

CCSA joint statement on agenda item 3 (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; document E/CN.3/2016/3 Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building (lead agency: UNSD in cooperation UN-Habitat, AfDB and UNEP)

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA):

Welcomes the report of the High-level Group and note its twin focus on (i) promoting national ownership of the post-2015 monitoring system, and (ii) fostering statistical capacity building and coordination – issues which are particularly important to developing regions of the world. National ownership of the post-2015 monitoring system is critical for it to be effective. Secondly, statistical capacity and coordination have severally been identified as main challenges to statistical development and programme implementation in developing regions of the world, and indeed they will manifest themselves in implementation of the post-2015 monitoring system. The focus on fostering capacity in the two areas is, therefore, seen as an important task for the group. Referring to the membership of the group, we, particularly, note the very welcome provision for regional and international statistical organizations to play an active contributing role as observers, as agreed by the Commission at its 46th session. For instance, the co-chairs of CCSA could represent the international statistical organizations during the deliberations of the group.

Our international statistical community – consisting of national statistical offices as well as the international statistical agencies – faces enormous challenges with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related increased demand for high quality and sustainable information at the national, regional and global level.

The CCSA and its members certainly stand ready to constructively contribute to the development of a global action plan for data that will foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination at all levels. Our mandates, as custodians of internationally-agreed methodological standards and statistical databases in specific domain areas, as well as our ample experience in capacity-building and coordination put us in an excellent position to support countries in the implementation of the challenging 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We are looking forward to working closely with national statistical systems in order to support their efforts to modernize, harmonize and streamline data infrastructures and data flows. For example, the implementation of international standards such as SDMX can play an important role in lessening countries' reporting burden. We also stand ready to engage constructively with other stakeholders involved in the monitoring of the SDGs. We are committed to building on the experiences learnt with the MDGs, especially in our close cooperation with national statisticians in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG indicators.

Finally, the UN World Data Forum will be an excellent opportunity not only to intensify the partnership between national and international statistical agencies, but also to explore innovative new partnerships and collaborations, including with academia, the private sector and civil society..

We reiterate our commitment to actively support all the activities of the High Level Group.