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Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Highlevel Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB), which is submitted to the Commission for discussion and decision.

* E/CN.3/2024/1.

I. Introduction

1. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) was established at the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission. The group is composed of representatives from 22 national statistical offices and operates under the auspices of the Statistical Commission. In its decision $46/101^{1}$, the Commission tasked the HLG-PCCB with providing strategic leadership for the implementation process relating to the Sustainable Development Goals as it concerns statistical monitoring and reporting; and fostering statistical capacity-building, partnership and coordination.

2. During 2023, a rotation of members took place in each region, as stipulated in the group's Terms of Reference, with 14 members starting their first term and 6 members starting their second term on 1 July 2023. This process was managed by the five regional statistical commissions assisted by the Statistics Divisions of those regional commissions. As part of this rotation, Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics was succeeded as co-chair by Mr. Samuel Annim, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Ms. Elsa Dhuli, Director General of the Institute of Statistics of Albania remained as the other co-chair.

3. Members of the HLG-PCCB represent their respective regions and are expected to regularly consult within them to reflect regional perspectives in the work of the group. To engage the wider data ecosystem, the group also invites issue partners, as non-members and observer participants are known, to their open meetings who contribute their technical advice and share their experiences. The group met four times during 2023 in a mix of in-person and virtual meetings. For further information on the group's Terms of Reference, it's membership, past meeting documents and summaries, and the list of standing issue partners invited to all open meetings see website: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/.

II. United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF)

A. Background

4. The UN World Data Forum is organized by the HLG-PCCB, following the UNSC decisions 46/101 at its 46th session and 48/102 at its 48th session², with substantive support from the World Data Forum Programme Committee, under the guidance of the UN Statistical Commission and in close consultation with Member States, international partners and other stakeholders. Members of the Programme Committee are selected to serve in a personal capacity and provide different perspectives from a cross section of the data and statistics community. The host country is an observer member of the Committee. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat supports the organization of the Forum in its role as secretariat of the HLG-PCCB, the Programme Committee and the Statistical Commission.

5. Every UN World Data Forum has resulted in the release of an outcome document that charts the progress of discussions around data and statistics leading up to the Forum as well as expresses the ambitions and aspirations of the community. The Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) was launched at the first UN World Data Forum to provide strategic direction on where to focus statistical and data capacity development efforts and establish the full range of reporting and monitoring needed to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The CTGAP was followed by the Dubai Declaration (2018) at the second Forum calling for an innovative funding mechanism to support the implementation of the CTGAP; and more recently at the third Forum, the Global data community's response to Covid-19 (2020) and the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (2021) on how official statistics and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) position themselves during Covid-19 and then in the wider data ecosystem generally.

6. The fourth and fifth hosts of the Forum were chosen through a competitive process and put to a vote through a special meeting of the HLG-PCCB. The selection of the two hosts at one time made it easier to

¹ See E/2015/24-E/CN3/2015/40.

² See E/2015/24-E/CN3/2015/40 and E/2017/24-E/CN3/2017/35.

organise two Forums in a shorter timeframe and return the Forum to its intended even-year biennial cycle. At the conclusion of this special meeting, the sixteen members present decided by secret ballot that the fourth Forum will be hosted by China and the fifth Forum will be hosted by Colombia.

B. Fourth United Nations World Data Forum and the Hangzhou Declaration

7. The fourth UN World Data Forum was held in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China between the 24 and 27 April 2023 with the support of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Government of Zhejiang Province and the Municipal Government of Hangzhou City. Much work was done by all those involved to hold the fourth Forum in a safe, secure, and accessible manner to mitigate the lingering risks related to the Covid-19 virus. At the same time the programme of the Forum was the most ambitious yet with over 100 different events taking place across 3 days; including 6 high-level plenary sessions, over 90 live-streamed parallel sessions and short talks and more than 30 exhibits, learning labs, demonstrations, and announcements.

