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Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2022/324 and past practices, provides a description of the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It contains a description of: (a) the work carried out to prepare the annual report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/2022/55](#)); (b) the work undertaken to update the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database; and (c) the release of an improved version of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Data Platform.

In addition, the present report contains updates on: (a) the Data for Now initiative, jointly convened by the United Nations, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the World Bank and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network; (b) the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes; (c) the project of the Statistics Division funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to support countries on Goal monitoring; (d) the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training; (e) the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians; and (f) work related to citizen-generated data.

The Commission is invited to take note of the work carried out and to comment on the progress of the work and the proposed programme of work. Action to be taken by the Commission is set out in paragraph 46 of the present report.

* [E/CN.3/2023/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. In its decision 53/102, the Statistical Commission expressed its appreciation for the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, carried out in collaboration and cooperation with the United Nations system, to support the systematic follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021*, the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database and the launch of the new Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Data Platform. It also requested the Statistics Division to consider ways to address the need for a distinction between developed and developing regions. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the capacity development activities carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners to assist Member States in making data on the Goals available. It supported the Data for Now initiative to build capacity in countries to utilize new data sources and suggested that the initiative should be extended to more countries, and supported the work of the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes and the continuation of efforts to advance a federated system of national and global data hubs. It expressed its appreciation for the efforts and achievements of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training and the establishment of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians. It recognized the usefulness of citizen-generated data to fill data gaps, welcomed the efforts of the Statistics Division in the development of the toolkit on incorporating citizen-generated data into official statistics and requested a sharing of best practices in that area.

II. Sustainable Development Goals progress reports for 2022

2. In 2022, the Statistics Division produced a series of reports and publications reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including: (a) the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2022/55); (b) *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*;¹ (c) the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022;² (d) Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2022;³ (e) the extended *Sustainable Development Goal Report* platform;⁴ and (f) “Bringing data to life: SDG human impact stories from across the globe”.⁵

3. In his report on progress towards the Goals, the Secretary-General reviews the progress made on the 2030 Agenda amid the multiple and interlinked global crises – the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the climate crisis and conflicts – using the most recent available data and estimates.

4. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022* is presented in an interactive platform on the Statistics Division website, using appealing visual storytelling, including through infographics, to make the data on progress towards the Goals more accessible and understandable to a wider audience. It provides in-depth analysis of select indicators, both globally and across regions, supported by an array of charts and maps.

5. The Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022 presents a snapshot of global and regional progress towards selected targets under the 17 Goals of the 2030

¹ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022>.

² Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart>.

³ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/gender-snapshot/2022>.

⁴ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/extended-report>.

⁵ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/flip-book>.

Agenda through a traffic-light dashboard. Both of the aforementioned reports and the progress chart informed the discussion at the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

6. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2022 was prepared jointly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Statistics Division. The publication contains the most recent data on gender equality across all 17 Goals, focusing on how women and girls are disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. In addition to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, an extended report platform was set up to provide more detailed information and additional resources for each indicator, prepared by custodian agencies, that could not be included in the publication owing to space constraints. Further, the Statistics Division developed a flipbook entitled “Bringing data to life”, which collects and showcases the faces and stories behind the data found in global figures related to the Goals. The flipbook captures the real-life stories of people who are struggling to get out of poverty, battling the effects of climate change in their daily lives and dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other challenges. The publication is based on inputs provided by United Nations information centres and other United Nations entities.

III. Database

8. The reports are accompanied by a comprehensive statistical annex⁶ and supplemented by the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database.⁷ The Database contains the data on the global indicators used in the above-mentioned reports and includes both country-level data and regional and global aggregates. As at 3 November 2022, it included data for 219 of the 231 unique indicators and more than 2.3 million data records. An accompanying metadata repository⁸ provides the metadata for the indicators. Access to the country-level data and the metadata ensures full transparency with regard to the data and methodologies used for global reporting.

9. The Database and metadata repository are maintained by the Statistics Division and contain data and metadata provided by international agencies and entities, which are referred to as custodian agencies, in accordance with their mandates. For each value of the indicator, the custodian agency is also requested to indicate whether the national data were adjusted, estimated, modelled or the result of global monitoring.⁹ For example, national data may be adjusted for international comparability or, where data are missing, estimated. Since 2019, a more frequent Database update cycle has

⁶ Available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2022/E_2022_55_Statistical_Annex_I_and_II.pdf.

