

THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM (ISS)

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Chapter **17**



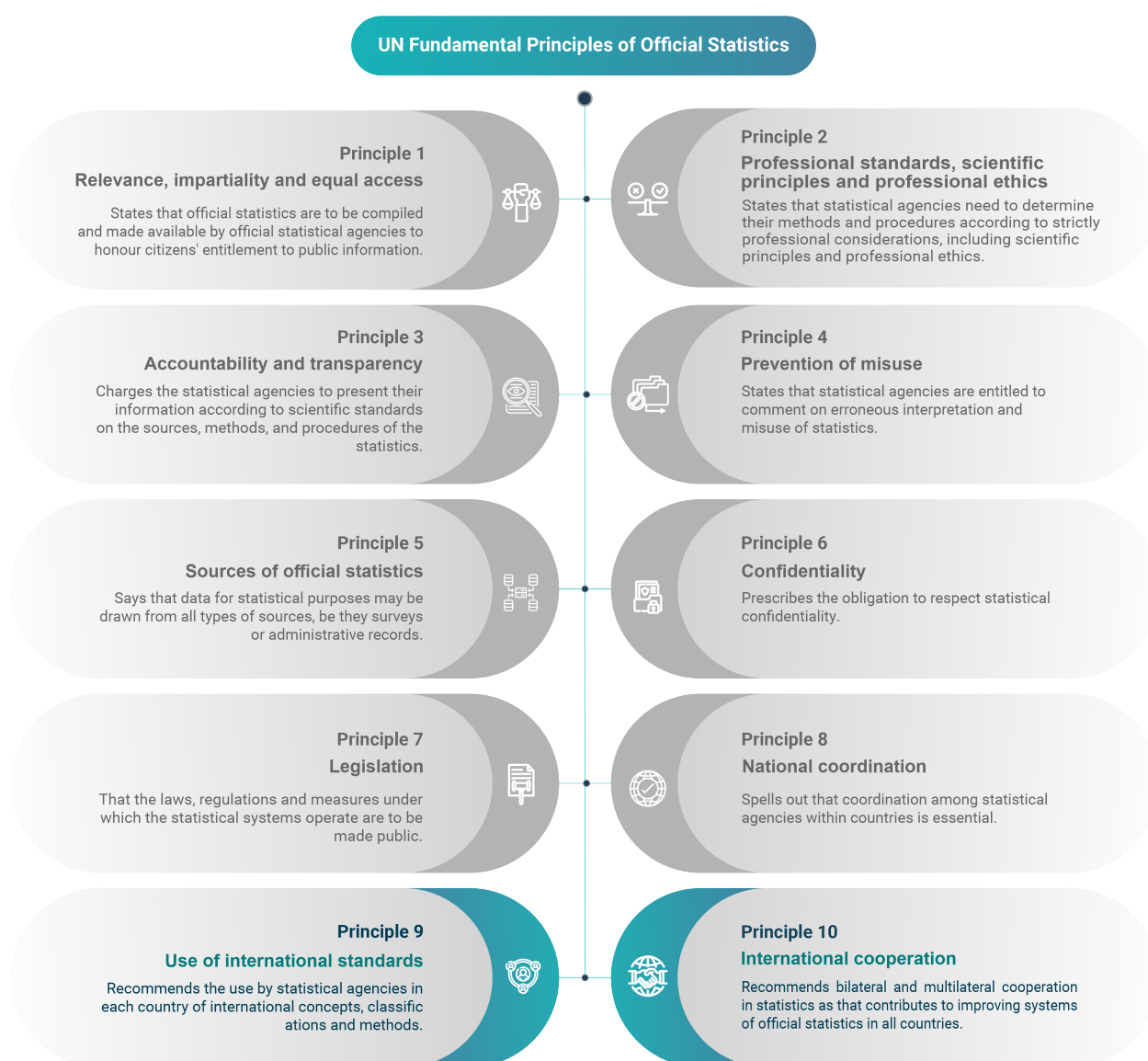


17.1 Introduction and definitions

17.1.1 The UNFPOS in the context of international statistical activities

This chapter focuses on international statistical activities—**who** undertakes them, **what** they are and **why** they are undertaken.

It is structured to provide concise information and guidance on how national statisticians can implement principles 9 and 10 of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (**UNFPOS**) through **coordination, cooperation and collaboration** mechanisms operating within the international statistical system:



- **UNFPOS 9:** The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.
- **UNFPOS 10:** Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

On UNFPOS 9, pages 80-90 of the *Implementation guidelines of the UNFPOS* (🔗) highlight that without common standards and metadata, comparability of data produced by different agencies would be impossible. This applies equally within a country and across countries.

Comparability is an important dimension of quality. If data are not comparable, they lose a lot of their utility. If data lose their utility, the organization that produces them loses relevance. It is also a key principle of work to modernise official statistics production and services that the use of common standards improves efficiency, both within individual agencies, and within the official statistics “industry” as a whole.

Therefore, the objective of the Fundamental Principle 9 is to ensure that official statistics (and their producers) remain relevant to users and provide good value for money to national governments. This principle further extends the scientific independence principles and standard related aspects of Principle 2: To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional

ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Statistical frameworks discussed in earlier chapters of the handbook provide standards and requirements for sectoral statistics (e.g., SNA, environment, labour, gender), multi-sectoral statistics (including indicator frameworks such as that for the SDGs), and quality assurance for official statistics. As described in the current chapter, these products are the results of UNFPOS actions taken by national statistical systems and the international statistical system to implement 10 — bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics to improve systems of official statistics in all countries.

17.1.2 Definitions for purposes of this chapter

Main definitions used in this chapter are listed hereunder and in the glossary at the end of the Handbook:

- **International statistical system (ISS)** - the international organizations, or structural entities thereof, involved primarily or exclusively in developing, producing, and disseminating official statistics at global, regional and sub-regional levels. In principle organizations or structural entities within the ISS conform to the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities (🔗).
- **International organization (IO)** - a body with an international membership, scope, or presence that promotes cooperation and coordination between or among its members. There are many types of international organizations. One way of categorizing them is to distinguish between **intergovernmental organizations, supranational organizations and international non-governmental organizations**.
- **Inter-governmental organization (IGO)** - an international organization that involves two or more countries working on issues of common interest and that has been established by a treaty that acts as the charter founding the organization. The secretariat of an IGO is the organ that fulfils its central administrative or general secretary duties. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization.
- **Supranational organization** - an international organization with mandate, legislative power, and authority that goes beyond its member states' boundaries. It differs from an intergovernmental organization in that within it, decisions are made by institutions specific to the organization, and not systematically by meeting of heads of state or their representatives. The European Union is one of the most prominent examples of a supranational organization.
- **Non-governmental organization (NGO)** - an organization which is independent of government involvement. NGOs are a subgroup of organizations founded by citizens, including associations that provide services to their members and others.
- **International non-governmental organization (INGO)** - a citizen-based organization independent of government involvement, with an international membership, scope, or presence, mobilizing resources and acting as implementer and catalyst to support its members and others.
- **International partnership (IP)** - An international body established between inter-governmental organizations, supranational organizations, national bodies, corporations, philanthropic foundations and/or local and national civil society/non-governmental organizations working towards a similar or shared goal. It is common to consider INGOs and IPs as being part of the same category of international organizations. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is an example of an international partnership, and PARIS21 is an IP engaged in statistical capacity development.
- **International financial institution (IFI)** - a financial institution (🔗) that has been established (or chartered) by more than one country, and hence is subject to international law (🔗). Its owners or shareholders are generally national governments, although other international institutions (🔗) and other organizations may be shareholders. The International Monetary Fund is an example of IFI.
- **Multilateral development bank (MDB)** - an IFI, created by a group of countries, provides financing (🔗) and professional advising for development (🔗). MDBs can be global (e.g., World Bank) or regional (e.g., African Development Bank) in coverage.

17.1.3 Introduction to the international statistical system

The international statistical system (ISS) comprises international or structural entities of international organizations involved primarily or exclusively in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics at global, regional or sub-regional levels. In principle, organizations or structural entities within the ISS conform to the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities (Refer to Box 12).

Box 12: Principles Governing International Statistical Activities

Bearing in mind that statistics are essential for sustainable economic, environmental and social development and that public trust in official statistics is anchored in professional independence and impartiality of statisticians, their use of scientific and transparent methods and equal access for all to official statistical information, the chief statisticians or coordinators of statistical activities of United Nations agencies and international and supranational organizations assembled in the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities are implementing ten principles to enhance the functioning of the international statistical system.

Source: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/principles_stat_activities/

The ISS and national statistical systems collaborate and voluntarily cooperate through various mechanisms on a wide range of areas and concerns covered in this Handbook, including:

- development of statistical methodologies to address new data needs;
- formulation and endorsement of internationally agreed recommendations on statistical standards, infrastructure, analytical frameworks, quality assurance frameworks, modernization models etc. and the relevant implementation manuals or guides;
- technical cooperation and technical assistance in the adoption of internationally agreed recommendations;
- coordinated capacity development of national statistical agencies and systems; and
- systematic data flows, and exchange with enhanced comparability of official statistics and internationally agreed development indicators.

A broad overview of the categories of organizations comprising the ISS is depicted in Figure 22. Some key entities of the ISS are indicated in Figure 23. More detailed descriptions of the statistical mandate, domains, programmes and products, technical cooperation and capacity development activities of the various organizations are presented in subsequent sections.

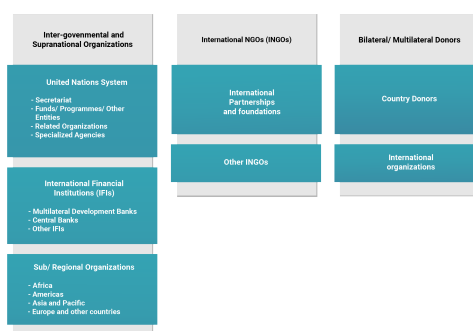


Fig. 17.1: Main categories of international organizations in the ISS

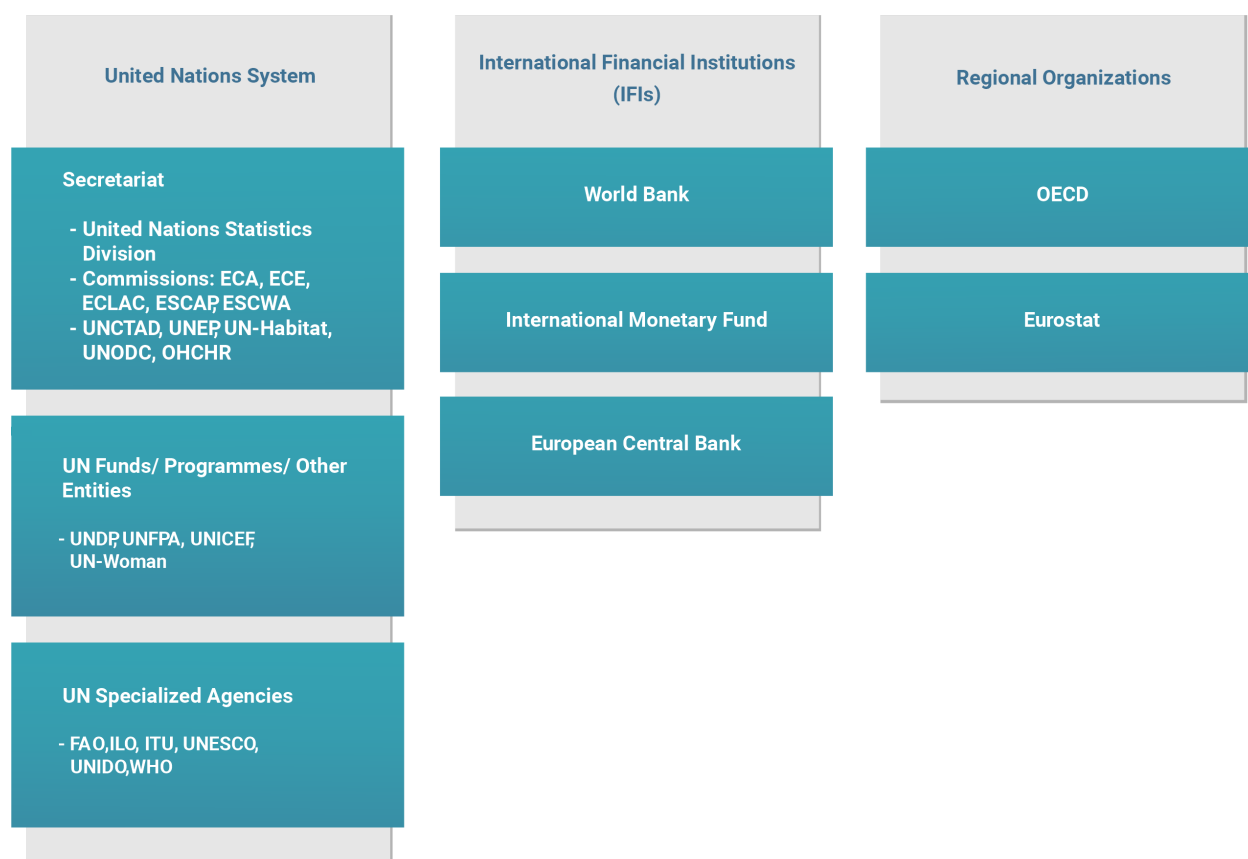


Fig. 17.2: Some key organizations of the ISS

17.2 The United Nations System in the ISS

The “family” of UN entities and their relationships to each other (United Nations System) is pictured in *Annex 6 - The United Nations System*¹. United Nations entities with statistical mandates and/or engage in discussions on statistical development issues either report to or whose work is coordinated through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

17.2.1 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as the implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN System and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies². It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. The latter includes its functions relating to the National Voluntary Reviews on the status of implementation of the SDGs that are part of the annual discussions of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development, and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (🌀) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (🌀) for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly (🌀) for two days.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven. These national reviews (🌀) are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. These reviews by the HLPF are voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and provides a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

A related crucial dimension of the HLPF follow-up and review process of implementing the 2030 Agenda is the regional forums for sustainable development (see *Chapter 17.14.2 — High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB)*). These regional forums are convened annually by the five regional commissions. The regional forums serve as an important mechanism, not only for tracking progress in implementation at the regional level, but also for keeping all the stakeholders mobilized and engaged in strengthening their commitment to concerted action, and in garnering international support for efforts to translate the SDGs into measurable and shared prosperity that benefits the planet and its people.