8. The fourth Forum opened on 24 April 2023 with a pre-recorded message from the Secretary-General António Guterres and an in-person address by Ding Xuexiang, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and by the end of the Forum over 1,000 people had attended in-person and over 11,000 remotely from more than 160 countries. Over 300 organisations were directly involved in the programme either as speakers or session organisers from different data communities such as: academia, civil society, the private sector, national statistical offices and other Government agencies. The continued adoption of a hybrid delivery format helped maintain a diverse audience, in terms of location, age, and data community affiliation. As in the previous two Forums this relied on the use of online event platforms offering broadcasting, Q&A, chat and networking functionality.

9. The communication and promotion of the Forum entailed several press events leading up to the opening press conference, a large media space to conduct interviews with high-level speakers at the venue, many published blogs, social media posts, traditional media reporting and photography around the Forum. See the UNWDF website, https://undataforum.org/media. Feedback from attendees whether they were in-person or online was very positive and the Forum was well received as evidenced by the many communications and postings on the online event platforms and elsewhere on social media.

10. The Forum concluded with the outcome document entitled Hangzhou declaration: Accelerating progress in the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (see Annex I). This outcome document illustrated at the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development some existing and emerging examples of the global data and statistics community to spur data innovation, nurture partnerships, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data and called for a continued focus on these actions.

C. Fifth United Nations World Data Forum (Medellín, Colombia)

11. The HLG-PCCB and Programme Committee met in the aftermath of the fourth Forum to reflect on its organisation and discuss lessons learnt. The following points will be taken forward in preparing for the next Forum: better measurement of the impact of the Forum; improving links to other communities (i.e., digital agenda, financing, etc.); improving participant representation (i.e., youth, private sector, academia, etc.); localization through different types of meet-ups; greater multilingualism in communications and programme content; more inter-Forum promotion and events.

12. The HLG-PCCB, with the input from the secretariat, established a new programme committee for the next Forum consisting of 26 members with experience covering Government, academia and professional organizations, the private sector, international and regional organisations, the donor and philanthropic sector, the geospatial information community and other parts of the data and statistics community. The committee retained the experience of fourteen members who served on the committee previously to maintain much needed continuity as the next Forum will take place in less than 15 months. Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Ms. Shaida Badiee, Co-founder and Managing Director, Open Data Watch (ODW) also

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continued as co-chairs of the Programme Committee. The names and biographies of all programme committee members can be found on the website: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/partners/. More details on the timetable for how the Forum's programme and other activities will be announced is given in the workplan provided in Annex II.

D. Selection of the host country for the sixth UN World Data Forum

13. The sixth instance of the UN World Data Forum is expected to take place in the final quarter of 2026. This returns the Forum to its intended biennial cycle aligned to the endpoint of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the current Sustainable Development Goals. The process for selecting the next host will begin with a call for expressions of interest made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. The HLG-PCCB will invite full bids from those who submit an Expression of Interest. The instructions accompanying this invitation will include the criteria by which bids will be assessed by the HLG-PCCB and the detailed timeline for selecting the next host. An outline of this timetable is given in the workplan provided in Annex II.

III. Realignment of the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) in two phases

A. From the CTGAP to the Hangzhou Declaration

14. The Cape Town Global Action (CTGAP) was launched at the first United Nations World Data Forum in January 2017. It was passed through the Statistical Commission's report during its 48th session and appeared in a UN General Assembly resolution on 7 July 2017 welcoming the plan. The CTGAP currently contains 6 strategic areas, 14 objectives and 66 key actions. The realignment of the CTGAP was planned by the HLG-PCCB in two phases which begun following the third Forum in Bern, Switzerland with the plan to conclude its first phase by the time of the fourth Forum and second and final phase by the time of the fifth Forum. The purpose of this phased approach was to engage and be responsive to two important upcoming high-level discussions on sustainable development: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit in 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024. Data and statistics will feature highly in these discussions as part of charting a pathway from the mid-point to the achievement of the SDGs and the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

15. The first phase concluded with the launch of the Hangzhou Declaration at the fourth Forum which referenced in its text some recommendations that were presented earlier by the HLG-PCCB in its report to the 54th session of the Commission on the realignment approach to be taken covering three main points:

• Maintain the name, Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP), since it has gained recognition within the community and is referenced in the General Assembly resolution on the SDG indicators for the 2030 Agenda³.