⁷ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>.

⁸ Available at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata>.

⁹ The nature of the data is determined as follows: (a) country data: produced and disseminated by the country (including data adjusted by the country to meet international standards); (b) adjusted country data: produced and provided by the country, but adjusted by the international agency for international comparability to comply with internationally agreed standards, definitions and classifications; (c) estimated: estimated on the basis of national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources but on the same variable being estimated, produced by the international agency when country data for one or more years are not available, when multiple sources exist or when there are data quality issues; (d) modelled: modelled by the agency on the basis of other covariates when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated; and (e) global monitoring data: produced on a regular basis by the designated agency for global monitoring, based on country data. There is no corresponding figure at the country level.

been implemented in order to provide users with access to more timely data. In addition to an update in July, new data and data updates are provided in March, October and December.

A. Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Data Platform

10. In September 2021, the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Data Platform was launched. In March 2022, an improved version of the Platform was released that took into account feedback from users. The Platform includes a new, user-friendly interface to the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database, where Goal indicator data can be searched and downloaded more easily and queries can be saved and shared. Country profiles can also be easily accessed. The new Goal analytics allow the interactive analysis of data availability (including for disaggregated data), the review of global and regional trends for individual indicators and the comparison of trends for countries and areas and for different indicators. The Platform includes a menu of advanced access options and convenient links to authoritative Goal indicator information and important additional resources. A beta version of a new metadata database interface provides, for the first time, metadata of the global Goal indicators in machine-readable format, thereby greatly facilitating the use and reuse of the metadata, including the translation thereof.¹⁰ A Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) application programming interface made it possible to link to and disseminate metadata along with data.

B. Work on data and metadata exchange and resources for Goal monitoring

11. The Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators further updated the global data structure definition – originally released in 2019 – to reflect the revision of the global indicator framework and new data availability and agreed to align the data structure definition updates with the database update cycle.¹¹ A draft metadata structure definition for the Goals approved by the Working Group was released at the beginning of 2020. In 2021, the Division converted all existing global metadata sets into a new harmonized metadata template. These efforts allowed the launch of the above-mentioned new metadata database, but further efforts and resources are required to operationalize automated metadata exchange. The first official metadata structure definition for Sustainable Development Goal indicators was published in February 2022.¹²

¹⁰ The Sustainable Development Goal Metadata Translation Project, which is supported by the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), collaborated with the Statistics Division to develop methods to convert Goal global metadata into machine-readable format. It now can use the Division's metadata database to provide timely source (English-language) metadata for periodic translation updates to tier 1 and 2 indicators. See <https://worldbank.github.io/sdg-metadata>. Through ongoing collaborations with the Federal Service for State Statistics of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT), Statistics Canada, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Inter-American Development Bank, metadata for global Goal indicators are available in French, Russian and Spanish.

¹¹ The latest available data structure definition is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/sdmx-working-group>.

¹² <https://registry.sdmx.org/metadata/metadatastructure.html>.

12. The reports, Data Platform and metadata repository are hosted on the Goal indicators website,¹³ which is maintained by the Statistics Division. The website also contains information on the work and activities of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the website contains rich resources related to Goal monitoring and reporting: a good practices wiki page containing country examples of good practices in Goal monitoring on data platforms, data disaggregation and the use of non-traditional data sources; a toolkit on using small area estimation for the Goals; a toolkit on data storytelling for voluntary national reviews and Goal reporting and data visualization; a practical guide for evidence-based voluntary national reviews; and a Goal monitoring and reporting toolkit for United Nations country teams.

IV. Work programme of the inter-agency working group on the global Sustainable Development Goals review

13. More than 50 international agencies and organizations contributed data and analysis to the progress reports and to the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database and metadata repository. In order to provide a working mechanism for the United Nations system to prepare the report, as mandated in the 2030 Agenda, the Statistics Division has been convening meetings and teleconferences with the entities that provide data and analysis for the preparation of the annual progress reports and the regular updating of the database. The group met on 8 June, 7 and 17 November and 1 December 2022.