17.2.2 United Nations Statistical System

The UN statistical system can be loosely described as the set of all statistical units of the United Nations system. Over the years, it has grown significantly, reflecting the increasing complexity of the development phenomena with which the United Nations is concerned and demonstrating that solid and high-quality statistical information is an indispensable prerequisite for global development. The institutional complexity of the United Nations statistical system mirrors the institutional complexity of the United Nations itself.

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), the “apex” entity of the international statistical system is a creation of the United Nations and a functional commission of the ECOSOC.

Four broad groups of UN System entities with statistical mandates can be distinguished.

¹ More information on the United Nations is available at <https://www.un.org/en/about-us>

² More information on the ECOSOC in brochure at https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/ecosoc_brochure_2020_digital_2th.pdf

- First, there is a group comprising the (#2) **secretariat units**, including the Statistics Division (UNSD) under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (#2.1- DESA) and the statistical units of the five regional commissions (#2.2).
- Second, there are the statistical units of (#3) **funds and programmes and other entities**— for example, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Each has its own funding and, therefore, its own administrative and programming procedures.
- Third, there are the statistical units of the (#4) **specialized agencies** such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), each being mandated by a governing body. The members of the specialized agencies, which decide on their budgets and programmes, are composed mostly of governmental bodies of member States, but, in some cases, such as the ILO, employers’ and workers’ organizations are also members. The members decide the budgets and programmes.
- Fourth, there are the statistical units of (#5) **related organizations**—the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). These are organizations whose cooperation agreement with the United Nations has many points in common with that of Specialized Agencies but does not refer to Article 57 and 63 of the United Nations Charter, relevant to Specialized Agencies.

This decentralized approach has enabled the various statistical units to develop a high degree of technical specialization, thereby allowing them to serve their specific constituencies and users well. On the other hand, this decentralization has created a need for a functioning coordination mechanism, to ensure coherent data outputs and the effective utilization of scarce resources across the units.

Chapter 17.3 — United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) discusses the UNSC. The rest of section A describes the ISS entities organized around the categories shown in Figure 19. The subsections briefly describe the statistical mandates of the entities. More detailed information for each of the entities is available in “Cards”. The cards can be accessed by clicking the embedded link in the name of the organization in the subsections or in the list of organizations in *Annex 7 - International Statistical System and Links to Cards*.

17.2.3 United Nations Statistical Quality Assurance Framework

In March 2018, the chief statisticians of the UN (🌐) System ratified the *UN Statistical Quality Assurance Framework* (🌐). This framework is intended to complement and support the *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities* (🌐), in particular principle 4, which strives to continuously improve the quality and transparency of statistics and identifies the adoption of a quality assurance framework by each international organization as best practice.

The *UN Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF)* is an overarching framework, intended to provide a common language and understanding of quality across all UN entities, funds and programmes. It was prepared to address the UN statistical governance infrastructure gap, identified in the* *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities**, noted above. The *UN SQAF* also provides a generic template, so that each UN agency can develop their own bespoke SQAF, tailored to their specific circumstances, and yet retain overall coherence, and common look and feel across all agencies.

The UN SQAF provides a comparable framework to the *UN National Quality Assurance Framework (UN NQAF)* discussed in *Chapter 8 - Quality Management*, except rather than being designed for national statistical systems and national official statistics, the UN SQAF is written for the UN statistical system and international official statistics. In fact, this is one of the most novel aspects of the UN SQAF – the clear distinction made between official national and official international statistics. The UN SQAF defines Official International statistics as:

“statistics, indicators or aggregates produced by a UN agency or other international organization in accordance with the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities formulated by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities” (UN SQAF: Page 9).

Key priorities of UN statistics, and international statistics generally, are adherence to international standards and by extension, international comparability across countries. Consequently, modifications may occasionally be made to national statistics. Thus, the UN SQAF notes, it is not sufficient to describe or define official international statistics as simply the reproduction of official national statistics. Differences between national and international official statistics generally arise where national statistics have been adjusted to ensure adherence to international standards, classifications, definitions or methods, or when national statistics are erroneous. The UN SQAF also highlights the fact that UN agencies and international organizations may use unofficial data to compile international aggregates. In this regard, UN agencies and international organizations are guided by *ECOSOC Resolution 2006/6* (S/RES/2006/6) para 5c, that calls on international agencies to avoid imputation unless specific country data are available for reliable imputations following consultations with concerned countries and through transparent methodologies.

It is envisaged that the UN SQAF will bring several benefits, including providing a systematic mechanism for identifying problems with the quality of statistical outputs, and possible actions for their resolution; creating awareness and culture of quality within agencies; and bring greater transparency to the processes by which statistics are produced, and their quality assured. But perhaps most importantly, the UN SQAF is a statement of intent; it makes explicit the objective or vision that all UN statistics will be assessed in accordance with the framework and that quality improvement possibilities are identified and implemented.

Like many national assurance frameworks or codes of practice, the UN SQAF comprises three quality components: institutional; process; and output. These in turn, together, comprise 8 quality dimensions, as shown in Figure 24. The UNCTAD SQAF is presented as an example in Box 13.

Box 13: UN SQAF - UNCTAD

In July 2019, UNCTAD launched its Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (S/RES/2006/6). This framework was prepared by their Statistics Coordination Committee, approved by UNCTAD's Secretary-General, and then presented and approved by the Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD's inter-governmental governing body. Two notable features of the UNCTAD SQAF are:

- The SQAF is prefaced by a statistics quality declaration (S/RES/2006/6) where UNCTAD's commitment to statistical excellence and making available high quality, independent statistics to inform research, debate and decision-making is reaffirmed, as is their commitment to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities.
- The UNCTAD SQAF includes 26 Quality Performance Indicators. These QPIs set out explicit benchmarks against which UNCTAD's statistical quality will be assessed. Critically, these indicators are also the basis upon which UNCTAD will conduct their first self-assessment during 2020. For transparency, UNCTAD has published its self-assessment questionnaire (S/RES/2006/6). |

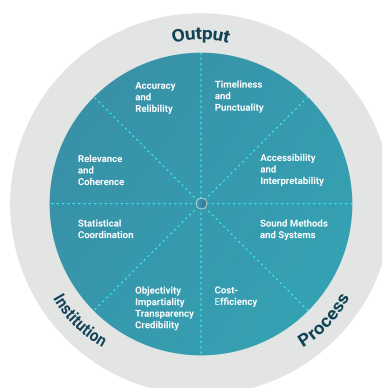


Fig. 17.3: Quality components & dimensions

17.3 United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)

The United Nations Statistical Commission (**UNSC**), established in 1946 and convened for the first time in 1947, is the highest body in the international statistical system. It brings together the chief statisticians of member states from around the world. It is the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities, especially the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level. In this sense, the UNSC is referred to as the apex entity of official statistics globally.

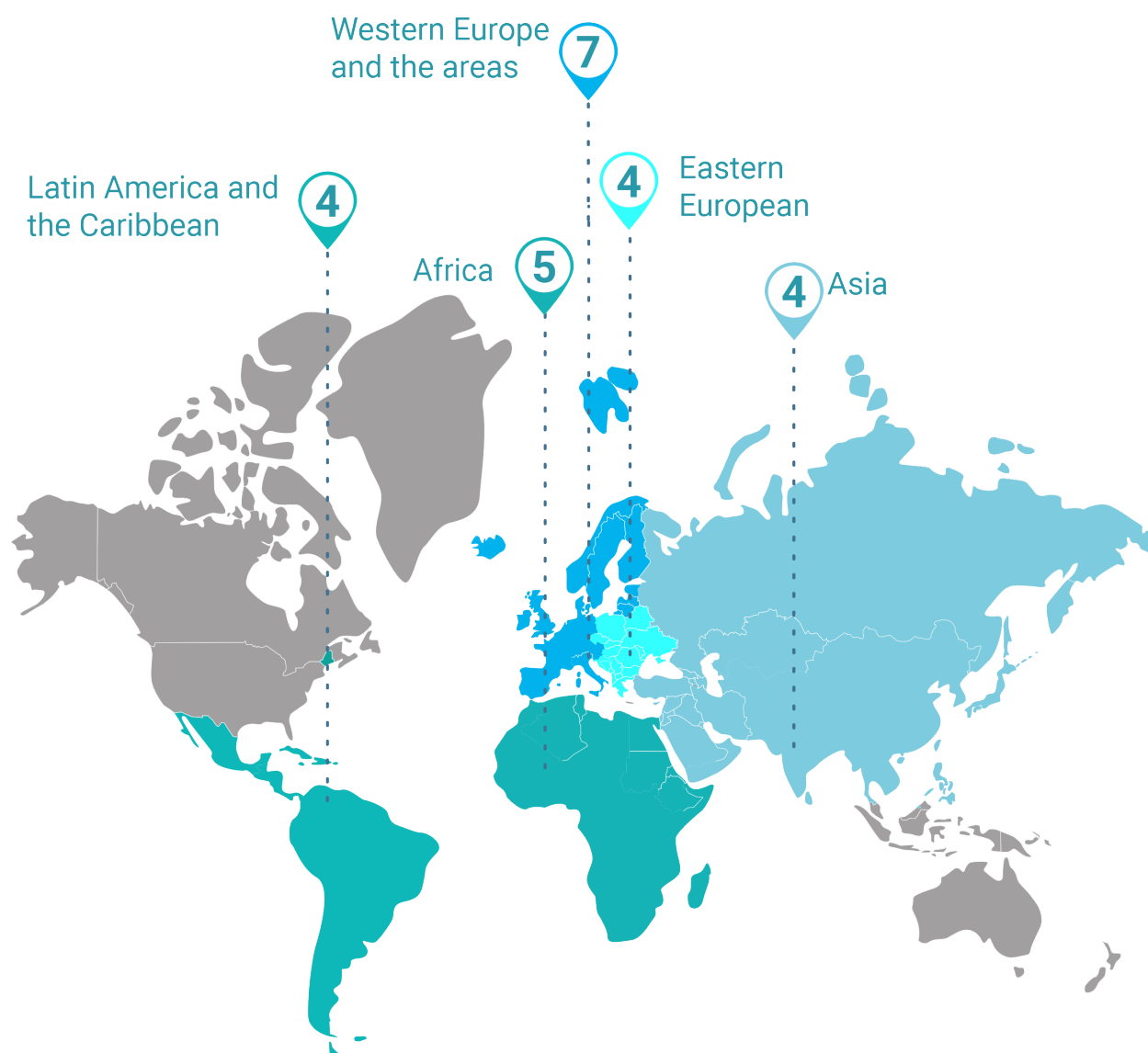
17.3.1 Mandate of the UNSC

The UNSC is one of eight functional commissions of the ECOSOC. It assists the ECOSOC in:

- promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;
- the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;
- the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;
- advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information; and
- promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

17.3.2 Members of the UNSC

The UNSC consists of 24 member countries of the United Nations elected by the ECOSOC based on equitable geographical distribution, as follows:



The term of office of an elected member is four years. Information on the current membership ([link](#)) is provided.

17.3.3 Methods of work of the UNSC

Annual session of the UNSC

The UNSC convenes formally in a four-day annual session. These four days, it considers issues of special concern in international statistical development, methodology, coordination and integration of international statistical programmes, and support of technical cooperation activities in statistics and organizational matters. With the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs monitoring and evaluation indicator framework, the UNSC in its annual sessions has provided broad and targeted guidance to support national statistical offices in capacity strengthening and addresses new and emerging data and statistics challenges.

See here for a summary of agenda items ([link](#)) for 2010-2019 and an archive of past sessions ([link](#)).

In addition to the formal sessions, a programme of side-events that typically starts during the week before the formal sessions features informal discussions, informative briefings, informal consultations and networking of participants and organizations, and meetings of organizations, working groups and bureaus of intergov-

environmental statistical bodies. In recent years, the programme of events has included a Friday Seminar on Emerging Issues and a Monday High-Level Forum on Official Statistics; the outcomes of which are reported to the UNSC at its formal session.

The sessions are attended by its 24 members with all other member States of the United Nations invited to attend as observers. The five United Nations regional commissions, other United Nations entities (funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other bodies, entities and related organizations—refer to Figure 20) may also attend as observers.

Organizations that do not belong to the United Nations that belong to the international statistical system may also attend the annual sessions as observers. In addition, the UNSC generally welcomes the participation of non-members and the representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) in various aspects of its work, as observers.

The Commission submits a report on each session to the ECOSOC. The report contains an account of the Commission's proceedings and the action taken/decisions on each agenda item. An archive of reports of past sessions can be found [here](#). The report of the 51st session can be found [here](#).

Officers and secretariat of the UNSC

The officers of the UNSC also referred to as the Bureau, are the Chairman, 3 Vice-chairmen and the Rapporteur. Elections are held at the beginning of a session.

The sessions of the UNSC are substantively serviced by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Groups of the UNSC

Over the years, numerous groups have been established under the auspices of the UNSC to examine topics of methodological interest, develop normative documents, and coordinate statistical work. Typically, the outputs of the groups are submitted to the Commission for discussion and eventually for endorsement. These arrangements have allowed the Commission to fulfil the high expectations associated with being the highest body in the international statistical system. Collaborative work among national statistical offices and statistical units of international, regional and supranational organizations has resulted in a myriad of accomplishments in established and emerging areas of statistics.

In 2022, a total of 46 groups operate under the UNSC. The arrangements and mandates of these various groups reflect a spirit of inclusiveness and collective ownership. In order to address the wealth and breadth of official statistics, ten distinct types of groups can be identified: city groups, friends of the Chair groups, task forces, working groups, expert groups, committees, inter-agency and expert groups, partnerships, high-level groups and networks.


Table 1 provides a breakdown of the types of groups by sustainable development pillar¹. More information () on these groups is available.

Table 1: Number of active groups under the Statistical Commission, by type of group and pillar (October 2019)

¹ The UNSC is overseeing a comprehensive and continuing review of the various types of groups that are currently operating and explores potential issues with a view to streamlining the current arrangements to achieve more coordinated and coherent working methods. The review started with the examination of the city group mechanism during the forty-ninth session and is intended to continue in the agenda item discussions on the working methods of the Commission.