• Maintain the scope represented by the Strategic Areas (SAs) in the original plan but simplify the framework by first moving basic statistical activities and programs (SA3) within on innovation/ modernisation (SA2) and merging multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development data (SA5) with mobilization of resources and coordination efforts for statistical capacity building (SA6) to refocus the plan on four areas.

• Reduce the levels in the existing structure developing a single list of priority areas based on a combination of the current objectives and key actions while also reflecting the current context in the global data ecosystem and in countries.

B. Second phase of the CTGAP realignment and outcomes of the fifth Forum

16. The objective of the second phase is to create an updated and easy to communicate document to support the continued implementation of the CTGAP aimed at a global stakeholder audience associated with the Forum. A focus of the work will be drafting a single list of priority areas. A realigned CTGAP and other possible outcomes of the fifth Forum are currently under discussion by a subgroup of the HLG-PCCB which will include other invited stakeholders such as issue partners and members of the Programme Committee. The results of these

³ A/RES/71/31.

discussions will be communicated widely and where necessary feedback sought through different Forum stakeholder mechanisms like public webinars, formal consultations and disseminated through other events and documents. The realigned CTGAP and other outcomes will be launched in the closing of the fifth Forum in Medellín, Colombia. Further details on these plans will be available to the Commission in a background document.

C. System under the CTGAP for the periodic monitoring and evaluation of progress

17. The work on developing a system of monitoring and evaluation of progress related to the CTGAP started as a global survey series on the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on national statistical offices operations conducted in partnership between the World Bank and Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs during 2020-214. This partnership was expanded to include Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the survey was repurposed for collecting information from national statistical offices on their implementation progress related to the six strategic areas of the CTGAP. Two rounds of the survey, one in 2021 and one in 2023, were conducted following this new approach. The results provided useful input for many briefings, reports and platforms such as the SDG report and the Clearinghouse for financing development data.⁵ In reviewing the second round, the HLG-PCCB expressed a preference for a shorter questionnaire going forward with a more flexible modular component to the questionnaire design. This would allow for easier sharing within the office to aid with assigning responsibility for completion and it would also allow for covering different topics or themes in each round. The Hangzhou Declaration further emphasised this position by calling for a system under the CTGAP for periodic monitoring and evaluation of progress and lessons learnt. A third round of the survey is planned for the end of 2024 together with the partners. This will provide baseline information to monitor the realigned CTGAP.

IV. Financing for data and statistics

18. The SDG Summit held at UNHQ between 18 and 19 September 2023 marked a new phase of accelerated progress towards the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Summit discussed a series of High Impact Initiatives (HII) focused on critical areas to demonstrate progress and commitment in the current climate of challenging global circumstances. Of relevance to the financing for data and statistics is the HII on the Power of Data: Unlocking the Data Dividend for the SDGs, co-led by UNDESA, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank, UNICEF, CCS-UN and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. This initiative will mobilise the high-level political support, leadership and investment needed for national data systems to accelerate progress in the lead up to 2030. This focus on data will further galvanise the efforts of many stakeholders who are driving the data revolution and demonstrate to high-level decision makers that strengthening data availability, transparency and financing is one of the most effective ways to target and accelerate our efforts to realise the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs. Further details on the HII and updates on two other important global efforts in the financing space, the Global Data Facility and the Bern network Clearinghouse for financing development data are given below.

A. High Impact Initiative on the Data Dividend

19. At the heart of the High Impact Initiative (HII) is the launch and support of cutting-edge national data partnerships, announced by an initial group of 15 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America and supported by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. These partnerships – driven by strong political leadership at a national level – will bring together governments, tech companies, civil society, donors and others to build on existing initiatives and strengthen the use of data to drive progress on the SDGs.

⁴ The Survey of National Statistical Offices during COVID-19 was conducted in four phases: April 2020, July 2020, October 2020 and May 2021: https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/posts/survey-of-national-statistical-offices-during-covid-19/

⁵ Round 1 conducted August to September 2021, full report: https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/posts/survey-on-theimplementation-of-the-cape-town-global-action-plan-for-sustainable-development-data/ and round 2 conducted December 2022 and January 2023, pre-liminary report: https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_54/documents/BG-3a-Prelimnary_results_of_the_2nd_CTGAP_Survey-E.pdf.

