Annex I

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2016-2017

A. Programme for statistics and data

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (\$10,000,000)

Background

- 1. The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals concluded its work on 19 July 2014 and submitted its report on sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly (A/68/970). In its resolution 68/309 the Assembly decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing fully that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly.
- 2. In its proposal, the Open Working Group recognized that it will be important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics to provide support for the monitoring of the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Member States will need to ensure that national capacities and mechanisms exist to measure, monitor and report on their achievements in a sustainable manner. Thus, a major priority for the United Nations will be to provide assistance to countries in strengthening national statistical systems that in turn form the basis for local, national, regional and global reporting. This effort will entail defining new statistical methodologies, approaches, tools and techniques.
- 3. The expected demand for data in terms of scope, disaggregation, timeliness and quality, which will increase significantly in the post-2015 era, must be assessed against the current availability of data and the capacities of countries to produce national statistics and data. For example, approximately 50 per cent of countries do not produce vital statistics out of civil registrations. The current reporting on Millennium Development Goals is largely the result of global monitoring efforts by international agencies based on estimates and is not the result of national reporting. The new data requirements to measure and report on the proposed sustainable development goals and targets will pose difficulties for even the most advanced national statistical systems.
- 4. In August 2014 the Secretary-General established the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development to provide advice on the ways to close the data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities. In its report the Advisory Group emphasized that data is a crucial pillar for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, as it is the basis for evidence-based decision-making and accountability, and recommended that the United Nations take strong leadership in the area. A new funding stream for statistical capacity development

should be established, mobilizing domestic and external resources and strengthening the role of national statistical offices in their coordination function. The report called for a proposal to improve existing arrangements for fostering capacity development and technology transfer, which should include upgrading the national strategies for the development of statistics to do better at coordinated and long-term planning, and in identifying sound investments.

- 5. In paragraph 143 of his synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development goals (A/69/700) the Secretary-General recommended that under the auspices of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, a comprehensive programme of action on data be established. This effort includes the building of a global consensus, applicable principles and standards for data, a web of data innovation networks to advance innovation and analysis, a new innovative financing stream to provide support for national data capacities and a global data partnership to promote leadership and governance. In particular, the synthesis report highlights that enhanced national and international statistical capacities, rigorous indicators, reliable and timely data sets, new and non-traditional data sources and broader and systematic disaggregation to reveal inequities will all be fundamental for implementing the new agenda.
- 6. Since its inception, the Development Account has had a strong focus on statistics, with more than 40 projects implemented that provided support for the transfer of knowledge on statistical methodologies, tools and techniques. The proposed programme on statistics and data under the tenth tranche is a new and innovative approach that brings the 10 implementing entities of the Secretariat together, capitalizing on their individual technical expertise and comparative advantages, with a common objective to help developing countries face the data challenges of the new development agenda. The programme will be implemented as a unified and structured whole, rather than an amalgamation of individual projects and proposals, and will build on the ongoing dialogues, panels, debates and intergovernmental discussions that will shape and finalize the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. It will be further developed and amplified as the intergovernmental discussions and negotiations evolve, during 2015, with the intention to launch activities under the programme immediately in January 2016, upon approval of the General Assembly.
- 7. The programme explicitly responds to two targets formulated by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly under goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), under the heading "Data, monitoring and accountability" of the sustainable development goals, as presented:
 - (a) Target 17.18: by 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;
 - (b) Target 17.19: by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Vision and key principles of the programme

8. The Secretary-General has called upon the United Nations system to be "fit for purpose" to effectively contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. He has asked the system to reflect on how to deliver differently, focusing on a culture of collaboration and collective accountability to deliver results, and country-level impact based on national strategies and priorities.