Type of group/ pillar	Economic	Environmental	Social	Cross-cutting	Number of groups in type
City groups	4	2	3	-	9
Friends of the Chair groups	1	-	-	1	2
Task forces	2	-	-	1	3
Working groups	4	2	2	2	10
Expert groups	2	1	5	3	11
Partnerships	-	-	-	1	1
Committees	1	2	-	2	5
Inter-agency and expert groups	-	1	1	1	3
Other ^a	-	-	-	2	2
Total number of groups	14	8	11	13	46

^a Others includes the high-level group and network

Source: Adapted from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/StatCom/51st-session/documents/2020-27-WorkingMethods-E.pdf>

17.4 United Nations Secretariat

17.4.1 Overview of the United Nations Secretariat

The United Nations Secretariat comprises the Secretary-General (SG) and international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs. It is organized along departmental lines, with each department or office having a distinct area of action and responsibility. Offices and departments coordinate with each other to ensure cohesion as they carry out the Organization's day-to-day work in offices and duty stations around the world.

Secretariat entities with statistical mandates, as shown in Figure 22¹ are the following:

Department of Economic & Social Affairs (DESA)

¹ Other agencies of the UN Secretariat: Secretariats of UNEP and UN-Habitat classified under Programmes and Funds, are part of the UN Secretariat. Likewise, the secretariat of UNCTAD, classified under Other Entities, is part of the UN Secretariat.



United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)



United Nations Population Division (UNPD)

Regional Commission



Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)



Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Other agencies of the UN Secretariat



Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

17.4.2 DESA: United Nations Statistics Division

“The United Nations Statistics Division is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. We compile and disseminate global statistical information, develop standards and norms for statistical activities, and support countries’ efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. We facilitate the coordination of international statistical activities and support the functioning of the United Nations Statistical Commission as the apex entity of the global statistical system.”

In the field of statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division has a unique role in setting global statistical standards, pulling SDG data together and coordinating the work of the entire UN Statistical System in capacity building to strengthen national statistical systems under the leadership of national statistical offices. This central role stems from the UNSD role as Secretariat of the Statistical Commission, ensuring that countries are clearly in the driving seat.

The Statistics Division’s main functions (🌀) are:

- **Data:** Collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information;
- **Methodology:** Standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions;
- **Capacity Development:** Technical cooperation programme;
- **Coordination:** Coordination of international statistical programmes and activities.

17.4.3 DESA: Population Division

The UN Population Division provides comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development contained in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It produces population estimates and projections and provides statistics and analyses on patterns of rural and urban population change; international migration; the implications on the development of the changing age structure of the population; fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among the population, the resources, the environment and the development and the evolution of population policies.

17.4.4 United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs)

The United Nations has five regional commissions, each one with statistical mandates. The statistical mandates are carried out by intergovernmental statistical bodies serviced by a statistics unit of the secretariat. The statistical units report to both their respective Commissions and the UNSC. Table 2 lists the commissions and the corresponding bodies and units. More information in the weblink.

In general, the statistical mandate of the UNRCs includes technical cooperation with NSOs in the implementation of international standards, methods and analytical frameworks; contributing to the development of international statistical standards; and collection and dissemination of statistical data on the region. Their bi-annual work programmes are deliberated on and endorsed by their respective intergovernmental statistical bodies; these then go through the UN programming and budgetary processes.

Table 2: United Nations Regional Commissions and Statistics

Regional Commission	Intergovernmental Statistical Body	Secretariat Statistics Unit
Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Statistical Commission for Africa 🔗	African Centre for Statistics 🔗
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	Conference of European Statisticians 🔗	Statistical Division 🔗
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Statistical Conference of the Americas 🔗	Statistics Division 🔗
Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP)	Committee on Statistics 🔗	Statistics Division 🔗
Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa (ESCWA)	Statistical Committee 🔗	Statistics Division 🔗

Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

The general mandate of UNECA is to promote inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in support of accelerating the economic diversification and structural transformation of Africa.

Its statistical mandate is to enable the African statistical system to produce high-quality statistics, data and geospatial information to inform sound and evidence decision-making through capacities building, advocacy, appraisal of relevant standards, and research on statistical concepts, methods and processes.

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

UNECE has 56 member States in Europe, North America, Western and Central Asia, and aims to promote pan-European economic integration. All interested United Nations member States may participate in the work of UNECE.

Its statistical mandate is to support national statistical systems through methodological guidance, standards models and forums for various statistical domains, the modernization of statistics, and capacity development. By bringing together experts from across the statistical community, UNECE looks for common efficiencies and innovative ways to tackle persistent and emerging challenges in official statistics.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with several Asian, European and North American nations with historical, economic and cultural ties with the region, comprise the 46 Member States of ECLAC. Fourteen non-independent territories in the Caribbean are Associate Members of the Commission. Its purpose is to contribute to the region's economic and social development, coordinate actions directed towards this end, and reinforce economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world.

Its statistics mandate is to improve, in tandem with pertinent sub-regional bodies, the production, dissemination and use of statistics for evidence-based decision-making in the region.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

ESCAP is the regional intergovernmental platform and development arm of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific and is responsible for assisting its members and associate members in integrating the three sustainable development dimensions. Its research, intergovernmental and capacity-building functions support members in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through nine subprogrammes. Its mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including Council resolution 37 (IV), by which ESCAP was established.

The mandates of the Statistics subprogramme arise from a number of General Assembly, ECOSOC and ESCAP resolutions, see a/75/6 (Sect.19) ([🔗](#)).

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

ESCWA provides a framework for the formulation and harmonization of sectoral policies for member countries, a platform for congress and coordination, a home for expertise and knowledge, and an information observatory. Its aims for member countries are to support economic and social development; promote interaction and cooperation; encourage the exchange of experience, best practice and lessons learned; achieve regional integration and ensure interaction between Western Asia and other regions; and, raise global awareness of the circumstances and needs of member countries.

Its statistics mandate is to: act as the regional focal point for the UN Statistics Division, United Nations organizations, other international and regional organizations and Member States; organize and coordinate activities to strengthen national statistical systems and harmonize official statistics; and coordinate the statistical data work of the ESCWA secretariat and the collection, production and dissemination of statistics.

17.4.5 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

OCHA provides information management services to the humanitarian community to inform a rapid, effective and principled response. It gathers, shares and uses data and information, underpinning coordination, decision-making and advocacy. OCHA also adapts tools and methodologies for monitoring humanitarian response, including developing joint analysis with local communities, and with development, peace building, environment and other actors.

OCHA manages the Centre for Humanitarian Data ([🔗](#)), which focuses on increasing the use and impact of data in the humanitarian sector.

17.4.6 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

OHCHR is the leading United Nations entity on human rights. It is mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in international law, including human rights treaties. The mandate includes preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating throughout the United Nations related activities, strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights.

In implementing its mandate, OHCHR employs a wide range of methodologies, including statistical methods for human rights analysis, assessment, monitoring, and advocacy. It engages in data collection, analysis, and dissemination of statistics and indicators related to human rights and the SDGs, including the compilation and publication of world maps and meta-data.

17.4.7 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Founded in 1964, the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was held in Geneva, to address developing countries' growing concerns on international trade and development issues. Today, UNCTAD is mandated to support developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development. UNCTAD's statistics are mandated as part of the broader mandate.

17.4.8 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The UNEP statistics mandate focuses on strengthening the integration of environmental data and analysis, including the use of statistics and accounting to promote sustainable development and enhancing multi-agency collaboration on environmental indicators and monitoring. The mandate also covers scaling-up actions informed by environmental statistics and science, including integrated analyses across the three pillars of sustainable development.

17.4.9 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency for human settlements. Its mandate is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.

The statistics mandate of UN-Habitat is geared towards improving the worldwide urban knowledge base by supporting governments, local authorities, academia, private sector and civil society in the development, production and application of policy-oriented urban indicators, statistics and other urban information and influence local, national and global policy debates and help set the agenda for sustainable urban and human settlements development.

17.4.10 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC draws its mandate from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs () and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice () who address the need to integrate human rights in States' responses to drugs, crime and terrorism, through various resolutions, among others.

UNODC collects, analyses and disseminates drugs and crime statistics. In line with these mandates, in addition to the World Drug Report and the annual report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on world crime trends, UNODC maintains several on-line databases and ad hoc statistical, thematic and analytical reports. UNODC also

has a mandated role in supporting capacity building efforts that assist Member States in providing reliable and comparable statistical drug and crime information.

17.5 Statistical Programmes of UN Funds and Programmes and Other Entities

17.5.1 Overview

UN funds and programmes and other entities (cards) included are:



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



International Trade Centre (ITC)



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)


17.5.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP was established in 1965 by the United Nations General Assembly. UNDP is the UN's global development network, and one of the world's largest inter-governmental development agencies.

UNDP helps countries achieve the eradication of poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion through support for development policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities, and building resilience to sustain development results. UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change. UNDP supports countries' efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, guiding global development priorities through 2030.

UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 directly contributes to the 2030 Agenda principles of **leaving no one behind** and **reaching the furthest behind first**. The *Strategic Plan* includes a Common Chapter, shared with the Strategic Plans of UNICEF, UNFPA and UN-Women, which commits the four agencies to work together in "Ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development", among other key areas of collaboration.

17.5.3 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The mandate of UNFPA () as established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1973 and reaffirmed in 1993, is (1) to build the knowledge and the capacity to respond to needs in population and family planning; (2) to promote awareness of population problems and possible strategies to deal with these problems; (3) to assist countries in addressing their population problems in the forms and means best suited to the individual countries' needs; (4) to assume a leading role in the UN system in promoting population programmes, and to coordinate projects supported by the Fund.

At the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, these broad ideas were elaborated to emphasize the gender and human rights dimensions of population.

UNFPA contributes to strengthening national population data systems by building or strengthening a data-centred approach worldwide, supporting modern data generation in all forms (population and housing census, household surveys, and civil registration); data processing and dissemination; and data analysis for demographic intelligence and measuring programme impact. In all activities, UNFPA strengthens or builds national statistical capacity.

17.5.4 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF is the United Nations Fund responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. It was founded in 1946 to advocate for the protection of children's rights, help meet their basic needs, and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child through country programmes and National Committees.

UNICEF is the world's leading statistical data source on children used by over 1 million people annually. UNICEF is the sole or joint custodian for 19 SDG indicators and as such, the official source for most global data on children.

17.5.5 United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established in July 2010 to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports the UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the SDGs and a more inclusive world.

UN Women's statistics mandate derives from the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (🔗) which provides the framework for the work of the Entity (Strategic Objective H.3 Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation), as established by *UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/289*. *UN Women's strategic plan, 2018–2021* (🔗) outlines UN Women's strategic direction, objectives and approaches to support efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It supports the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and contributes to the gender-responsive implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (🔗).

17.5.6 International Trade Centre (ITC)

Established in 1964, ITC is a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. ITC supports their parent organizations' regulatory, research, and policy strategies. It focuses on implementing and delivering practical trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) projects, dedicated to the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The provision of innovative, cutting-edge market information to enable improved business decision-making has been at the heart of ITC's mandate since its foundation in 1964. In this regard, ITC's work is focused on: enhancing global public goods as the foundation for trade and market intelligence; strengthening the skills of local partners in effectively using trade and market intelligence to make business decisions; working with local trade and investment support institutions to improve their trade and market intelligence-related portfolio of services; developing new and innovative approaches to intelligence, including competitive intelligence; and facilitating evidence-based policy reform, with a focus on addressing non-tariff obstacles to trade in goods and services.

Together with UNCTAD and WTO, ITC has provided data and statistics for the trade related targets of the MDG and SDG agenda.

17.5.7 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The core mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and thus the role and functions of UNHCR which was established in 1950, is to pursue protection, assistance and solutions for refugees. UNHCR also helps prevent statelessness by providing technical and advisory services to States on nationality, legislation and practice.

UNHCR is the provider of official, government-approved refugee statistics released annually in its Global Trends report on World Refugee Day since the beginning of this century. Accurate and up-to-date statistics on the forcibly displaced are for planning, monitoring and evaluation purposes, and for official reporting to UNHCR's Executive Committee, to ECOSOC, and to satisfy general information needs from the UN common system, donors, NGOs, for public information purposes, fund raising/appeals, speeches, research, and maps.

17.6 Statistical Programmes of UN Specialized Agencies

17.6.1 Overview

The UN specialized agencies (cards) included here are:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)



International Labour Organization (ILO)



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UNESCO-UIS)



United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)



Universal Postal Union (UPU)



World Health Organization (WHO)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

17.6.2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Founded in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition; eliminate poverty; promote progress in the form of economic and social development; and foster the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources to benefit present and future generations.

Statistics is a core component of FAO's overall mandate and strategic goals. The FAO Constitution (Article 1 paragraph 1) states that the Organization's function is to 'collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture.'

17.6.3 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a UN specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)* [!\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154_img.jpg\)](#). ICAO works with the Convention's 193 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.

Article 55 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) specifies the importance of conducting research and studies "into all aspects of air transport and air navigation which are of international importance, communicate the results of its research to the contracting States...". ICAO's work on Big Data and the dissemination of the analytical results is carried out, keeping in mind this requirement of the Chicago Convention.

17.6.4 International Labour Organization (ILO)

The only tripartite United Nations agency, the ILO, founded in 1919, brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

The ILO fulfils multiple roles in relation to statistics on work and the labour market. International statistical standards on work are adopted through the tripartite International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) which has been meeting since 1923 and currently convenes once every 5 years and is hosted by the ILO.

The ILO Department of Statistics promotes and supports the wide implementation of statistical standards and provides high-quality information on decent work through a wide-ranging programme of technical assistance and capacity building activities, supported by its network of regional labour statisticians.

In addition, the ILO hosts the leading global database of statistical information on work and the labour market, ILOSTAT and produces a range of statistical publications on decent work and related issues.


17.6.5 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). Founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, ITU allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

ITU is the official source for global ICT statistics. ITU's work on statistics originated in 1973, when member states attending the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference in Geneva, instructed the ITU to publish telecommunication statistics, and a "Yearbook of Common Carrier Telecommunication Statistics", in addition to several other telephone and telegraph indicators.

17.6.6 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute of Statistics (UNESCO-UIS)

Founded in 1999, the UNESCO-UIS is the official and trusted source of internationally comparable data on education, science, culture and communication. As the official statistical agency of UNESCO, the UIS produces a wide range of indicators by working with national statistical offices, line ministries and other statistical organizations. To produce these indicators, the Institute develops the international standards, methodologies and capacity-building tools needed by countries to improve data quality and use at the national and global levels.

The UIS has been tasked with producing data needed to monitor progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4), as well as key global targets related to science, culture and communications. The *Education 2030 Framework for Action*  recognizes the UIS as "the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education" and has given the Institute the mandate to "work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO's mandate."