20. Each country will have its own path to unlocking the data dividend, which means the partnerships will look different as they will respond to the needs, challenges and plans of the country. Rather than establishing new plans or strategies, the national data partnerships will marshal political leadership to foster greater coherence and complementarity among existing initiatives in alignment with national priorities and plans (e.g., national development plans, national strategies for the development of statistics, national data strategies). This strong political leadership has historically been missing, leading to a proliferation of fragmented initiatives. The partnerships will bring together existing plans, initiatives, and public and private stakeholders across countries in strategic collaboration to drive timely, ethical and efficient data use and strengthen statistical systems. The colleading agencies will work with country leadership to drive the national data partnerships forward and guide investment toward the needs identified by countries. Global advocacy and engagement will continue to mobilize support for the HII, bring new countries on board, and celebrate progress.

B. The Bern network Clearinghouse for financing development data

21. As of November 2023, the Clearinghouse hosts 21 provider profiles, accounting for the majority of official development assistance to statistics; 24 recipient profiles, with continued plans for expansion; statistical laws and national strategies for the development of statistics for over 100 countries; detailed projects from the latest official development assistance data; and an active news section providing developments in the financing for data for development sector. The Clearinghouse hosts the relevant results of the first round Survey on the Implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan by World Bank, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)⁶. The Clearinghouse Secretariat, managed with support by PARIS21 and Open Data Watch, have collaborated closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Data for Development team on a harmonized methodology to improve the measure and monitoring of aid for statistics for the OECD's Credit Reporting System.

22. In addition to the broader financing for statistics landscape, the Clearinghouse hosts a channel on gender data financing which provides information on financing flows to gender data over the past ten years, among other analyses and resources. This content is intended to help contextualize national and international gender data investments within the broader funding directed towards development data and statistics for the benefit of development partners, civil society organizations and the public. These stakeholders can also use it to drill down to specific countries to identify the gaps in financing gender data and explore relevant capacity building projects to better inform decision making and bring projects to scale.

C. World Bank Global Data Facility (GDF)

23. The Global Data Facility (GDF)⁷, hosted at the World Bank, focuses on strengthening data systems and data capital in fragile, low- and middle-income countries and help enable the implementation of the CTGAP. It will leverage World Bank International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) funds to support and catalyse domestic financing to strengthen the quality and sustainability of national and subnational data and statistical systems. Through the GDF, countries can work with development partners to invest in the data that underpins progress across all the SDGs, increasing the efficiency of other investments, enabling accountability, and accelerating progress. The GDF will be informed by country demand as well as key inputs, including the Statistical Performance Indicators and the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Development Data. The scope of GDF support includes:

• Capacity building, training, and twinning: technical assistance to/among government and nongovernment actors to strengthen individual capacity and institutional effectiveness across the full data lifecycle.

⁶ See https://smartdatafinance.org/.

⁷ World Bank, 2021. Global Data Facility, available at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/global-data-facility

• Leveraging frontier data sources & tools for development: use of alternative and new data collection modes and data sources, including mobile data, geospatial imagery, administrative data, and citizen-generated data; development, adoption, and scale of new analytical tools.

• Global Public Goods: setting international standards, methods and best practices.

• Demand-driven research, knowledge curation, and dissemination: conducting core research, indicator development/support, knowledge generation, and knowledge-sharing driven by country demand/needs.

• Data systems modernization: developing or strengthening systems for enhanced/modernized data systems integration and whole-of-government coordination.

• Prioritizing inclusive data and closing data gaps: support inclusive data and data systems, toward strengthening/expanding data on all groups within populations to count the hitherto uncounted.

• Leveraging development partners' knowledge and expertise: building/expanding strategic partnerships to connect partners' expertise on data/statistics priorities to country clients, based on country demand.

