAPS, HMN, etc.); IAEG can review global initiatives linked to the improvement of indicators + monitoring tools; etc.
 - Coordination at the national level
The recipient statistical system plays the coordinating role, ensuring that all initiatives are developed and undertaken within their National Statistical Development Strategies.
 - Coordination at the thematic level

The agencies responsible for specific statistical fields/areas of work can play the key role in setting up the coordination mechanisms.

4. The way forward

- Improve exchange of information and transparency
Mechanisms of reporting of statistical capacity building activities
(*Light reporting exercise on donor activities in Africa, PARIS21*)
- Integrate technical cooperation programmes in statistics in the overall context of technical assistance in all other relevant sectors
A good example of a framework to help set clear objectives and integrate the different components is provided by PRS and PRS monitoring systems.
- Ensure that all initiatives be designed and implemented within the overall framework of NSDS
- Promote the design of joint or complementary projects and activities involving all stakeholders in the country/region
- Promote the full involvement of regional and sub-regional institutions in the coordination of technical assistance activities and in establishing networks for communication and cooperation among countries in the region.
- Promote coordination mechanisms developed around specific substantive programmes with key agencies in the substantive area taking a leading role.
Possible areas are:
 - Household survey programmes
 - Population census programme
 - Civil registration and vital statistics
 - Economic statistics
 - Data retrieval and dissemination infrastructure and IT plans
 - Training
- Possible CCSA initiatives:
 - One or half day could be set aside at each CCSA session for side events on programmatic areas to exchange information on capacity building and agree on common strategies and ways of implementation
 - Endorsement of guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation for statistical capacity building
 - Practical initiatives to improve sharing of information and optimize use of resources (such as compilation of a list of training institutions and programmes; sharing of rosters of consultants; etc.)