17.6.7 United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

UNIDO is the United Nations' specialised agency for industrial development, promoting productive activities to reduce income poverty and contribute to environment-friendly technology of industrial production. Founded in 1966, UNIDO's mandate is to help the Member States promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (🔗). UNIDO's mandate is fully integrated in-line with SDG-9, which calls to "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

UNIDO's statistics mandate is to produce reliable and internationally comparable industrial statistics for the use of international knowledge institutions.

17.6.8 World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

The UNWTO, established in 1974, is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

The United Nations recognizes the World Tourism Organization as the appropriate organization to collect, analyse, publish, standardize and improve the statistics of tourism, and promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.

17.6.9 Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The UPU was established in 1874 to ensure universal access to affordable public postal services of the highest standard.

UPU is the official source for global postal statistics. Its first statistical yearbook was published in 1877 – a time series for certain indicators dating back to 1875. Thus, it has the longest tradition in publishing official statistics among international organizations.

17.6.10 World Health Organization (WHO)

Its 1946 Constitution establishes that the objective of the WHO "shall be the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health" to guarantee the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The thirteenth general programme of work summarizes WHO's mission to promote health, keep the world safe and protect the vulnerable.

WHO's statistics mandate is drawn from the 1946 WHO Constitution that stipulates as a core function of the Organization "to establish and maintain such administrative and technical services as may be required, including epidemiological and statistical services".

17.6.11 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

WIPO, established in 1967, is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. WIPO's mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

Reliable intellectual property (IP) statistics are an important tool in understanding policy, business, and technology trends worldwide. WIPO cooperates with IP offices from around the world to provide the most up-to-date global IP data. WIPO also publishes statistical reports on worldwide IP activity and on the use of WIPO-administered treaties in protecting IP rights internationally.

17.6.12 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The general mandate of the WMO, established in 1950, is international cooperation for the development of meteorology, climatology and operational hydrology and their application. WMO provides the framework for such international cooperation.

WMO provides statistics on climate on various times scales ranging from monthly to annual and decadal and multi-decadal.

17.7 Statistical Programmes of Related Organizations

17.7.1 Overview

The three related organizations to the UN included here are:



International Organization for Migration (**IOM**)



International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**)



World Trade Organization (**WTO**)

17.7.2 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Established in 1951, the IOM has been engaging with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and, uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

IOM's statistics mandate is to strengthen the global evidence base on migration; develop the capacities of states and other relevant partners; and ensure more evidence-based IOM and UN-wide engagement.

17.7.3 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Established in 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Statistical data on commercial nuclear power plants and their contribution to electricity generation has been collected by the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Energy for over 50 years and maintained in the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS). **PRIS** is a unique nuclear power data source with comprehensive information on nuclear power reactors of all IAEA Member states.

17.7.4 World Trade Organization (WTO)

Founded in 1995, at the heart of WTO's mandate are the agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations. These documents provide the legal ground-rules for international commerce. They are essentially contracts, binding governments to keep their trade policies within agreed limits. Although negotiated and signed by governments, the goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business while allowing governments to meet social and environmental objectives.

WTO is the official source of consolidated bound and applied tariffs as well as services commitments. In addition, it maintains trade flow-related information on merchandise and trade in commercial services (in cooperation with UNCTAD and ITC).

17.8 Statistical Programmes of International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

17.8.1 Overview

International financial institutions with statistical programmes include multilateral development banks and central banks. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) support the national, regional, and international statistical systems to improve the scope and quality of basic data and statistics.

The IMF and the World Bank are also specialized agencies in the United Nations system. For purposes of this Chapter, their statistical mandates are presented in this section.

World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are also referred to as Bretton Woods institutions. They were set up at a meeting of 43 countries in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA in July 1944 to build a framework for international economic cooperation. The original Bretton Woods agreement also included plans for an International Trade Organization (ITO). Instead, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established in 1948 as a provisional agency that provided the rules for much of world trade until the World Trade Organization (WTO) was created in 1995. Whereas the GATT mainly dealt with trade in goods, the WTO and its agreements also cover trade in services and intellectual property.

In 2013, a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in statistical activities was signed by the heads of regional MDBs, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations—now known as the **MoU Group**. The objective of this Group is to enhance collaboration so as to support the strengthening of statistical capacity in the Member States and facilitate the sharing of data, tools, standards and analysis to improve statistics for the monitoring of development outcomes, including those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The IFIs (cards) included in this section are the following:

Multilateral Development Banks



World Bank (**WB**)



African Development Bank (**AfDB**)



Asian Development Bank (**ADB**)



Caribbean Development Bank (**CDB**)



Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB)



Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Central Banks



European Central Bank (ECB)



Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)

Other IFIs



International Monetary Fund (IMF)



Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

17.8.2 Multilateral Development Banks

World Bank (WB)

The WB Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development.

The WB is mandated to strengthen member countries' capacity to produce and use statistical information, including work across the WB's Development Data Group (DDG), sectoral Global Practices, and Regions. In particular, this support includes providing high-quality advice and support for clients and partner organizations to develop new statistical methods, data collection activities, analytics, and use across the full data value chain. This particularly includes collecting data (or helping others collect data) according to international standards; then processing, analysing, disseminating, and visualizing data to enable use by researchers, policy analysts, policymakers, and the public at large.

The DDG is also mandated to compile external debt statistics on 123 World Bank borrowing countries and produce the income classifications of these economies. It also manages the International Comparison Program global partnership producing key indicators on the size of the economies and their relative price levels.

Likewise, WB is a leader in open data for public goods, which draws more than 30 million unique users every year to the Bank's Open Data platform ([ODP](#)). The DDG is also responsible for the Secretariat of WB's Development Data Council, which provides data governance support and coordination for the Bank's vision, priorities and activities related to development data. The DDG is further mandated to improve country capacity through technical expertise, including implementing the system of national accounts, household surveys, and debt statistics.

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Established in 1964, the AfDB is the premier pan-African development institution, promoting economic growth and social progress across the continent. The Bank's development agenda delivers financial and technical support for transformative projects that will significantly reduce poverty through inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The AfDB has over the years, positioned itself as a leading institution and partner of choice for supporting statistical development across Africa. Through successive statistical capacity building programs (SCB) that provide grants for supporting statistical work in African countries, as well as co-funding with other bilateral and multilateral development partners, the Bank has contributed to notable improvements in statistical capacity over time.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Established in 1966, ADB envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region. ADB assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

Its statistical work aims to contribute to knowledge generation in ADB, through the use of statistics and data innovation in its institutional priorities and operational effectiveness in developing member countries. ADB initiated its statistical capacity building assistance in 1971 and since then has engaged through technical assistance grants to its developing member countries to improve their capacity in institution building, technical skills training, data production, methodological development, and innovation.

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is a financial institution that helps Caribbean nations finance social and economic programs in its member countries. CDB was established by an Agreement signed on October 18, 1969, in Kingston, Jamaica, and entered into force on January 26, 1970. With headquarters located in Bridgetown, Barbados, CDB has 19 borrowing member countries and nine non-borrowing members.

The Caribbean Development Bank invests in the economic and social development of its Borrowing Member Countries. These investments, geared towards poverty reduction, span sectors such as agriculture and rural development, energy, and water and sanitation.

The Bank has several programmes through which it serves its Borrowing Member Countries. The programmes provide technical assistance and grant funding, among other things, and in some cases, are funded in partnership with other development agencies.

Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB)

The IaDB works to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through financial and technical support for countries working to reduce poverty and inequality, the Bank helps to improve health and education, and advance infrastructure. Their aim is to achieve development in a sustainable, climate-friendly way. With a history dating back to 1959, today the Bank is the leading source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. It provides loans, grants, and technical assistance; and conducts extensive research.

The Bank's current focus areas include three development challenges – social inclusion and equality, productivity and innovation, and economic integration – and three cross-cutting issues – gender equality and diversity; climate change and environmental sustainability; and institutional capacity building and the rule of law.

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The mission of the IsDB is to promote comprehensive human development, with a focus on the priority areas of alleviating poverty, improving health, promoting education, improving governance and bringing prosperity to the people.

The following objectives guide IsDB's statistical work: facilitate the strengthening of statistical capacities of member countries, especially the Least Developed Member Countries, in collaboration with other international agencies and donors to help monitor socio-economic development and progress; maintain an updated statistical database of Macroeconomic and social indicators covering IsDB Member Countries; and data acquisition, processing, analysis and dissemination from different internal and reliable external sources.

17.8.3 Central Banks

European Central Bank (ECB)

The ECB is a supranational organization of the European Union member states. The ECB and the member states' national central banks make up the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). The Eurosystem consists of the ECB and the national central banks of the 17 Member States that have introduced the euro. The ECB is responsible for the Eurosystem single monetary policy and contributes to the smooth conduct of policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions and the financial system's stability. The ECB has legislative powers in the areas within its mandate. Its regulations are binding in their entirety and directly applicable in all countries of the euro area.

ECB statistics support the institution's monetary policy, financial stability and supervisory functions, as well as other [tasks](#) of the Eurosystem and the ESCB ([🔗](#)). Article 5 of the ESCB/ECB Statute sets out the ECB's responsibilities in the area of statistics.

European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by both the ESCB and the European Statistical System. The division of labour between the Directorate-General Statistics of the ECB and Eurostat is laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Financial Statistics ([🔗](#)).

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)

The ECCB regulates the availability of money and credit; promotes and maintains monetary stability; promotes credit and exchange conditions and a sound financial structure conducive to the balanced growth and development of the economies

of the territories of the eight participating Governments; and, actively promotes through means consistent with its other objectives the economic development of the territories of the participating Governments.

Its core statistical mandate is to compile, transform, analyse and disseminate monetary and financial statistics and macroeconomic data for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union and to provide high quality, high-frequency statistics based on international standards, through a fully integrated, web-based, interactive statistical solution.





17.8.4 Other international financial institutions

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF was conceived in July 1944 at the United Nations Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, United States. The 44 countries in attendance sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation, including to avoid repeating the competitive currency devaluations that contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The IMF's primary mission is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries and their citizens to transact with each other. This facilitates international trade and promotes employment and sustainable economic growth, thereby helping to reduce global poverty.

The IMF Statistics Department supports member country statistical operations, disseminates member country data and is responsible for the methodological development of the following statistical domains:

- Government Finance Statistics ()
- Balance of Payments and International Investment Position ()
- Monetary and Financial Statistics ()
- National Accounts and Price Statistics
- Financial Soundness Indicators ()
- Financial Access Survey ()

The IMF Statistics Department also oversees the IMF's data dissemination initiatives ([e-GDDS](#), [SDDS](#), [SDDS+](#)), which guide member countries on the publication of economic and financial data in support of domestic and international financial stability. The initiatives encourage the dissemination of data along the following statistical categories: real sector, fiscal sector, external sector and financial sector.

Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

The BIS is owned by 62 central banks, representing countries worldwide that together account for about 95% of world GDP. The mission of the BIS, established in 1930, is to serve central banks in their pursuit of monetary and financial stability, foster international cooperation in those areas, and act as a bank for central banks.

BIS statistics on the international financial system shed light on issues related to global financial stability. Compiled in cooperation with central banks and other national authorities, they are designed to inform analysis of financial stability, international monetary spill overs and global liquidity.

17.9 Regional and sub-regional organizations

17.9.1 Overview

Regional/sub-regional entities that have statistical programmes and participate in the UNSC annual sessions, as well as the intergovernmental statistical bodies (statistical conferences or committees) of the UNRCs as observers, are described below.

The organizations in this category are presented by geographic areas that generally represent their areas of operation. An exception is the OECD whose members cut across regions. See links to cards below.

Africa



African Union (AU)



Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT)



Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)



East African Community (EAC)



Economic Committee of Central African States (ECCAS)



Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)



Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Americas



Andean Community (CAN)



Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)



Central American Integration System (SICA)



Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

Asia and Pacific (including Arab regions; excluding Eurasian organizations)



Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)



Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)



Statistical Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC-Stat)



Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)



ESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)



Pacific Community (SPC)

Europe and other countries (including Eurasian organizations)



Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)



Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)



European Free Trade Association (EFTA)



Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)



Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

17.9.2 Africa

African Union (AU)

The AU promotes Africa's growth and economic development by championing citizen inclusion and increased cooperation and integration of African states. The AU is guided by its vision of "An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

It has a statistical mandate— provision and promotion of harmonised quality statistical information and good practice in support and monitoring of the implementation of the Agenda 2063 for the integration and the development of Africa. This mandate is vested in the Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), a specialised technical office of the AU.

Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT)

Founded in 1993, the AFRISTAT is an intergovernmental organization with capacity building in statistics as its main objective. AFRISTAT devotes most of its resources to building the statistical capacities of its 22 Member States and sub-regional institutions for economic integration.

AFRISTAT focuses on three modalities in implementing its mandate—harmonization and regional integration through common methodologies; training; and facilitating dialogue among African statisticians mainly from French-speaking countries.

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

COMESA was established as "an organization of free independent sovereign states which have agreed to co-operate in developing their natural and human resources for the good of all their people". COMESA's mission is "to endeavour to achieve sustainable economic and social progress in all Member States through increased co-operation and integration in all fields of development particularly in trade, customs and monetary affairs, transport, communication and information, technology, industry and energy, gender, agriculture, environment and natural resources".

Member States undertake to co-operate in the field of statistics to create an enabling environment for the regular flow of up-to-date, reliable, harmonised and comparable statistical data on various sectors of economic activity, required for an efficient implementation of the objectives of the Common Market.

East African Community (EAC)

The objective of the Community is to "develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence, security and legal and judicial affairs, for their mutual benefit".

In pursuance of the above objective, the Partner States have undertaken to "... establish among themselves and in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, a Customs Union, a Common Market, subsequently a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation...".

Economic Committee of Central African States (ECCAS)

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is an Economic Community of the African Union for promotion of regional economic co-operation in the Middle region of Africa. It was established on October 18, 1983 with the signing in Libreville of its Constitutive Treaty. This treaty was revised and adopted on December 18 and subsequently entered into force on August 28, 2020. With nearly 200 million inhabitants in 2020 and covering an area of 6.67 million km², ECCAS is made up of eleven Member States. ECCAS aims to achieve collective autonomy, raise the standard of living of its populations and maintain economic stability through harmonious cooperation.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Established on May 28 1975 via the Treaty of Lagos, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a 15-member regional political and economic union located in West Africa. Collectively, these countries comprise an area of 5,114,162 km² (1,974,589 sq. mi), with an estimated population of 349 million. ECOWAS is considered one of the pillars of the African Economic Community and as a trading union, it is meant to create a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation. ECOWAS includes two sub-regional blocs: the West African Economic and Monetary Union (also known by its French-language acronym UEMOA) and the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ). The body

of ECOWAS is made up of Institutions and Specialised Agencies. ECOWAS uses three co-official languages—French, English, and Portuguese.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The IGAD region covers Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. IGAD replaced in 1996 an earlier regional community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), founded in 1986. IGADD was formed to address severe and recurrent drought and other natural disasters responsible for ecological degradation that caused widespread famine and economic hardship in the IGAD Region. The mandate of IGAD was expanded to encompass food security and environmental protection, economic co-operation and political and humanitarian affairs.