24. In 2022, a collective, high-level effort designated the "Data with Purpose" campaign was launched by senior leadership of the World Bank and the United Nations to scale up donor and partner coordination to better enable country-led support for data and statistics priorities. The ambition of this campaign is to jointly mobilize at least \$500 million through the GDF and UN's Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd)⁸ to deliver on country demand to support critical data impact opportunities by 2030.⁹ Both organizations joined forces to co-launch this initiative at the 2022 World Bank Spring Meetings with follow-up high-level partnership events during the 77th and 78th sessions of the UNGA¹⁰, including under the auspices of the recent UN High Impact Initiative on "The Power of Data". At these events, an investment case entitled, multiplying progress through data ecosystems¹¹ was presented where the UN, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and Dalberg calculated that for every US \$1 invested, data has delivered an average economic return of US \$32. Contributors to the GDF currently include Japan, the European Commission (DG-REGIO), IMF, and the UN Statistical Commission, and forthcoming contributions are anticipated from FCDO, the European Commission (DG-INTPA) and Spain.

V. Workplan for 2024

- 25. The HLG-PCCB agreed on a work plan for 2024, which is included in Annex II.
- VI. Points for decision
- 26. The Statistical Commission is invited to:
- (a) Take note of this report presenting the work of the HLG-PCCB.
- (b) Endorse the Hangzhou declaration in Annex I.

(c) Approve the plans for the second phase of the realignment of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and the work on possible outcomes of the fifth UN World Data Forum.

(d) Review and approve the proposed workplan of the HLG-PCCB for 2024 as presented in Annex II.

⁸ UN, 2021. What is CRAF'd? available at: https://crafd.io/

⁹ https://content.iospress.com/articles/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/sji220048

¹⁰ https://datawithpurpose.org/

¹¹ See GPSDD, 2022. https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/investment-case-multiplying-progress-through-data-ecosystems

Annex I

Hangzhou declaration: Accelerating progress in the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data

Announced during the UN World Data Forum 2023 in Hangzhou at the closing session on Thursday, 27 April 2023

- 1. We, present in Hangzhou, China and across the world to mark the 2023 United Nations World Data Forum, representing a diverse stakeholder group of governments, civil society, the private sector, donor and philanthropic bodies, international and regional agencies, the geospatial community, the media, academia and professional bodies.
- 2. Reflecting at the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 agenda) that highquality, timely, open and inclusive data remain a key component to accelerating the progress needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to address the multiple crises that are threatening food security, the eradication of poverty, health, education, the environment and peace and security.
- 3. Recognizing that the 2030 agenda requires that this community of stakeholders in the global data ecosystem continue to advance in the way they spur data innovation, nurture partnerships, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data, and build a pathway to better data for sustainable development.
- 4. Acknowledging that the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP), launched at the first United Nations World Data Forum held in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2017 and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, and welcomed by member states in the General Assembly resolution 71/313, remains the strategic document by which this community's efforts are directed in response to the data needs of the 2030 Agenda.
- 5. Further acknowledging each Forum marks a further step forward by the community from the original CTGAP to the Dubai Declaration (2018) calling for an innovative funding mechanism to support the implementation of the CTGAP; and more recently the Global data community and official statistical system's response to Covid-19 (2020) followed by the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (2021), which laid out the role of official statistics and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the wider data ecosystem as the world emerged from the pandemic.
- 6. Emphasizing the investment case for high-quality, timely, open and inclusive data has never been more resounding, yet many parts of the population, especially the more vulnerable and hardest to reach, are still under served in this area.
- 7. Noting the accelerated progress made by this community to:
 - Adopt more innovative practices with data and statistics through initiatives like Data for Now.
 - Expand collaboration and coordination with more parts of the data ecosystem through the launch of a new programme on citizen-generated data to empower individuals and communities to contribute to data production, take control of their data and improve their lives.
 - Establish more private-public partnerships to enhance visibility, use and impact of data for policy and decision-making at all levels.
- 8. Understanding these examples demonstrate the growing engagement and trust between data communities needed to develop and strengthen the data ecosystem, including the effective functioning of the national, regional, and global data and statistical systems in full adherence to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

We resolve to:

- 9. Renew our commitment to working as a global community under the United Nations, which through the Data Strategy and our Common Agenda, sets out a joint vision for a better whole-of-UN data ecosystem and measurement approach for people and planet.
- 10. Revitalize the CTGAP through collective action as demonstrated in this Forum since 2017 and now needed more than ever to surmount the multitude of crises we face on the path to modernized and stronger data and statistical systems to support the achievement of the SDGs.
- 11. Establish new priorities under a streamlined set of CTGAP strategic areas covering:
 - Coordination and strategic leadership on data for sustainable development
 - Innovation and modernization of national data and statistical systems, with particular focus on addressing the monitoring needs of the 2030 Agenda.
 - Dissemination and use of sustainable development data
 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize resources and coordinate efforts for statistical capacity development in infrastructure and human resources.
- 12. Define under the CTGAP a system for periodic monitoring and evaluation of progress and lessons learnt, with clear and easy to communicate ambitions linked to national and regional programmes and plans.
- 13. Organise future Forums as milestones in the collective actions of this community to serve as a focus for launching new initiatives, provide a strategic reflection point and take stock of progress with the implementation of the CTGAP, which remains the common framework for the design and implementation of country-led capacity development activities.
- 14. Continue to urge the international community and governments to recognise sustainable development has a financial cost and without a change in the level of investment in sustainable development data and an integrated and coordinated approach to this, we will fail to maximise the development outcomes that we need at this mid-point in the period to achieve Agenda 2030 and make the necessary interventions to leave no one behind.
- 15. Promote at the same time marginal investments in data and statistical systems to demonstrate they result in massive efficiency and effectiveness gains when informing decisions on sustainable development, which pay dividends in the medium- and long-term.

We call for:

- 16. Accelerated action by the community and the development of a data stewardship approach aligned to the CTGAP to drive the innovation and partnerships needed for data and statistical systems to be responsive to the needs of society and representative of everyone in the process, thereby demonstrating the value of data to enable decision making at all levels, from policy makers to private sector, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions and all citizens.
- 17. An urgent and sustained increase in the level and scale of investments in data and statistics from domestic and international actors, from the public, private and philanthropic sectors, to strengthen statistical capacity in low-income countries and fragile states, close data gaps for vulnerable groups and enhance country resilience in the current context of economic crisis, conflict, climate change and increased food insecurity.

Annex II

Work plan: January – December 2024

1. Preparations for the United Nations World Data Forum: November 2024, Medellín, Colombia

a. Launch of the Public Call for Programme Proposals (by December 2023)

b. Proposals for keynote speakers, professional moderators, and arrangements for the closing session (by February/March 2024)

c. Competition (i.e., Hackathon/data stories) with youth and other key stakeholder involvement (April 2024)

d. Review and approve final programme (by June 2024)

Deliverables:

- Call for programme proposals' announcement.
- Final programme, including speakers.
- Competition winners' invitation to Forum
- 2. Second phase realignment of the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) and other outcomes to be launched at the fifth UN World Data Forum
 - a. Subgroup to draft the priorities for the realigned CTGAP and discuss other outcomes to be launched at the fifth Forum (by April-May 2024)
 - b. Public consultation period on realigned CTGAP and other outcomes (by June-July 2024)
 - c. Launch at the fifth UN World Data Forum in Medellín, Colombia (November 2024)
 - d. New survey on the implementation of the CTGAP released (December 2024)

Deliverables:

- Realigned CTGAP and other outcomes of the fifth UN World Data Forum
- Third round of the implementation survey focused on the realigned CTGAP.

3. Selection of the host country for the sixth UN World Data Forum

- a. Announcement of the start of the host selection process (December 2023)
- b. Submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline (April/May 2024)
- c. Invitation to submit a detailed bid (with selection criteria/ instructions) selected from those who submitted an EOI (June 2024)
- d. Submission of detailed bids deadline (August 2024)
- e. Presentation of selected bids to HLG-PCCB and voting/decision (September/October 2024)

Deliverables:

• Selection of the sixth host country

4. Meetings

- a. 33rd meeting: 25 February 2024, UN Statistical Commission, virtual/ hybrid (tbc)
- b. 34th meeting: 29-30 April 2024, Tirana, Albania
- c. 35th meeting: July 2024
 36th meeting: November 2024, Medellín, Colombia