14. The inter-agency working group:

- (a) Reviews and discusses plans for the production of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General and the complementary, user-friendly annual report;
- (b) Agrees on the structure, scope and coverage of the annual reports and related contributions by the relevant organizations;
- (c) Contributes to the regular updating of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database, including by providing updates and refinements to the metadata, as needed;
- (d) Exchanges information and updates on capacity development activities relating to statistics and indicators for the 2030 Agenda;
- (e) Reports annually to the Statistical Commission as part of the present report.

V. Data for Now initiative

15. The Data for Now initiative¹⁴ supports countries in the use of innovative sources, technologies and methods for the streamlined production and dissemination of better, more timely and disaggregated data on key areas related to specific Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative is co-led by the Statistics Division, the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Thematic Research Network on Data

¹³ See <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.

¹⁴ The Data for Now initiative was launched by the Deputy Secretary-General on the margins of the General Assembly in September 2019. See <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/data-for-now>.

and Statistics, in close coordination with members of the national statistical systems in participating countries and partners from across the United Nations system, the private sector, academia, civil society and the development community at large. The initiative emphasizes country ownership, sustainability and scalability as the key principles guiding the design and execution of activities. The activities are aimed at integrating new methods and sources into existing national statistical systems and are explicitly intended to avoid creating parallel data production processes at the country level.

16. Over the past year, Data for Now activities expanded to more countries, with the four core partners having secured additional funding. New partners also joined, contributing to the work. The activities involved securing high-level support and government buy-in, engaging with key providers and users of data across the national statistical system, strengthening the skills within the national statistical system to implement innovative approaches to fill data gaps, and communicating and disseminating results through the main channels of the national statistical office in each participating country. The capacity development activities of the initiative's partners are aimed at maximizing the use of online and remote delivery modes while utilizing in-person and hybrid approaches, where possible.

17. Capacity development activities of the Statistics Division under the Data for Now initiative in 2022 were focused mostly on a limited number of countries,¹⁵ supported by funding from the Governments of Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom. Priority areas of work were set based on needs as identified by each country. As an example, in Colombia, the work focused on poverty indicators, making use of geospatial information and small area estimation techniques, education indicators using geospatial and data-linking techniques, and Goal 16 indicators using social media data and natural language processing techniques. Modernization of the information technology architecture to support the implementation of innovative approaches was included as a cross-cutting area of support in most of the countries.

18. The other core partners supported additional countries and activities under the same umbrella. The Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics, for instance, supported the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana in developing an environmental improvement strategy for marine litter hotspots using citizen science data. In Rwanda, the Network supported the convening of meetings between representatives of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda and civil society organizations to improve dissemination of the upcoming population census. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data launched the Capacity Accelerator Network with Data.org to upskill African government partners and social impact organizations on the use of data for climate and health through a data science training and experiential learning fellowship programme. Across Guinea, Mali, Somalia and Togo, the Global Partnership supported national capacity strengthening in the use of innovative data partnerships and technologies such as earth observation for monitoring climate change and environmental variables.¹⁶ As an example of its engagement in data innovation and as a response to the dearth of information during the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank spearheaded a global programme of high-frequency phone surveys in close to 100 countries, addressing some of the most pressing data needs to monitor the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. Following this initial effort, and thanks to the capacity and infrastructure built, many countries

¹⁵ Countries directly supported through Data for Now-related projects in 2022 included Bangladesh, Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

¹⁶ The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data also supported Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Suriname, Uruguay and the United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar) on selected activities under the Data for Now umbrella.

are now continuing to conduct phone surveys as part of their national system of data collection to improve preparedness and response to the fast onset of shocks and crises. The Data for Now initiative also benefited greatly from direct engagement and the support of many partners. A key example was Statistics Norway, which engaged with a number of countries, including on the use of web-scraping techniques in Tunisia and geospatial approaches in Namibia.