- 9. Under the proposed programme on statistics and data, the 10 implementing entities will work closely together to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems in developing countries to be better able to respond to the increased demands for data resulting from the anticipated adoption of the sustainable development goals in a systematic and strategic way. The implementing entities are long-standing and trusted partners of national statistical offices and national statistical systems, and possess considerable technical expertise and experience, which places them in a unique position to provide assistance to countries in this challenge. The programme will provide guidance on improvements required to strengthen the institutional settings and arrangements within the national statistical offices, including the related statistical business processes. Such guidance will then need to be adapted to the specificities of each country's current official statistical arrangements. The programme will also address data gaps in specific thematic areas, combining a cross-cutting approach with sector-specific demands, as identified by Member States.
- 10. The key fundamental principles which will guide the development and implementation of the Development Account programme on statistics and data have been agreed upon by the Development Account Steering Committee, as follows:
 - (a) Respond to policy needs for data. The global policy framework is provided by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288), the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970) and the future directions of the Assembly deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. Relevant regional and national policy frameworks should also be considered, as appropriate;
 - (b) Strengthen national statistical capacity. The underlying objective of the programme is to strengthen national statistical systems in order to respond to the overall data requirements for the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, ensuring accurate and timely national, local and regional statistics for sustainable development based on the fundamental principles of official statistics;
 - (c) Be demand driven and country-owned. The programme should build on country demand and reflect the needs and priorities of developing Member States, while creating a solid basis;
 - (d) Build on comparative advantages of and close cooperation between the Development Account implementing entities. The programme should be executed in close coordination and cooperation between the implementing entities of the Account, drawing on their common capacities, unique strengths in statistics and ability to adapt to the challenge ahead;
 - (e) Align and be coherent with programmes of others. The programme should actively seek engagement, alignment and coherence with statistical capacity development programmes of other United Nations entities in order for the United Nations system to "deliver as one", reflecting the joint responsibility of all United Nations agencies to provide support to countries in establishing an effective and sustainable information infrastructure. In the context of the "fit for purpose" initiative, many United Nations agencies have highlighted statistics and data as one of the most critical issues to address;
 - (f) Encourage external participation and funding. The programme should encourage coordination and involvement of non-United Nations agencies and organizations, which are welcome to join the programme either through implementation of parallel initiatives or through provision of additional funding to complement the Development Account programme. Through its direct work with national statistical offices, the programme should be used as a vehicle to mobilize voluntary funds to augment initiatives following a comprehensive approach, which strives for long-term effectiveness of efforts;

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- (g) Build on existing initiatives. The programme should build on existing and/or ongoing capacity development initiatives of the implementing entities, where feasible;
- (h) Link to evidence-based policymaking and accountability. Statistics and data are the prerequisite for evidence-based policies and for accountability. The programme and its components need to explicitly highlight those links. If there is no national policy interest in specific areas and no accountability mechanism, the activities will have limited impact and sustainability;
- (i) Adapt to the needs of the countries and the evolving agenda. The programme will maintain flexibility to adapt to the specific needs of the countries as the statistics agenda evolves in line with decisions of the General Assembly on the sustainable development goals. The programme will also be guided by future decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other statistical bodies of the United Nations.

Substantive focus of the programme

- The programme will address the institutional arrangements needed in countries and will focus in particular on the establishment, or strengthening, of national statistical systems for measurement and monitoring of the sustainable development goals, helping to adapt national strategies for the development of statistics or similar plans. The programme will provide support for national discussions at the policy level on priorities for monitoring the sustainable development goals and aim, where possible, at developing national strategies based on national priorities, capacities and gaps, recognizing that Governments are driving the implementation of the goals and their monitoring. The local, regional and global dimensions of monitoring, reporting and comparability will be included, as appropriate. The programme will provide support to national statistical systems in the implementation of the indicator and monitoring framework for sustainable development goals and associated indicators. The modernization of statistical systems will be another major element of the programme, which will address, where appropriate, the possible adoption of recommendations on a data revolution and the use of new technologies and big data, including the use of geospatial data. These elements build on the special relationship and the comparative and absolute advantage of the Secretariat's implementing entities to provide support and strategic advice to national statistical offices on reporting and monitoring of the sustainable development goals. These cross-cutting programme elements will enable national statistical offices to better address new statistical initiatives on sustainable development goals data emanating from various sources and, hence, constitute an effective leveraging of the comparatively small resources under the programme. This approach is also based on the leadership role of the Secretariat in formulating the response and strategy for data collection and monitoring for the goals.
- 12. A further focus of the programme will be to address specific data gaps for monitoring the sustainable development goals (sectoral and emerging issues) that will require conceptual and methodological development, leveraging the leadership of the implementing entities in specific sectoral/thematic areas. This focus will not constitute isolated efforts affecting only a very small part of the sustainable development goals agenda; rather, it will involve a cohesive effort to set statistical methodologies and standards, which could be drawn upon when building national capacities for statistics and data. The thematic/sectoral components will be further defined and established through both the ongoing discussions of the implementing entities and the demand expressed by Member States. Overall, the programme should build on the core capacities of the entities, in particular in the area of methodological work, and then upscale them through macroapproaches and collective approaches.