IGAD's statistical work is envisioned to: ensure availability of highly relevant and quality harmonized statistical information for IGAD planning, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its programmes and protocols; strengthen the integration process of Member States and support implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the agenda 2063 for Africa and 2030 agenda for sustainable development; and leads harmonisation of statistical concepts, definitions and methods in the IGAD Region.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an organization founded and maintained by countries in southern Africa that aim to further the socio-economic, political and security cooperation among its 16 Member States and foster regional integration to achieve peace, stability and wealth. SADC Secretariat is the body that facilitates the implementation of SADC programmes and activities to meet its objectives and the overall goal of poverty eradication and regional integration.

The overarching objective of the SADC Regional Statistical System is to support regional integration by making available relevant, timely and accurate regional statistical information to be used for policy formulation, planning, and protocol monitoring and decision-making.

17.9.3 The Americas

Andean Community (CAN)

The Andean Community is an international organization, comprised of several institutions that make up the Andean Integration System (SAI), whose objective is to achieve a comprehensive, balanced and autonomous development, through Andean integration, with projection towards South American and Latin American integration.

The General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN), among several responsibilities, is in charge of producing comparable statistics information about the economic and social situations of its member countries, aggregated at the regional level, required by the SAI's institutions for the formulation and implementation of Andean Community policies. This statistical information is also important for the CAN to be understood by the public.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Established in 1973, CARICOM consists of 15 Member and 5 associate Member States. The CARICOM Secretariat's mandate is to contribute, in support of Member States, to the improvement of the quality of life of the People of the Community and the development of an innovative and productive society in partnership with institutions and groups working towards attaining a people-centred, sustainable and internationally competitive Community.

The Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat, which functions as a Regional Statistical Office (RSO), coordinates the functioning of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and its subsidiary groups and is the focal point for monitoring the achievements of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS).

Statistics are to be collected, stored and disseminated that are relevant for the achievement of CARICOM objectives. This includes facilitating statistical development of CARICOM through the SCCS that seeks to foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the region; widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced.

MERCOSUR

MERCOSUR, officially the Southern Common Market, is a South American (🌐) trade bloc (🌐) established by the Treaty of Asunción (🌐) in 1991 and Protocol of Ouro Preto (🌐) in 1994. The Southern Common Market is a regional integration process. Mercosur's purpose is to promote free trade (🌐) and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency; it promotes free intra-zone trade and a common trade policy between member countries.

Through its Resolution 14/10 of April 9, 2010, the Common Market Group - the executive body of MERCOSUR - created the Specialized Meeting of MERCOSUR Statistics (REES) to prepare a Strategic Statistical Plan of MERCOSUR that allows the adoption of a Harmonized Statistical System within the block.

The REES, a body that is made up of the government representatives in charge of the national statistical systems of the States Parties, must take into account its general objectives.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

The OECS is a sub-regional inter-governmental organization of 11 member states. Its major purpose is to establish the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union (ECEU) as a single economic and financial space by pursuing regional integration of its members.

The OECS's mandate for statistics supports achieving the Organization's purposes through coordination, harmonization and joint actions and pursuing joint policies.

Central American Integration System (SICA)

SICA is the institutional framework of the Regional Integration of Central America, and its fundamental objective is the realization of the integration, to constitute Central America in a Region of Peace, Freedom, Democracy and Development.

The Central American Statistical Commission of SICA (CENTROESTAD in Spanish) is a specialized technical commission, established in December 2008. Its main purpose is to facilitate the development of a regional statistical system, generate updated and timely regional statistical information (based on information from national and regional institutions) and standardize methodologies and definitions to allow comparability and aggregated data from the region.

17.9.4 Asia and Pacific (including Arab regions; excluding Eurasian organizations)

Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)

AITRS is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1977 to build the capacity of Arab national statistical offices in all areas of statistical work.

AITRS provides face-to-face and distance training courses in official statistics for employees of the Arab statistical offices and produces manuals on statistical methodologies to ensure that the statistical processes and products comply with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (the Bangkok Declaration). The Declaration was signed by the founding members of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Since then, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam have joined the ASEAN.

On 2 November 2011, the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee was inaugurated as the highest regional policymaking and coordinating body on ASEAN statistics at the regional and national statistical systems. Its mandates:

- To define ASEAN statistical priorities and promotes wider use of regional statistics;
- To promote the improvement of statistical infrastructure;
- To facilitate human resource and institutional capacity building; and
- To enhance institutional linkages with international statistical bodies.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

The overall objective of the Organization is the sustainable economic development of its Member States and the Region as a whole.

As research/statistics supporter for various activities/directorates of the ECO Secretariat and responsible for providing Member States with the economic and financial data and information, statistical data, and analytical publications and papers related to the cooperation among them in the ECO Region.

Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries (GCC-Stat)

The six Arab countries of the Gulf formed the GCC in 1981, to achieve high-level institutional coordination in economic, social, political, defence and security fields. The Statistical Centre of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (“GCC-Stat”) was established in June 2011 to provide a common official pool of statistics and data to the member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (short form is Gulf Cooperation Council or “GCC”).

GCC-Stat is the official source of statistics on the GCC. It coordinates the statistical cooperation between GCC countries and contributes to developing human and institutional capacities in member countries.

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

SESRIC is a subsidiary organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) established in pursuance of Resolution No. 2/8-E adopted by the 8th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), held in Tripoli in May 1977. The Centre started its activities in Ankara on 1 June 1978. As the statistical arm of the OIC, it is mandated to collate, process and disseminate socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries; study and evaluate the economic and social developments in the member countries to generate proposals that will initiate and enhance co-operation among them; and, organize training programmes in selected fields geared to the needs of the member countries and the general objectives of the OIC. SESRIC acts as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), which is the apex cooperation platform of the NSOs of OIC countries to facilitate exchanging experiences and best practices.

ESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

SIAP is a United Nations regional training institute for official statistics. As part of the statistics programme of ESCAP, particularly in capacity development, its mandate is to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and economies in transition of the region to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.

Pacific Community (SPC)

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. SPC is an international development organization owned and governed by 26 country and territory members sharing the Pacific vision of a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives. The unique organization covers more than 20 sectors.

Under Goal 1 of SPC’s development goals, SPC’s Strategic Plan (2016 to 2020) aims to ‘Strengthen access to and use of development statistics in policy development and monitoring progress’. All SPC’s divisions and cross-cutting programs have a statistical mandate. Some examples include statistics relating to gender, disability, climate change, education, fisheries, agriculture, health, youth and culture.

The Statistics for Development Division (SDD) plays a central role in coordinating and supporting the development, production and delivery of official statistics in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (🌀). This includes a comprehensive technical assistance program to support the development of administrative, economic, census and survey and geospatial statistical systems, including analysis and dissemination.

17.9.5 Europe and other countries (including Eurasian organizations)

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

In 1991, heads of governments of the CIS established the Statistical Committee coordinating the statistical services of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 1992, heads of the CIS Statistical Services signed an Agreement on the Statistical Service of the Commonwealth of Independent States which was renamed in 1995 as the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat).

The CIS-Stat develops harmonized common statistical methodologies; compiles and disseminates statistical data of the 10 Commonwealth states and maintains databases; engages in capacity development and international statistical cooperation; prepares analyses on socio-economic development issues of the Commonwealth, among others.

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

EEC was founded in 2015 as a permanent regulating body of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), with 5 member states and one observer. The basic objective of EEC is to enable the functioning and development of EAEU, as well as to develop proposals in the sphere of economic integration within EAEU.

EEC is the official source for EAEU statistics. EEC's work on statistics originated in 2008, when the Member States of the Customs Union of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation agreed to keep statistics on foreign and mutual trade in goods and instructed the Customs Union Commission (since February 2, 2012 – EEC) to develop a unified methodology as well as to compile and publish Customs Union Trade Statistics.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

EFTA was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States (currently four– Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, Switzerland) to promote free trade and economic integration between its members.

Statistics is defined in the EEA Agreement (9) as one of several “horizontal and flanking” policy areas. Article 76 states that “The Contracting Parties shall ensure the production and dissemination of coherent and comparable statistical information for describing and monitoring all relevant economic, social and environmental aspects of the EEA.”

Besides the EEA Agreement which applies to three EFTA Member States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and the EU Member States, the EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) is also active for all four EFTA Member States in the field of statistical technical cooperation with third countries.

Eurostat-Statistical Office of the European Union

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Union and is situated in Luxembourg. Eurostat was established in 1953 to meet the requirements of the Coal and Steel Community. When the European Community was founded in 1958, it became a Directorate-General (DG) of the European Commission.

Eurostat's mission is to provide high-quality statistics on the EU. While fulfilling its mission, Eurostat shares the following values: respect and trust, fostering excellence, promoting innovation, service orientation, and professional independence.

In June 1997, Article 285 was inserted in the EU Treaty, providing Community statistics with a constitutional basis for the first time. Article 285 was a key step for EU statistics. More and more statistics necessary for the performance of the EU activities have to be collected. In March 2009, the European Regulation establishing a legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics was adopted; followed in 2012 by the Commission Decision regarding the role and responsibilities of Eurostat within the European Commission.

The European Statistical System (ESS) is the partnership between the Community statistical authority, which is the Commission (Eurostat), and the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. This Partnership also includes the EEA and EFTA countries. The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) is the main governance body in the European Statistical System.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The OECD works to build better policies for better lives. Its goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.

With governments, policymakers and citizens, the OECD works to provide evidence-based international standards and solutions to various social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

The OECD Statistics and Data Directorate (SDD) provides statistics, across the spectrum of economic and social accounts, for evidence-based policymaking in traditional and emerging policy areas. SDD also supports and coordinates the OECD statistical system, providing tools and “smart data” solutions.

17.10 International non-governmental organizations

17.10.1 Overview

International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) are increasingly engaged in statistical capacity development, particularly by developing related frameworks and initiatives addressing new data needs. They have become important actors in the international statistical system— working in close partnership with international and national statistical agencies. In addition, many statisticians working for their national statistical systems as well as for the global statistical system are members and/or participate in statistical meetings and conferences of international professional organizations on statistical topics including official statistics. Key INGOs are described through the respective cards in this section.

International Partnerships and Foundations



Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century ([PARIS21](#))



Open Data Watch ([ODW](#))



Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data ([GPSDD](#))



Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TREND)



Data2X



Development Initiatives (DI)



Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)

Other INGOs



International Statistical Institute (ISI)



International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)



International Association for Research on Income and Wealth (IARIW)



Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)

17.10.2 International Partnerships and Foundations

PARIS21

The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) works to advance statistical capacity and improve the production and use of data and statistics for sustainable development and more effective and inclusive policy-making. PARIS21 facilitates statistical capacity development, advocates for integrating reliable data in decision-making, and co-ordinates donor support to statistics. Its mission is to strengthen statistics and promote timely, high-quality, and robust statistical information by policymakers and citizens, mainly focusing on low-income countries.

PARIS21 publishes an annual Partner Report on Support to Statistics (**PRESS**), a comprehensive global analysis of donor financial flows to data and statistics. The 2020 edition will feature a new tool that enables forward-looking prediction to facilitate coordination and planning of development partners.

Open Data Watch (ODW)

ODW is an international non-governmental organization, founded in 2013, whose mission is to bring change to organizations that produce and manage official statistical data to increase their quality, availability, and use. ODW monitors advances in the development data revolution to learn and share findings on how they can benefit national statistical systems (NSSs), particularly those in developing countries. ODW's flagship product, the Open Data Inventory (**ODIN**) has been an annual assessment (since 2015) applying international standards of the availability and openness of official statistics in national databases.

ODW works at the intersection of open data and official statistics, with the goal of increasing governments' responsiveness to citizens by increasing transparency, participation, and use of robust research and data in decision - making.

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

GPSDD is a network of 260 organizations worldwide, spanning from governments, United Nations agencies, civil society, private sector and academia. The network works closely with UNSD on many initiatives, including work to support NSOs on increasing timely data, unlocking privately held data and advocating for better financing for the data ecosystem.

GPSDD is working to create a world where good data is used to achieve just and sustainable societies. It works closely with several Members States that want to improve their data ecosystems and foster a wide government approach to leveraging data to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS)

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

SDSN's Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS) convenes cross-sector technical and policy knowledge from across the global scientific, development, public and private sector data communities. The mission of SDSN TReNDS is to catalyse learning and investment in the data revolution for development. Specifically, the aims are to: help strengthen local, national & global statistical systems by generating and curating ideas; improve learning on data sharing and incubate technical coalitions to establish practice standards for new data approaches; inform investment in emerging data opportunities; and contribute critical insights and offer technical and policy-oriented solutions on the rapidly evolving sustainable development data ecosystem.

Data2X

Data2X is an independent technical and advocacy platform housed at the United Nations Foundation, working to improve the availability, quality, and use of gender data to make a practical difference in the lives of women and girls worldwide.

Data2X strengthens the production and use of gender data by partnering with data producers to improve established data systems, including through capacity building; experimenting with new data sources and methods; and, building the case for gender data among donor and policy audiences.

Development Initiatives (DI)

DI was founded in the UK in 1993 on the premise that without better data on people in poverty and the resources that could be helping them, it would be impossible to sustainably end poverty.

DI provides rigorous information to support better decisions, influence policy outcomes, increase accountability and strengthen the use of data to eradicate poverty.

Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)

The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy, and public and private institutional support for open data.

The initiative encourages co-operation among existing agriculture and open data activities, bringing stakeholders together to solve long-standing global problems. On a practical level, GODAN lends its expertise to advising on open data policy and funding proposals and, where appropriate, submitting joint proposals with members and partners. GODAN is in a position to use its credibility and expertise to support initiatives that aim to make a positive impact in the fields of agriculture and nutrition through the use of open data, helping advise on applications, assembling partner network technical, policy and legal expertise, and acting as a facilitator.

17.10.3 Other INGOs

International Statistical Institute (ISI)

The ISI is a membership organization open to all institutions or individuals on annual subscription. ISI's catchphrase 'Statistical Science for a Better World' reflects its mission and mandate.