19. In the coming year, it is expected that the partners will continue the same level of activity and engagement with countries under the Data for Now umbrella. Learning materials and data stories highlighting successes will be made available on a continuous basis for all countries to benefit from and use, as appropriate. More information about the initiative and projects can be found on the Data for Now webpages and in the background document for the present report.¹⁷

VI. Strengthening capacity for the use of administrative data for statistical purposes

20. The collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes was initiated in May 2020 as a response to the urgent need for more timely and disaggregated data to inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to respond to the pandemic and its socioeconomic effects. The collaborative is co-convened by the Statistics Division and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. In 2022, it expanded its membership to over 30 countries and 25 regional and international agencies.

21. The collaborative takes a cross-cutting approach, focusing on the process of making use of administrative data sources, from access to and engagement with administrative data holders, to data quality and interoperability considerations, to information technology and other related matters. In order to help ensure that the work does not overlap with other more thematically focused activities, an inventory of resources has been created that provides over 100 different materials, including recommendations, guidelines, courses, tools and practical case studies from countries. The collaborative also organizes webinars and expert meetings on selected topics. New practically oriented materials were also developed in the course of 2022. The inventory and other materials can be found on the homepage of the collaborative.¹⁸ The background document on the work of the collaborative provides more details on the progress made and materials developed.¹⁹

22. In 2021, a project under the thirteenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account on administrative data for disaggregated Sustainable Development Goal indicators in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America was initiated that is closely linked to the work of the collaborative. The work is led by the Statistics Division and carried out in close collaboration with regional commissions and resident coordinator offices. The project provides support to Bhutan, Cameroon, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Namibia, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania in their work to increase the use of administrative data for the production of statistics and will run until June 2024. For each country, two or three thematic areas have been chosen to ensure a specific scope, but with an overall focus on the processes for the successful engagement with and use of data from administrative data owners. The project benefits from the exchange of experiences through the collaborative and

¹⁷ The background document is entitled: “Data for Now initiative: use of innovative methods, tools and data sources for more accurate, timely and granular Sustainable Development Goal data”.

¹⁸ See <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/admin-data>.

¹⁹ The background document is entitled “The collaborative on administrative data for statistics: practical experience exchange and tool developments”.

is also expected to provide learning opportunities and materials that benefit the collaborative over time.

23. In 2022, after an initial mapping of status and needs with project countries, practical level work began. In Chile, where work is focused on the establishment of statistical population registers, a high-level event was organized with the aim of creating more understanding and interest among contributors and other stakeholders. In Bhutan and Namibia, workshops were held for the national statistical offices and around 15 administrative data holding agencies with the aim of creating a common understanding and increasing collaboration and data exchange. Additional activities are described in the background document of the collaborative on the use of administrative data.

VII. Further development cooperation and technical assistance activities of the Statistics Division on Sustainable Development Goal indicators

24. The Statistics Division completed the implementation of the project funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom to make the Goal indicators available to the broadest possible audience and to strengthen the capacity of countries in compiling and using the indicators, which covered 19 countries in Africa and Asia. The project was originally scheduled to end in July 2021 but was extended until December 2022 to both allow time to finalize ongoing activities and add new components to the work.

25. The main project objectives were the effective monitoring of the Goals and improved evidence-based policymaking. Improved capacity of the project countries, increased availability of Goal indicators at the national and international levels and improved coordination of national statistical systems for Goal indicators were key elements for achieving the objectives. National data and metadata platforms related to the Goals, the establishment of which was a key component of the project, will have been set up in all project countries by the end of 2022, with strong support from partners. Many of the platforms have been featured in the voluntary national reviews of project countries, as well as actively used by decision makers. The project countries have been taking actions to ensure that these platforms continue to be regularly updated beyond the end of the project.

26. There has been also significant progress on metadata. Seventeen countries have made their national metadata available, and more are in the process of doing so. The Statistics Division has also undertaken activities on data modelling and data exchange, using the SDMX standard. As a result, national Goal indicators from 17 project countries have already been made available on the Division's prototype data exchange website, where comparisons can be made between national and global indicators, with data from more countries expected to be added. Sixteen countries have now developed and implemented user engagement strategies, another key project activity, with more countries in the process of doing so. Overall, the level of activities continued to be high in 2022, leading to a successful conclusion of the project. Detailed information about the work can be found on the country pages developed by the Statistics Division.²⁰

27. In addition to providing direct support to the project countries, the Statistics Division has also sought to make the resources developed by the project available to support monitoring of the Goals in all countries. In particular, it developed interactive

²⁰ See <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/UNSD-FCDO>.

e-learning courses, based on the materials used for project workshops, on the following topics: compilation of metadata on the Goals; SDMX data modelling for the Goals; and user engagement and dissemination. In addition, a wide range of microlearning videos, toolkits and other resources are available from the project web page. Training and guidance have also been provided to additional countries using materials developed by the project, with funding from other sources.