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- 13. The programme will have an e-learning component that complements the physical activities at the national, local, regional and global levels in order to ensure a wider multiplier effect and provide continuous training to a much broader audience.
- 14. More specifically, the following levels of intervention can be identified: (a) institutional environment; (b) statistical production processes; (c) specific thematic areas; and (d) leveraging, partnerships and coordination.

Addressing the institutional environment

15. The legal and institutional arrangements, the organizational arrangements within the national statistical system, the relationship with national policymakers, as well as human resources (including training and staff retention), are some elements that constitute the environment or conditions under which national statistical systems operate. These interrelated conditions determine, to a large degree, the potential and ability of statistical systems to deliver statistical outputs and, in particular, the indicators required for the monitoring of the sustainable development goals and targets. Many countries have limited funds to address the gaps and fundraising will be essential.

Improving statistical production processes

- 16. The improvement of existing statistical production processes represents another level of intervention. The focus of this effort is described below.
- 17. The statistical production process can be structured into the identification of user needs, the design of outputs that respond to these needs, the design of appropriate collection instruments (methods of data collection), data collection, data processing, data analysis, data dissemination and evaluation. Such activities need to be improved to achieve an effective and efficient organization of the statistical production process that is able to respond to the increased data needs of the sustainable development goals. The programme will focus on the improvement of the statistical production processes across multiple statistical domains through, for example, the modernization of processes (including data integration), the development of a core infrastructure (e.g., use of standard classifications and business registers) or the use of new data sources, such as geospatial information.

Responding to specific thematic areas

- 18. The response to specific and, in particular, thematic demands for the sustainable development goals represents the third level of intervention. The focus of this effort is described below.
- 19. The global statistical system will need to respond to the specific data demands posed by the sustainable development goals covering all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) that are new and have yet to be addressed. Accordingly, the programme will develop new methodological approaches or adapt existing ones for specific indicators or targets and help countries close data gaps and address the need to disaggregate data and to establish a statistical baseline. The selection of the areas should be based on country demand, the comparative advantage of the capacities of the implementing entities and their possible link to analytical and normative processes in this area. This methodological work can be upscaled at the local, national, regional and global levels to help countries measure and monitor the sustainable development goals.

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Leveraging, partnerships and coordination

20. In line with the key principles elaborated above, the programme should leverage other initiatives and funding initiatives for strengthening statistical capacities to have a higher multiplier effect. The programme and its implementers should work in close partnership with the United Nations system and other relevant actors along the lines of "fit for purpose" to deliver and develop methodologies.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals in an accurate, reliable and timely manner for evidence-based policymaking

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Trade and development subprogramme 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development); Human settlements subprogramme 7 (Research and capacity development); International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice subprogramme 6 (Research, trend analysis and forensics); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 7 (Statistics); Economic development in Europe subprogramme 3 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 11 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 5 (Statistics for evidence-based policymaking)

Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	350.0
Consultants	3 000.0
Expert group	750.0
Travel	1 800.0
Contractual services	700.0
Operating expenses	200.0
Seminars,	
workshops	3 200.0
Total	10 000.0

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

(EA1) Enhanced capacity of developing countries to strengthen statistical institutional environments to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals

Indicators of achievement

- (IA1.1) Number of target countries that have adopted revised national strategies for the development of statistics based on inputs from the programme
- (IA1.2) Number of country participants trained who confirm increased understanding of the institutional arrangements required for measuring the sustainable development goals
- (IA1.3) Number of countries that establish institutional mechanisms to foster dialogue between users and producers of statistics in the context of the sustainable development goals
- (EA2) Strengthened capacity in developing countries to improve statistical production processes to address increased data needs across multiple statistical domains

(IA2.1) Number of improved statistical production processes in countries to measure specific sustainable development goals indicators and targets based on inputs from the programme

- (EA3) Strengthened capacity in developing countries to measure and monitor indicators and targets in new statistical and data areas
- (EA4) Enhanced leveraging, partnerships and collaboration by United Nations system and other partners to help countries strengthen their national statistical systems for measuring the sustainable development goals
- (IA3.1) Number of countries that started reporting in new areas where the programme provided support
- (IA4.1) Number of partnerships created within the United Nations system to provide support for statistical strengthening at the national level in the context of the sustainable development goals with the input of the programme
- (IA4.2) Number of partnerships created with external partners to provide support for statistical strengthening at the local, national, regional and international levels
- (IA4.3) Number of countries that are supported by the programme in mobilizing financial resources for strengthening national statistical systems