The ISI was established in 1885. Before the Second World War, the ISI sought to influence governmental statistical agencies by facilitating collaboration and encouraging uniformity in statistical definitions and data collection. But this role was largely taken over by the newly created United Nations. The ISI mission was modified in 1947 to emphasize international communication among statisticians rather than with governments and supporting the international promotion and dissemination of research and practice of statistics.

The ISI's mission is to lead, support and promote the understanding, development and good practice of statistics worldwide, by providing the core global network for statistics.

International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

Founded in 1985, IAOS is a membership association open to all institutions or individuals on annual subscription. It was created and developed as a specialised section of the International Statistical Institute (ISI).

IAOS brings together producers and users of official statistics to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects and to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services, particularly in developing countries, through international contacts among individuals and organizations, including users of official statistics as well as research institutions.

International Association for Research on Income and Wealth (IARIW)

The IARIW is an association founded in September 1947, dedicated to advancing knowledge relating to national income and wealth. In particular, it advances education and knowledge in the general area of income and wealth by organizing conferences and publications. The specific fields of interest include the definition, measurement, and analysis of national income and wealth; the distribution of income and wealth, and poverty; and, the development of economic and social accounting systems and their use for economic policy.

Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)

The IASI, founded in May 1940, is a professional organization whose purpose is to promote statistical development in the American region by, among others, promotion and dissemination of advances in statistical theory and methods; promotion of measures aimed at improving comparability and availability of economic and social statistics; and, cooperation with national and international organizations in activities aimed at statistical improvement.

IASI has observer status at the UN Statistics Commission and maintains cooperation agreements with the ISI, several national statistical institutes, and national statistics associations.




17.11 Coordination of International Statistical Activities

17.11.1 Global coordination mechanisms


The UN Statistical Commission has established two global coordination mechanisms for international statistical activities—the Committee for the chief statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UNS) and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). Both report to the United Nations Statistical Commission¹. This section will also briefly describe the regional coordination of international statistical activities.

Committee for the chief statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN)

¹ The latest report to the UNSC of the CCS-UNS is at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/2020-5-UNSystem-E.pdf>. The latest report to the UNSC of the CCSA is at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/2020-6-CCSA-E.pdf>


The Committee for the chief statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN) was formally established on 10 September 2014 in accordance with the decision 45/112 of the UNSC. The Committee comprises  the statistical services of United Nations funds and programmes, United Nations specialized agencies and the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, the mandates of which include the provision of international official statistics in the context of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities . The Committee adopted its terms of reference  in 2016.

The Committee operates in close collaboration with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). All members of the CCS-UN are also member of the CCSA (see E/CN.3/2020/6) .

The 51st session of the UNSC recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft resolution “*Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system*”. The resolution requests (Chapter I of the Final Report of the session) :

- CCS-UN to strengthen coordination of statistical programmes more effectively within the United Nations system, guided by and in support of the work of the Statistical Commission; and
- UNSD, as the secretariat of the CCS-UN to provide adequate support to the coordination function of the Statistical Commission as well as related activities of the Committee, by pursuing a range of activities aiming at improving functional coordination, regional and national coordination, coordination in thematic areas, coordination with other professional networks and coordination of the secretariat.

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

In September 2002, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was established to continue coordination in the statistical sector, which had been done by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities prior to 2002. The terms of reference can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Members of the Committee  comprise international and supranational organizations, whose mandate includes the provision of international official statistics regarding the *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities*, and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organization and regular contacts with countries.

17.11.2 Regional Coordination Mechanisms


Many entities of the UN statistical system have regional offices. These regional offices include, for example:


the five FAO Regional Offices (Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe and Central Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; and, Near East and North Africa), ILO Regional Offices, UNDP, UNESCO regional offices in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok and Jakarta), UNFPA, UNICEF (ROSA and EAPRO in Asia, among five others), six UN Women regional offices (Latin America and the Caribbean; Asia and the Pacific; Europe and Central Asia; West and Central Africa; East and Southern Africa; and, Arab States), UNODC, and WHO.

One of the mandates of the UN Regional Commissions (UNRCs) is the coordination of statistical activities in their respective regions. This coordination is typically implemented through the respective intergovernmental statistical bodies and other regional coordination mechanisms.

The ongoing Secretary-General’s United Nations development system reforms propose establishing a new regional coordination mechanism (RCM): a regional coordination platform (RCP), to replace the regional coordination mechanism bodies.

Example of regional coordination mechanisms in Asia - Pacific

For example, in the Asia-Pacific region, the RCM has a statistics thematic working group  that has been sustaining the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by supporting monitoring and statistical capacity development of national statistical systems and stakeholders. The Thematic Working Group on Statistics has prepared to continue under the Regional Coordination Platform, probably with a renewed name and terms of reference.

UN Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia (**RCGDS-ECA**) was created in January 2020 in response to the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General on the reform of the UN development system. It is co-chaired by UNECE and UNEP, and it reports to the Conference of European Statisticians .

The aim of the group is to promote coherence and integrated system-wide action amongst regional actors from the UN system and beyond - with the ultimate aim of improved national statistics with respect to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other characteristics towards better monitoring of national policies and priorities, including those related to the SDGs.

Example of regional coordination mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean

Considering the commitment of the ECLAC member States to the regional processes deriving from the 2030 Agenda and set out in the Quito “Mitad del Mundo” Declaration of the VIII meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in November 2015, and bearing in mind the need to decide on joint actions in response to the statistical challenges involved in implementing the Agenda, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed their intention of implementing a regional work plan that would combine and coordinate all the region’s statistical activities related to the SDGs and their indicators, to generate synergies within the regional statistical community.

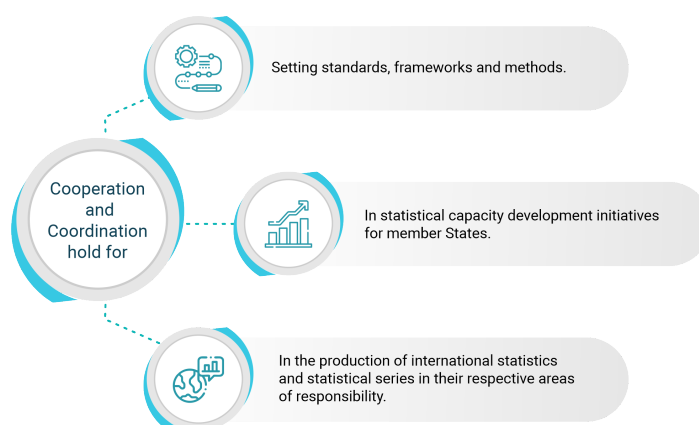
Thus, at its XV meeting, held in June 2016, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas approved the creation of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean as a joint working mechanism for establishing a regional plan to address the information requirements arising from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean will be composed of representatives of the national statistical systems member of the IAEG-SDG and the HLG-PCCB, ensuring the representation of subregional groupings.

Since its creation, the Group provides strategic leadership in the process of implementing the SDGs in the region with regard to the development and calculation of indicators, statistical monitoring and reporting and promote national ownership of the regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda; and foster capacity-building, cooperation and coordination, including by ensuring coherence between regional and global follow-up, acting as a hub for the region’s major statistical actors.

17.12 International Statistical Cooperation

17.12.1 Overview

For members of the international statistical system, cooperation and coordination are integral features in carrying out their mandates and priorities.



For members of the international statistical system, cooperation and coordination are integral features in carrying out their mandates and priorities. These hold for:

- setting standards, frameworks and methods,

- in statistical capacity development initiatives for member States, and
- in the production of international statistics and statistical series in their respective areas of responsibility.

Starting with the MDG indicators, and carried forward to the SDG indicator framework, the concept of “custodian agencies” has further highlighted the importance of cooperation and coordination in these processes. The Classification of International Statistical Activities (CISA) developed by UNECE gives a structured overview of activities carried out by international organizations.

National statistical offices engage with the international statistical system. Related to the three processes mentioned above is the importance of “partnership and national ownership”; i.e., NSSs should actively participate in the main discussion forums pertaining to statistics, such as in the United Nations Statistical Commission and the regional statistical committees, to ensure continuous improvement of statistics at all levels– the national, the (sub)regional and the international level.

Due to the scarcity of international cooperation resources allocated to statistics, the areas of concern for which cooperation will be sought need to be prioritized and different forms of cooperation and new sources of cooperation with the private sector need to be explored. Illustrative examples of the importance of statistical cooperation are presented in the *Implementation Guidelines of the UNFPOS* (IGUNFPOS).

- Eurostat and ESS - European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS) - a network of Master programmes providing post-graduate education in official statistics at the European level. EMOS is a joint project of universities and data producers in Europe.
- SESRIC and the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) - PICA receives a high-level delegation from the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and holds a roundtable with national partners (RTP).
- The technical cooperation of the National Institute of Statistics of Cabo Verde (NISC/INECV) (TCCV) embraces the improvement of techno-institutional capacity in statistics. In this context, the important role of bilateral cooperation with some statistics institutions is highlighted. These include i.e. Portugal (INE), Spain (INE), Brazil (IBGE), Luxembourg (STATEC), The Canary Islands (ISTAC), Peru (INEI), Italy (ISTAT), The High Commission of Plan of Morocco.
- The cooperation with the Portuguese speaking countries has a very important place at NISC. In particular, it has enormously contributed to the development of statistics in legislation, planning, classifications, concepts and nomenclatures, statistics infrastructures and production, consumer price index (CPI), census mapping, population census and finally national accounts. NIS equally counts on the financial partnership in statistics production with organizations such as the United Nations, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Luxembourg Cooperation, the Spanish Cooperation and the European Union.

17.12.2 Key actors in statistical cooperation: standards, frameworks and methods and the SDG indicators

The various standards, frameworks, and methods discussed in chapters 7, 9 and 11 of this Handbook are international statistical cooperation and coordination products. Typically, their development and implementation are facilitated through:

- the various groups of the UNSC (see *Chapter 17.3.3 — Methods of work of the UNSC*);
- working groups of the intergovernmental statistical bodies of the UNRCs; and
- the standards-setting processes of the international statistical agencies with specific sectoral mandates; e.g., ILO for labour statistics; FAO for agriculture and rural statistics; ITU for ICT statistics.

Box 14: Global Inventory of Statistical Standards

The Global Inventory of Statistical Standards (GIST) was developed under the auspices of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). **Statistical standards consist of statistical classifications, concepts and definitions relating to statistical processes and outputs, and statistical methodologies and procedures.** The inventory is a work-in-progress; it aims to:

Compile standards recommended by the main International Organizations, in one database, systematized by types of standard and by statistical or geographical themes and subthemes of national interest.

Provide basic information about the standard, such as objective, the international organization that recommends it, version, description of the standard and the URL to the original information source from which the standard is obtained.

Identify the international organizations involved in the development and dissemination of these statistical standards.

The development of the methodology for Tier II and Tier III indicators for SDGs monitoring are coordinated by the respective custodian and co-custodian agencies.

Information on the contributions of the UNRCs and other international agencies to work on statistical standards, frameworks and methods can be found in their respective Cards. Likewise, information on the SDGs indicators and their custodian agencies can be found in the cards and the UNSD website: SDG Indicators, data collection Information & Focal points (🔗).

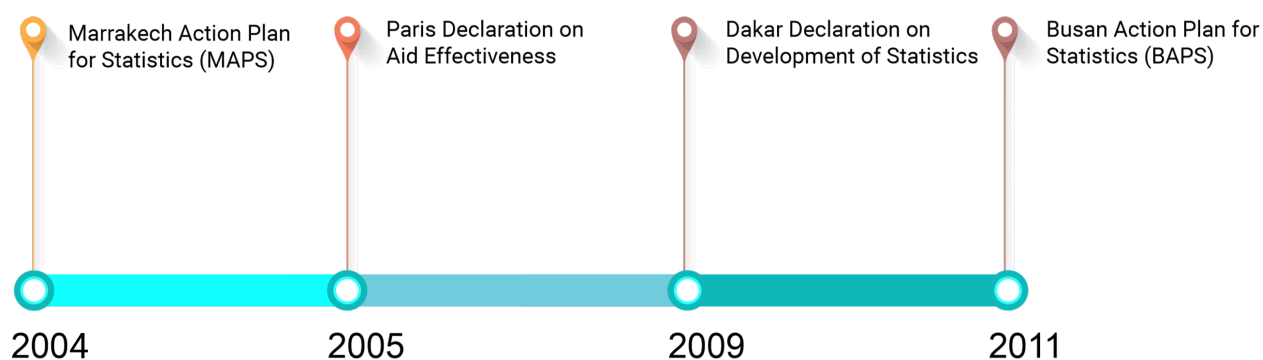
17.12.3 International support for national statistical development

Over the last decade, international support for capacity development of national statistical offices and national statistical systems has expanded. According to the 2019 Partnership Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) (🔗), between 2016 and 2017, official development assistance to data and statistics rose by 11%, from US\$ 623 million to US\$ 689 million. This was largely driven by the adoption of the SDG monitoring framework and is more than six-times the amount of US\$ 214 million in 2006. The Report suggests that with the surge of funding to statistics and the diversification of donor pools, a global alliance for more and better financing for development data should work to support better identification of needs, improve investment proposals, promote better coordination at the country level and link domestic and external financial support for low-capacity countries. Recommendations for coordination mechanisms from the Report are presented in *Chapter 17.11.2 — Regional Coordination Mechanisms*.

Coordinating international support for capacity development in statistics

Possible coordination mechanisms involving a code of good practice, funding transparency and country compacts to support statistics could be applied. Such a mechanism could help fund a multi-annual joint response to close the most urgent data gaps among the least developed countries, building on national assessment tools and investment proposals. Donors could also sign up for an international code of practice to ensure coherence and alignment with national priorities. It could, also, support seeding and blend-financing for transformative data architecture and service delivery applications.

The six-fold increase in global capacity development support to national statistical systems from 2006 to 2017 has been driven by key frameworks that addressed the demands for more relevant official statistics for monitoring national and international development goals (e.g., the MDGs and the SDGs) through well-defined principles and action plans. The frameworks, listed below, built on the success and lessons learned from the preceding ones.



- 2004 Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS);
- 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (🔗);

- 2009 Dakar Declaration on Development of Statistics (SDG);
- 2011 Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS).

Each of these focus on country statistical capacity development through country-owned and country-led development strategies and at the same time recognizes the interdependence of national and international statistical activity.