28. The final year of the project included two additional, related streams of work. The first was to support some participating countries in better integrating geospatial information into statistics production, with support from the secretariat of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals geospatial road map, which was endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session, workshops were held to support the strengthening of coordination and coherence between the national statistical office, the national geospatial information agency and other relevant actors within the national data ecosystem. Secondly, linked to this, these countries were also supported in the use of innovative data sources, methods and tools to increase the availability of Goal indicators, following the Data for Now approach outlined in section V. Participating countries examined the methodology and approach to using geospatial information to produce, measure and monitor Goal indicators, with indicators selected based on national development priorities.²¹

29. The Statistics Division also produced an electronic handbook on Goal indicators, which serves as a resource and a reference for countries on the compilation of indicators.²²

30. A comprehensive overview of the Statistics Division's activities related to technical capacity-building, including those related to the implementation of the Goal indicators, is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development (E/CN.3/2023/14). In addition, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in its report (E/CN.3/2023/4), provides information on work related to the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, in its report (E/CN.3/2023/2), provides information about its work to implement the global indicator framework, such as methodological work on the indicators, and efforts by its three working groups and one task team: the Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators; the Working Group on Geospatial Information; the Working Group on Measurement of Development Support; and the Task Team on Sustainable Tourism.

VIII. Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training

31. The Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training, established to address the data demands of the 2030 Agenda and the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, continued its work to foster training in key areas of official statistics. There are currently 25 members from international agencies, regional

²¹ Goal indicators on which the participating countries (Bangladesh, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan and Rwanda) focused included indicators 1.2.1 (proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age), 2.4.1 (proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture), 9.1.1 (proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road), 11.3.1 (ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate) and 15.4.2 (Mountain Green Cover Index).

²² Available at <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/SDGeHandbook/Home>.

training institutes and national statistical offices that provide training beyond their own borders. The Network is managed by a board consisting of the Network's Chair, the three task team leaders and the secretariat. In addition, a stakeholder advisory group provides input and guidance on the direction and focus of work.

32. At its fifth annual meeting, held remotely on the margins of the fifty-third session of the Statistical Commission, the Network decided to continue the work of the task teams, as agreed in 2019, that addresses the following topics in statistical training: (a) specific demands from national statistical offices to meet data needs for the Goals; (b) an e-learning community of practice and an online gateway for training courses; and (c) statistical literacy in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The task teams have made good progress in their work. In addition, the Network agreed to emphasize outreach, communication and fundraising, as well as the translation of materials, as part of its general work.

33. In 2022, the task team on addressing specific demands from national statistical offices continued its work on sustainable statistical training programmes at the national level through engagement with pilot countries that had tested different aspects of the initial report. A consultant developed a draft tool for training needs and gap assessment jointly with a proposed approach that countries could take in prioritizing training sessions and aligning needs and resources. This work will be further tested and expanded upon in 2023.

34. The task team on an e-learning community of practice and an online gateway continued to work on improvements to the "UN SDG:Learn" landing page for courses on statistics.²³ The landing page gives an overview of available learning materials and provides links to courses offered by the various agencies. In 2022, it was agreed with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to add learning materials from custodian agencies to make it easier for countries and other partners to find all learning materials in one place. This work was initiated and will continue in 2023. The task team also agreed to work on brief guidance on the certification of courses and methodologies.

35. The task team on statistical literacy discussed various approaches for improving literacy among user groups, also initiating work on guidance on statistical literacy for official statistics. In addition, the team initiated a collaboration with the International Statistical Literacy Project, which also contributed additional materials and examples to the statistical literacy inventory.

36. Information about the current membership, outputs and plans of the Network can be found on the Network's homepage.²⁴

37. The Network held side events at various international meetings, prepared a second newsletter and continued its presence on social media, aiming to reach more users with the materials developed. The background document on the work of the Network²⁵ provides more details on the progress made and materials developed.