Main activities

- 21. The main activities of the project will include:
 - (A1.1) Organize regional/subregional workshops on the post-2015 agenda and the sustainable development goals, targets and indicators, and the implementation of the required indicators and monitoring framework;
 - (A1.2) Carry out consultant and advisory missions to target countries to complete a gap analysis reviewing the institutional environment and prepare revised national strategies for the development of statistics and an implementation plan for the monitoring of the sustainable development goals and targets;
 - (A1.3) Organize national multi-stakeholder workshops to create awareness about and define national strategies for the development of statistics and to address national capacity-building strategies in specific areas;
 - (A1.4) Organize subregional/international workshops to share lessons learned from revising national strategies for the development of statistics;
 - (A1.5) Carry out advisory missions to selected countries to provide assistance with strengthening their institutional settings;
 - (A2.1) Identify statistical production processes where improvements could help to substantially strengthen data measuring and collection for sustainable development goals and lead to more efficient and effective statistical production processes;
 - (A2.2) Provide a consultant to assist with the drafting of revised guidance, methodologies and/or handbooks on statistical production processes for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;
 - (A2.3) Convene expert group meetings to revise the guidance, methodologies and/or handbooks for statistical production processes for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;

- (A2.4) Finalize handbooks/guidance for training workshops for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;
- (A2.5) Organize national workshops to train statisticians in the revised guidance/methodologies for the production processes for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;
- (A2.6) Carry out advisory missions to help countries to implement the revised production processes;
- (A2.7) Organize regional/subregional/international workshops to share lessons learned from implementation of new/revised production processes and disseminate information to a wider audience;
- (A2.8) Disseminate best practices and lessons learned at international/regional statistical meetings;
- (A2.9) Finalize handbooks for methodologies and adapt the handbooks to specific country or regional settings;
- (A2.10) Develop e-learning courses at the regional/subregional and/or international levels on the new/revised processes;
- (A2.11) Disseminate lessons learned through websites and publications;
- (A3.1) Draft handbooks/guidelines for new methodologies for data collection and statistical production processes for a limited number of sustainable development goals indicators;
- (A3.2) Organize expert group meetings to revise the methodologies and/or handbooks;
- (A3.3) Finalize handbooks for training workshops for data collection and statistical production processes for a limited number of sustainable development goals indicators;
- (A3.4) Organize national workshops to train statisticians on the new methodologies;
- (A3.5) Carry out advisory missions to help countries to implement the new methodologies;
- (A3.6) Organize regional/subregional/international workshops to share lessons learned from implementation of new methodologies and disseminate information to a wider audience;
- (A3.7) Organize side events and workshops at international meetings to train statisticians in the use of the methodologies;
- (A3.8) Finalize handbooks for methodologies and adapt the handbooks to specific country or regional settings;
- (A3.9) Develop e-learning courses at the regional/subregional and/or international levels on the new methodologies;
- (A3.10) Disseminate lessons learned through websites and publications;
- (A4.1) Work with the United Nations system and external partners on leveraging existing statistical programmes and forging partnerships;
- (A4.2) Collaborate with partners in the execution of the programme at the national/regional and global levels in the specific areas of statistics;
- (A4.3) Coordinate programme activities with partners and target countries.
- 22. The activities as described are very tentative and will be revised based on the more detailed programme document.