The national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS) is an invaluable coordination mechanism (see also [Chapter 4.4 — Annual and multi-annual planning and priority setting](#)). A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), which establishes priority statistical programs and activities, is a valuable coordination mechanism that informs how national statistical systems are financed. As it responds to national data demands arising from major policies such as the national development plan, it provides a robust framework for investment in data and statistics. Through a consultative process with different actors, the NSDS, together with sectoral statistical plans, aims to be a multi-donor focal point for funding statistics, with counterpart domestic funding. This is largely due to strong government ownership in the development of the NSDS, which serves as a basis for donor funding.

Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development

The most recent global action plan is the 2017 Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development (CTGAP). The CTGAP was informally launched on 15 January 2017 at the first United Nations World Data Forum in Cape Town South Africa (SDG). It was subsequently formally adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 48th Session in March 2017.

The Plan describes six strategic areas to address key statistical capacity building needs:

1. Coordination and strategic leadership on data for sustainable development;
2. Innovation and modernization of national statistical systems;
3. Strengthening of basic statistical activities and programmes, with particular focus on addressing the monitoring needs of the 2030 Agenda;
4. Dissemination and use of sustainable development data;
5. Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development data;
6. Mobilize resources and coordinate efforts for statistical capacity building.

This global plan, which benefitted from the dynamic of Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics in support of the *Post-2015 Development Agenda (Transformative Agenda)* (SDG), is intended to provide a framework for discussion, planning and implementing statistical capacity-building needed to achieve the scope and intent of the 2030 Agenda. The plan acknowledges that this work will be country-led, and will occur at sub-national, national, and regional levels and proposes to leverage and coordinate these many efforts.

Regional and national statistical organizations will have the opportunity to develop or adjust their action plans and road maps related to SDG monitoring in line with the Global Action Plan. Regional and national specificities can thus be addressed, and the production of regional and national indicators facilitated by capacity building and technical assistance targeted to the specific needs of regions and countries.

It calls for a commitment by governments, policy leaders and the international community to undertake key actions proposed for each of the objectives that further define each of the strategic areas¹. Strategic areas 5 and 6, further developed hereunder, are of particular relevance to international cooperation and capacity building:

- **Strategic area 5:** Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development data

Objective 5.1: Develop and strengthen partnerships of national and international statistical systems with governments, academia, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders involved in the production and use of data for sustainable development.

Key Actions:

¹ The descriptions of the strategic areas, objectives and actions are detailed in Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/Cape-Town-Global-Action-Plan/>.


- Improve the transparency and accessibility of official statistics to the public.
 - Create frequent and periodic opportunities to consult with all stakeholders on the production and use of statistics for sustainable development by (i) mobilization a UN World Forum on Sustainable Development Data every second year; (ii) establishing similar venues for on-going consultations and cooperation at regional and national levels.
 - Develop the institutional arrangements needed for public-private cooperation, including the use of data from non-official sources, in accordance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
 - Improve the transparency and accessibility of official statistics to the public.
 - Create frequent and periodic opportunities to consult with all stakeholders on the production and use of statistics for sustainable development by (i) mobilization a UN World Forum on Sustainable Development Data every second year; (ii) establishing similar venues for on-going consultations and cooperation at regional and national levels.
 - Develop the institutional arrangements needed for public-private cooperation, including the use of data from non-official sources, in accordance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- **Strategic area 6:** Mobilize resources and coordinate efforts for statistical capacity building

Objective 6.1: Ensure that resources are available to implement the necessary programmes and actions as outlined in this global action plan (both domestic and from international cooperation)

Key actions:

- Provide an overview of capacity needs based on the implemented or existing needs assessments and consider appropriate matches between types of support and types of needs.
- Identify and coordinate existing resources, including south-south and triangular cooperation mechanisms, to strategically address these needs, and identify resource gaps.
- Develop a programme for statistical capacity building on capacity needs.
- Mobilize donor support towards the priorities agreed in national and regional statistical strategies and promote reporting on financing for statistics.
- Create opportunities for participation of non-state actors in funding statistical activities through innovative financing mechanisms using means consistent with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- Promote nationally and/or regionally owned coordination mechanisms of capacity building initiatives.
- Support countries in the implementation of the SDG indicator framework.
- Engage in communication and advocacy activities at the policy-making level to raise awareness and understanding of implementation aspects of the SDG indicator framework.
- Develop criteria and mechanisms to set priorities for the mobilization of resources.
- Promote the sharing of relevant implementation experiences between countries.

The Dubai Declaration

To strengthen the capacity of national data and statistical systems and channel financial resources at scale, domestic and international funds need to be mobilized in new ways that would create efficiencies in current spending, leverage existing resources and attract new funding. At the UN World Data Forum in October 2018 in Dubai, the statistical community and other key stakeholders announced the *Dubai Declaration*. The Declaration recognized that innovative funding strategies are critical for the successful implementation of the CTGAP and called for the establishment of an innovative funding mechanism to improve the quality and quantity of development data. In 2019, the Dubai Declaration () was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission.

As envisaged in the *Dubai Declaration*, the purpose of the financing mechanism is to provide an organized platform to:

- support national statistical systems in identifying where investments are needed to mobilize the necessary funds, and help to identify ways to access needed funds;
- evaluate outcomes and establish a feedback mechanism to better target future investments, detect areas of public policy that demand data for program design (i.e., Governments Digitalization), considering that it is important to act at the beginning of the public policy process; and
- focus on disaggregated data that are more useful to policymakers and development partners to ensure “evidence-based policy-making”.

The HLB-PCCB presented a proposal for such a financing mechanism² to the UNSC51 which welcomed the way forward in the area of financing for data and statistics and the proposed financing mechanism around three pillars to i) secure domestic funding; ii) to improve the efficiency of existing resources through better coordination; and, iii) to increase the overall amount of funding. On this occasion, the UNSC stressed that more statistical capacity building and financing for statistics were needed and welcomed the efforts undertaken by the High-level Group, in cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector and the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development (🌀), to mobilizing commitments for more and better funding.

17.12.4 Main donors/contributors to statistical capacity development

Some official development aid is channelled to statistical capacity development through bilateral or multilateral technical cooperation. A full picture of flows of international development aid to statistics is depicted in Figure 22. The PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) provides a comprehensive global analysis of donor financial flows to data and statistics.

From 2015-2017, Canada, Sweden, UK and USA were the top country donors. The other top donors were World Bank, Eurostat, IMF, UNFPA, UNICEF and the Gates Foundation. The top five donors– the World Bank, USA, the European Commission/Eurostat, IMF and the UK – provided 66% of total commitments. While the UNFPA and USA were strongly engaged in country-specific aid to statistics, Gates Foundation and the IMF were among the top donors for unallocated commitments to regional or sectoral commitments.

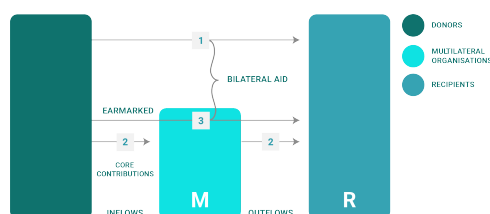


Fig. 17.4: Flows of official aid (PRESS 2019, PARIS21) Source: Adapted from https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/PARIS21_Press 2019_WEB.pdf

17.12.5 Key INGOs/Networks engaged in statistical capacity development

Some international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) listed in *Chapter 17.10 — International non-governmental organizations* are engaged in statistical capacity development. Several of them were established in response to the call of UN Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG). As described in their statistical mandates, the areas of work, statistical capacity development priorities and modes of co-operation focus on frameworks and initiatives addressing new data needs, innovative solutions, and strengthening national statistical systems. They have become important actors in the international statistical system– working in close partnership with international and national statistical agencies. PARIS21 is definitely the main global partnership involved in statistical capacity building activities.

² Full proposal at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3a_Mechanism-for-SDG-data-and-statistics-E.pdf

The Data4Now, officially launched ([🔗](#)) on the side lines of the UN General Assembly in September 2019 by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, aims to increase the use of robust methods and tools that improve the timeliness, coverage, and quality of SDG data through collaboration and partnership, technical and capacity support, and information sharing. Four operating partners anchor this initiative: GPSDD, World Bank, UNSD, and SDSN TRenDS ([🔗](#)). More information is available [here](#).

17.12.6 International coordination amidst COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the forefront the need for high-frequency data in very challenging circumstances. Traditional data collection based on PAPI and face-to-face interviews were not feasible with “lockdown” and “social-distancing” protocols.

Amid the global COVID-19 crisis, there is an unprecedented need for data to enable decision makers to inform policies and planning and minimize the risk for all, especially the vulnerable population groups. For this purpose, timely data disaggregated by age, sex, location and other markers is important to inform decision-makers and the general public. Stakeholders from across the international statistical community support national statistical offices in addressing multiple challenges brought about by the crisis. The initial wave of responses of the ISS included the following:

- UNSD in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Open Data Watch has launched a [website](#) to share guidance, best practices, information resources and tools to help statistical organizations function during an emergency situation in which most of their staff are suddenly unable to work on-site.
- UNSD in partnership with Esri launched UN COVID-19 Data Hub ([🔗](#)) for sharing available data and web services in an open and interoperable environment, linked to a federated network of national and global COVID-19 data hub.
- Under the aegis of the CCSA, thirty-six international organizations produced a report on How COVID-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective ([🔗](#)).

Other international statistical agencies have made available statistical resources, as well. Note: The listed initiatives capture mainly the first wave of responses of the ISS (up until July 2020). Rapid and continued development of resources to help NSSs continues and are made available through the websites:

- ILO ([🔗](#));
- UN Women ([🔗](#));
- FAO – Data lab ([🔗](#));
- FAO – Data analysis ([🔗](#));
- UNECE ([🔗](#));
- UNECLAC ([🔗](#));
- ESCAP – Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series ([🔗](#));
- UNECA – African Centre for Statistics: COVID-19-related stories ([🔗](#));
- ESCWA – Data Portal ([🔗](#));
- ECLAC – COVID-19 Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean ([🔗](#));
- The ECA and GPSDD ([🔗](#)) have unveiled an initiative to strengthen Africa’s data ecosystems in the face of COVID-19. The ECA-GPSDD partnership will receive capacity support from Data, for Now. More information.




17.13 Statistical forums to facilitate international cooperation

In recent years, new discussion forums engaging players in the larger data ecosystem have been established by the international statistical system. These forums facilitate cooperation in addressing the rapid developments and increased demands for modernization of statistical systems and strengthening capacities of official statisticians to use new data sources.




These include the following:


- UN World Data Forum (UNWDF);
- International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics (ICBDOS);
- High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS).



17.13.1 UNWDF

Following one of the main recommendations contained in the report entitled “*A World That Counts*” , presented in November 2014 by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Independent Expert and Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Statistical Commission  agreed that a United Nations World Data Forum on Sustainable Development Data (UN World Data Forum)  would be the suitable platform for intensifying cooperation with various professional groups.

The UNWDF brings together data experts and users to spur data innovation, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data, and build a pathway to better data for sustainable development. Since 2020, activities related to the UNWDF has sparked the interest of over 21,000 people from Governments, academia and professional bodies, civil society, the private sector, donor and philanthropic bodies, international and regional agencies, the geospatial community and the media.

Past UNWDF have delivered important outcomes such as the *Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP)* launched at the first UNWDF in 2017 on the priority areas for statistical and data capacity development efforts, followed by the *Dubai Declaration (2018)*  calling for an innovative funding mechanism to support the CTGAP; and more recently the Global data community’s response to Covid-19 (2020)  and 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 in the wider data ecosystem respectively. For other key highlights from the most recent UNWDF, including details of the official launch of the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data and the Global Data Facility, see [here](#).

The Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs manages the organisation of the UNWDF, under the auspices of the Statistical Commission  and the strategic leadership of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB).

The fourth and next UNWDF will be hosted in Hangzhou, China between 24 and 27 April 2023 by the People’s Republic of China with substantive help from the National Bureau of Statistics . The fifth UNWDF will be hosted in Medellín, Colombia in November 2024 by the Republic of Colombia with substantive help from the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística .

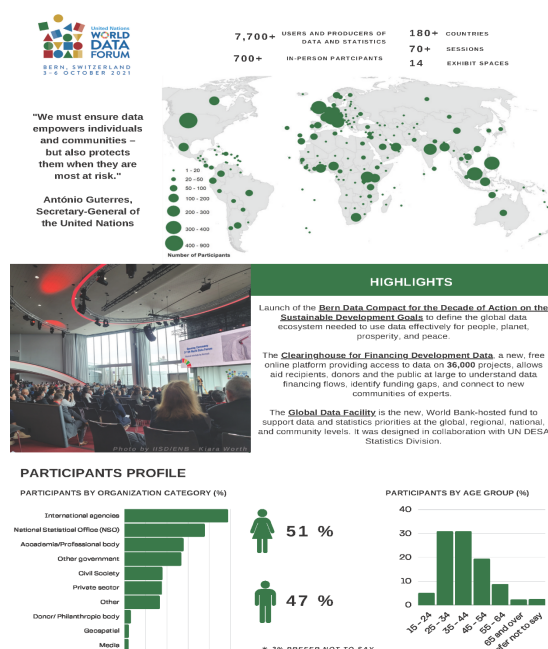


Fig. 17.5: The 2021 Hybrid UNWDF (11th Meeting IAEG-SDGs, Agenda item 3 presentation)([🔗](#))

17.13.2 ICBDOS

The UNSC mandated the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (**GWG-BG**) to:

- provide a strategic vision, direction and coordination for a global programme on Big Data for official statistics, including for indicators of the post-2015 development agenda;
- encourage practical use of Big Data sources, including cross-border data, while building on existing precedents and finding solutions for the many existing challenges, including methodological issues, covering quality concerns and data analytics; legal and other issues in respect of access to data sources; privacy issues, in particular, those relevant to the use and reuse of data, data linking and re-identification; security, information technology issues and management of data, including advanced means of data dissemination, assessment of cloud computing and storage, and cost-benefit analysis;
- promote capacity-building, training and sharing of experience;
- foster communication and advocacy of the use of Big Data for policy applications, especially for the monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda;
- build public trust in the use of Big Data for official statistics.

The International Conferences on Big Data for Official Statistics (ICBDOS) is the main platform for engaging the wider statistical community— official statisticians, data scientists, researchers—in carrying out this mandate. Five conferences have been held, with the 6th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics ([🔗](#)) taking place in the form of a virtual event. Like the first five, this Conference discussed the use of Big Data in other fields, such as data collection for SDG indicators and evidence-based policymaking. But with the challenging situation brought about by the huge demand for data in the context of COVID-19, the topics increased scrutiny in accelerating the use of Big Data—honing in on how new technologies -such as AI and machine learning- can be used to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

17.13.3 HLG-MOS

The UNECE High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was formed in 2010 by a group of chief statisticians interested in pooling resources, sharing experiences, improving efficiency and accelerating the pace of modernisation within the official statistics community. It reports to the Conference of European Statisticians annually and has been asked to provide regular updates to the UN Statistical Commission.