IX. Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians

38. Since its launch by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 20 October 2020, the Global Network of Data Officers and

²³ Available at www.unsdglearn.org/statistics.

²⁴ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/GIST>.

²⁵ The background document is entitled "Coordinating statistical training for increased accessibility and sustainability: the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)".

Statisticians²⁶ has become a thriving online professional community that continues to support national Governments in building resilient and sustainable national data and information systems for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. During the past two years, the Network has helped to improve coordination within and among national statistical systems, United Nations country teams, and international and regional organizations.

39. The Network connects existing networks, initiatives and intergovernmental bodies by providing a single and unique meeting place. With its innovative approach of an open and inclusive membership, the Network has become a vital platform for the global data and statistical community for collaboration on Goal monitoring and beyond. As of November 2022, there were more than 2,500 active members on the Network. The user base is well distributed: 50 per cent of members are from national statistical systems and Governments, 40 per cent from the United Nations system (including 140 from resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams) and 10 per cent from other international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Network has broad geographic participation from 160 countries and territories. With the goal of reaching all Member States, efforts are under way, in collaboration with colleagues from resident coordinator offices and regional commissions, to further boost the participation of underrepresented and unrepresented countries, especially Asian and African countries.

40. The flagship Global Network webinars continue to be the Network's most popular output. The webinars are demand-driven, supporting specific capacity-building needs of colleagues in national statistical systems and United Nations country teams. Over the past 12 months, the Network organized 20 webinars, attracting more than 2,300 participants. Since its launch, members have posted more than 3,300 messages to the Network. These messages were read over a quarter million times. In addition, 13 topic-specific groups were created and are being maintained by international agencies and organizations. These groups are important forums for members to collaborate and share knowledge on specialized topics, including household surveys, administrative data, machine learning, nowcasting and forecasting, environment statistics, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, geospatial data, tourism statistics, transport statistics, economic statistics, population and housing censuses, core values of official statistics and SDMX. Other groups in support of expert and city groups are in preparation.

41. The Statistics Division has launched a landing page for the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians.²⁷ The landing page gives an overview of the Network and its membership and provides links to past and upcoming Global Network webinars.

X. Better use of citizen-generated data

42. Citizen-generated data, such as community-driven data and citizen science data, are increasingly being utilized both for filling gaps to inform policy and decision-making and as complementary information by citizens, civil societies and community-based organizations in order to better reflect the realities of less visible groups more broadly. Also, national statistical offices are increasingly exploring mechanisms and tools to engage and connect with citizens and communities throughout the data value chain to make data more relevant and better utilized.

²⁶ Available at www.yammer.com/unstats.

²⁷ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/global-network-of-data-officers-and-statisticians>.

43. In this context, the Statistics Division organized an expert group meeting on the topic “Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring: a conceptual framework” on 10 and 11 November 2022 in Bangkok. The meeting was attended by more than 40 experts from national statistical offices, national and international civil society organizations and regional and international organizations.

44. The meeting discussed (a) different ways that citizens can contribute to data for advocacy, research and/or public policy; (b) challenges and opportunities in fostering close collaboration between civil society organizations and various stakeholders within national statistical systems; and (c) mechanisms for various partners to work together in harnessing the power of citizens’ contribution to data.

45. Experts agreed to establish a collaborative, co-led by the Statistics Division and partners, to bring stakeholders together, including national statistical offices, relevant entities within national statistical systems, civil society organizations, academia and regional and international organizations, to share knowledge and experiences in leveraging citizens’ contribution to data and to inform further normative work required in this area. The Statistics Division will also continue its collaboration with the International Civil Society Centre to foster collaboration among civil society organizations and national statistical offices at the national level, and to test the draft quality assurance toolkit produced by the Statistics Division for producers of citizen-generated data in various countries.

XI. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

46. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations system and its proposed programme of work, and to comment on the progress of work;**

(b) **To express its views on the Data for Now initiative;**

(c) **To express its views on the work of the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes;**

(d) **To express its views on the progress of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training;**

(e) **To express its views on the progress of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians;**

(f) **To express its views on the work on citizen-generated data.**