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Implementation arrangements

- 23. In view of the enormous demands that will be placed on the United Nations to provide support to developing Member States in the area of statistics and data to measure and monitor implementation of the sustainable development goals, the Development Account Steering Committee proposed that the programme on statistics and data be set at the level of \$10 million, which represents approximately 35 per cent of the resources for the tenth tranche. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the programme manager of the Development Account, endorsed the proposal. A key factor in this decision was that the 10 implementing entities committed to work closely together on the planning and implementation of the different elements of the programme, contributing collectively to the execution of the overall programme.
- 24. The Development Account Steering Committee also proposed that only 50 per cent of the funds be programmed at the outset, thereby providing sufficient flexibility in the allocation of resources to the entities to meet the demands of developing Member States and to assess where refinements in the implementation plan may be required. It is envisaged that the initial two years of the programme will be devoted to conducting needs assessment and identifying critical gaps, promoting dialogue between the national statistical community and policymakers, developing new statistical methodologies and tools, and rolling out existing statistical tools that can help measure certain aspects of the sustainable development goals.
- The circumstances and stage of statistical development as well as the data needs and priorities of 25. the countries differ by region and subregion. The role of the regional commissions in assessing the critical gaps within their region and developing a plan of action to address those gaps within the limited resources of the programme will be critical to its success. It is envisaged that a subcomponent of the regional approach will target a limited number of countries in each region that would receive support through multiple interventions, in order to obtain greater results and impact, especially in cross-cutting areas such as the strengthening of national coordination mechanisms and the modernization of the statistical systems. The results of such initiatives would be disseminated at the regional and international levels for the purpose of knowledge-sharing. It is also envisaged that achieving strong results will create multiplier effects, which would make it possible for additional countries to participate through partnership arrangements with agencies within the United Nations system and through voluntary contributions from the international community. The identification of countries will be based on demand and capacity to absorb the activities. The programme will build on existing intergovernmental processes, where appropriate, to disseminate the findings and seek inputs.
- 26. In order to effectively implement the programme and draw on the unique skills and expertise of the 10 implementing entities, it is anticipated that the global entities will have a major role in the development of new statistical standards and methodologies in distinct sectoral areas, including the holding of inter-agency consultations to review, discuss and agree on the proposed methodologies and related tools for implementation.
- 27. It is envisaged that the five regional commissions would have the central responsibility of disseminating new methodologies and statistical standards to the countries in their region through the organization of national, subregional and regional workshops/seminars to transfer relevant skills and knowledge. The global entities would participate as experts/resource persons in these initiatives, as relevant. The regional commissions will help share the knowledge throughout their regions through existing statistical mechanisms.
- 28. In order to ensure effective implementation, it is expected that individual programme elements will have one designated lead entity, which will be responsible to work closely with other entities under the programme. The programme should allow for adjustment based on guidance from Member

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States, the progress made and experiences gained, the feedback received and the evolving situation in countries.

Management and governance arrangements

- 29. The programme will be defined and developed in line with recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, as well as decisions taken by the General Assembly in the context of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.
- 30. A Technical Advisory Group, headed by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and composed of the chief statisticians of the 10 implementing entities, will define the substantive programme elements. Once endorsed by the Programme Management Group (see para. 31 below) and approved by the Development Account programme manager, funds will be allocated to the implementing entities in line with the biennium work plan. The Technical Advisory Group is expected to consult on a monthly basis, or more frequently if needed, to review implementation, exchange updates on the development of methodologies and activities completed, and discuss forthcoming activities. It will also hold meetings in the margins of the United Nations Statistical Commission and during other statistical meetings where the statistical community is present. Additional meetings may be organized, as necessary, for the successful implementation of the programme.
- 31. A Programme Management Group will be formed, consisting of the Development Account focal points of the 10 implementing entities. The Group will provide input to the finalization of the programme document before submission to the Development Account programme manager and continuous oversight to the implementation of the funds allocated to each entity, and will ensure the submission of required progress reports that will be shared within the Group and with the Development Account management team. Members of the Group will convene virtual meetings at least twice a year, led by the Head of the Capacity Development Office in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- 32. The central role of the Development Account Steering Committee is to provide advice to the programme manager on strategic and policy issues, in particular related to the management, coordination, programming, monitoring and evaluation of the Account and reporting on it, and to make recommendations thereon. In this regard, it will provide oversight in all aspects of the implementation of the programme on statistics and data, and provide guidance to the programme manager, as needed. The Steering Committee will be provided with progress and financial updates on the programme at each of its meetings and will receive copies of the annual progress report on programme implementation. In addition, it is expected to play a key oversight role in response to the implementation of recommendations stemming from the mid-term and final evaluation of the programme.
- 33. It is foreseen that the programme be implemented in two phases. The first phase covers 2016-2017, with a special focus on awareness-raising and methodological development. The second phase focuses more on implementation and scaling-up of capacity-building and training during 2018-2019. A midterm evaluation during the second part of 2017 will help define and guide the implementation of the second phase.
- An important element of the programme will be the active involvement of entities inside and outside the United Nations family that conduct statistical capacity-building activities. These entities will be invited to participate in and join the programme in the capacity of technical experts and resource persons. Additional and/or parallel funding will be solicited to extend the programme's outreach to more countries or to deepen its activities, with the possible creation of a trust fund at the global level whose activities would be implemented by the 10 implementing entities.

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