The HLG-MOS oversees two major international collaboration projects each year, as well as expert groups on specific aspects of modernisation, including standards, human resources and various aspects of the methodology. A “Blue-Skies Thinking Network” acts as the innovation hub, exploring new ideas to see if they have the potential to add value for official statistics. Annual HLG-MOS workshops bring together chief statisticians and experts from around the world, to identify the key priorities for the international statistical community in the coming year. Outputs have included a suite of modernisation models and standards, including the globally used Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), and guidelines on the use of Big Data, strategic communications and machine learning.

More information about the HLG-MOS activities and outputs can be found on its wiki ([🔗](#)).

17.14 SDGs-related forums that facilitate cooperation

Cooperation and capacity development for the implementation of the SDGs indicator framework are guided and facilitated by key groups and forums:

- Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs);
- High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB);
- Regional Forums for Sustainable Development ([🔗](#)).

17.14.1 Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

The UNSC created the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) at its 46th session to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The Group is composed of Member States and includes regional and international agencies as observers.

The global indicator framework was developed by the IAEG-SDGs and agreed upon, including refinements on several indicators, at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The indicator framework was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 and is contained in the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([A/RES/71/313](#)).

The group’s current terms of reference can be found [here](#) and its current members are listed [here](#).

The IAEG-SDGs has three working groups to address specific areas relevant to SDG indicator implementation. The groups address the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), Geo-spatial information, and Development support. In addition to IAEG-SDGs members, the Working Groups include countries that are not members of the IAEG-SDGs, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The terms of reference of the working groups are found in the links below:

- Working Group on Geo-spatial Information ([🔗](#));
- Working Group on SDMX ([🔗](#));
- Working Group on Measurement of Development Support ([🔗](#)).

Further information on the work of the IAEG-SDGs. Including outcomes of meetings and consultations can be found [here](#).

17.14.2 High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB)


At its forty-sixth session, the UNSC created the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB). HLG-PCCB was tasked to provide strategic leadership in addressing the statistical capacity needs of NSOs in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs indicator framework. To achieve this, the HLG-PCCB coordinates closely with the IAEG-SDGs. To facilitate the exchange, the co-chairs of each group are included in each other's meetings to share updates and connect the work of these two UNSC bodies. The group's current terms of reference can be read [here](#).

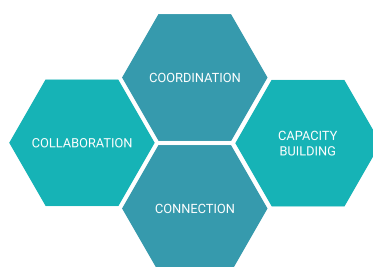
The HLG-PCCB consists of the chief statisticians from 22 national statistical offices (NSOs) representing the continental regions of the World (5 from the Asia and Pacific region, three from Northern Africa and Western Asia, five from Northern America and Europe, five from Latin America and the Caribbean and four from Sub-Saharan Africa), with the chair of the UNSC as an ex-officio member. Current members are listed [here](#).

As mentioned earlier, the HLG-PCCB launched the CTGAP at the first UNWDF to address the key data and statistical capacity needs of NSS. The UNWDF, now held every two years, under the leadership and guidance of the HLG-PCCB continues to be a primary mechanism to engage the wider data ecosystem to discuss expanding capacity needs, foster partnerships and cooperation (both intergovernmental and public-private) and showcase potential solutions. To provide a more routine mechanism to discuss these issues, the HLG-PCCB meets up to three times a year outside of the UNWDF cycle.

More information on the HLG-PCCB, including outcomes of meetings, can be read [here](#).

Box 15: The Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians

The Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians () is a global professional network for statisticians, data officers, data scientists and geospatial information experts of national statistical systems (NSSs), UN System entities, and other international and regional organizations. It is a facilitated professional online social community – hosted on the Yammer platform – which aims to help national governments build resilient and sustainable national data and information systems for the full implementation of the SDGs through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, networking, and technical support.



The main objectives of the Global Network are:

- Improve coordination and collaboration between and among NSSs, Resident Coordinator Offices / UN Country Teams, UN entities, and international and regional organizations, as well as within regions (via the Regional Commissions).
- Connect existing but not necessarily well-connected networks, initiatives, and intergovernmental bodies by providing a single and unique meeting place for the users and entities described above.

The Global Network offers its users:

- A community of practice around data and statistics;

- Build new partnerships and foster synergies;
- Fostered collaboration through the creation of thematic and regional groups;
- Information on capacity-building events;
- Global Network Webinars in identified fields and to improve communication skills;
- Fruitful collaboration between statisticians, geospatial information experts, and Resident Coordinator Offices / UN Country Teams;
- Support from a pool of experts;
- An organically built knowledge base;
- Sharing job and consultancy opportunities;
- Provide members with an essential training and resource environment.

17.14.3 Regional forums for sustainable development

The regional forums for sustainable development, convened annually by the UN regional commissions, are strategically placed on linking the national and global discourse and serving as multi-stakeholder platforms to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These Forums were set up following the General Assembly resolutions 67/290, 70/1 and 70/299 in which it acknowledged the importance of the regional dimensions of sustainable development; invited the regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), including through annual regional meetings; and encouraged member States to identify the most suitable regional forum, as a further means to contribute to the follow-up and review at the HLPF.

One of the key outcomes of the regional forums is the endorsement by the member States of SDG Regional Roadmaps. The roadmaps facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation in the implementation of the SDGs. These roadmaps highlight **data** and **statistics** as a key means of implementing and supporting the statistical action plans for capacity development on the SDGs emanating from the respective intergovernmental statistical bodies.

Examples of initiatives for regional roadmaps:

- **ESCAP:** The *regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific* (🔗) was agreed on during the 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and subsequently endorsed by the ESCAP Member States at the ESCAP's 73rd Commission Session. The road map identifies priority areas of regional cooperation for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These priority areas underline the major challenges still faced in the region. Priority actions under the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda are also identified in the road map, including data and statistics, technology, finance, policy coherence and partnerships.
- **UNECE:** The regional roadmap guides to national statistical offices on producing statistics for SDGs (🔗). It lays out what needs to be done, who the stakeholders are, and the opportunities for cooperation. The Road Map deals with establishing national mechanisms for collaboration, assessing data gaps, developing national indicators, providing data on global SDG indicators, statistical capacity building and communication. The Road Map can be used in communications with other stakeholders involved in implementing SDGs to explain the issues related to statistics for SDGs, and the critical role of official statistics.

The Road Map was developed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs, including 17 countries, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE. The Heads of statistical offices of more than 60 countries from UNECE, OECD and beyond approved the Road Map in June 2017.

- **CARICOM:** The *Strategic Framework for the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics* (RSDS) is the roadmap to strategically support the Modernisation and Transformation of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS). This Strategy document results from the extensive work undertaken over several years by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.

The RSDS is guided by the five strategic priorities: standards and harmonisation; governance; integrated statistical systems; innovation; and, Advocacy and Communication. Additionally, four strategic drivers or enablers will underscore the strategic priorities: information communication technology geared to driving the solutions to data production; the SDGs; sustainable capacity building; and, gender mainstreaming.

The Heads of Government, the highest decision-making body in the Community, endorsed the CARICOM RSDS at their Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting in July 2018.

17.15 The NSO and the international statistical system

17.15.1 Engagement of NSO with the ISS and international cooperation activities

Capacity development programmes such as training, technical assistance, and statistical strategies, are likewise designed around bilateral and multilateral cooperation. These are implemented in various schemes. The actors may be NSOs, in schemes often referred to as “South-South” or North-South” cooperation. In many cases, NSOs mainly from the North are the implementing arms of their respective aid and cooperation agencies or donors for bilateral cooperation. For example—Statistics Canada and CIDA, Statistics Sweden and SIDA, USA and USAID, UK and DFID, Japan and JICA, Norway and NORAD, and Australia and DFAT. The programmes may be multilateral, such as programmes of international or sub-regional entities involving several of their member states.

International cooperation on statistics also includes responding to data collection questionnaires from international statistical organizations, which serve as inputs to international statistics produced by the organizations in accordance with their mandates. These statistics are described in the agency profiles (Cards) provided *Annex 6 - The United Nations System* and in *Annex 7 - International Statistical System and Links to Cards*.

17.15.2 NSO functional unit responsible for international cooperation in statistics

For NSOs, engaging in international cooperation requires carrying out logistical, coordination and communication functions. The activities may include preparation of project proposals; working with legal and financial requirements of capacity development projects; internal and external coordination of statistical development projects as recipients or providers. Participation in regional and global statistical intergovernmental meetings and technical meetings (expert group meetings, Friends of the Chair, advisory groups, etc.) is a major part of international cooperation activities. Some NSOs may also co-host international forums with international agencies. In many NSOs, an “international cooperation unit” has been established to serve as the focal point for managing the above mentioned activities. Examples of such at the national level are provided here under.

Examples of international cooperation units and functions of NSOs:

Foreign Statistics and International Cooperation Department (FSIC) of the **General Statistical Office (GSO) of Viet Nam** is a public administration unit of GSO with advisory function to assist the General Director of GSO in guiding, managing and conducting the work of foreign statistics and international cooperation in the field of statistics: Mandate and responsibilities (🔗).

The National Statistics Office of Mongolia (MNSO) has a Foreign Relations and Cooperation Unit (🔗) under its Administration Department (one of five departments) that manages —bilateral and multilateral cooperation and engagement of the MNSO in the Global Statistical System.

Statistics Poland (GUS) has an International Cooperation Department (🔗) within its organizational structure as a separate unit subordinate to the chief statistician. The Department is responsible for four main areas of international cooperation: (1) organizational aspects of this cooperation, (2) receiving EU funds for statistical development and caring out international capacity building projects, (3) dealing with EU law-making process; (4) coordinating the cooperation with the European Statistical System and other international organizations (mainly UN and OECD).

17.15.3 Participation in international meetings and events

With respect to participation in intergovernmental meetings such as the UNSC sessions or regional statistical committees/conferences, staff members of national statistical offices, including chief statisticians and senior managers, can contribute most effectively to and learn from discussions when they follow some ground rules.

This section aims to guide participants in strategic and technical intergovernmental meetings and international forums at global, regional and sub-regional levels.

- **Registration and logistics:** it is crucial to register (or confirm) as early as possible and through the appropriate national channels, the nominated participant(s) to an international statistical event. The NSS may also consider informing the national Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) for UN meetings. For high-level UN meetings, one may also consider informing the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of their meeting participation. If the meeting is organized remotely, make sure well in advance that you have the right IT configuration and solutions to connect. If needed, ask the organizers to conduct a test before the event.
- **Before the meeting:** study the meeting agenda and identify the topics for which you plan to prepare interventions. If needed, hold internal coordination meetings and consult with members and stakeholders of the NSS such as data providers, producers of official statistics and main users to gather comprehensive national views on the topic. Where needed, these consultations may be used to obtain a consensus on joint statement or position of the NSS.

For high-level international events such as the UN Statistical Commission, where the NSS wishes to have their country's view or position reflected in the regional or sub-regional statement, you may formally or informally coordinate with the region's or sub-region's representative.

To be well - prepared, be sure to participate in studies and surveys conducted by international organizations. When meeting organizers request feedback and inputs on issues, success stories or discussion points for the meeting, send on time your written contributions so that these can be incorporated into the documents and materials to be made available to participants of the meeting.

- **During the meeting:** quality rather than quantity is the key. Speak with authority and make interventions brief and to the point. Where relevant or requested, prepare presentations or contributions aligned with the session's topic and limit yourself to the allocated time. Presenting or speaking based on the allocated time allows others to share insights challenges and success stories; a presentation is a way to engage with other participants in a discussion. Hence, it is important to focus on the essence of the presentation and share the key messages, challenges, solutions, and learnings.

Interventions or comments that lead to constructive solutions or action points moving forward are always well-received. It is important to be consensus-oriented and provide constructive solutions and support countries that share the same national position. To avoid unnecessary repetitions, connect the interventions to the ongoing discussions, making references to delegations that share the same views.

Where relevant, such as when additional discussions beyond the time allocated to the sessions are needed, hold informal meetings over coffee and lunch breaks. Such interactions may help identify common positions and opinions or further technical details you are interested in. For practices or experiences that you may consider replicating, this is also the time to express interest and obtaining contact information for further discussions after the meeting.

- **After the meeting:** provide feedback to the meeting organizers by responding to the evaluation survey typically issued at the end of the meeting or electronically a few days later.

Prepare a meeting's report with main outcomes to be disseminated to the staff of the NSO and, if relevant, to other partners within and outside the NSS. In some instances, a general report for administrative purposes and a second one would be useful at a more technical level. In particular, never forget to report back and share the report with all data providers, producers of official statistics, main users and other important stakeholders consulted before the meeting. Use the outcome of the meeting! Identify the good practices presented by participants at the meeting. Do not delay implementing, with appropriate adaptation to the national context; starting with those that could be replicated in your country swiftly and at low cost.

17.15.4 Donor-partners coordination group on data and statistics

An increasing number of donors and statistical development partners working with NSOs and the NSS in countries, with encouragement from the government, have established coordination groups. These groups' objective is to increase coordination in the introduction, planning and/or implementation of statistical capacity development initiatives within the country.

Coordination of capacity development activities across the NSS should be led by the NSO. A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), which establishes priority statistical programs and activities, is a valuable coordination mechanism that an NSO can use to inform donors and development partners about specific needs of the NSS. As it responds to national data demands arising from major policies such as the national development plan, it provides a robust framework for investment in data and statistics. Through a consultative process with different actors, the NSDS, together with sectoral statistical plans, aims to be a multi-donor focal point for funding statistics, with counterpart domestic funding.

The coordination groups are frequently part of the data mechanisms established for the implementation of the SDGs monitoring framework—typically established by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the country as a mechanism that is part of the coordination function of the UN Resident Coordinator for the country. Box 16 provides an informative note on the UN Resident Coordination system's role in statistical development activities at the national level as envisioned by the proposed financing mechanism for implementing the CTGAP.

Box 16: The UN Resident Coordination System

The purpose of the proposed financing mechanism for implementing the CTGAP is to support national priorities and NSOs, and thus, there will be a strong connection to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Working with UNCTs, which provide inter-agency coordination at the country level, the financing mechanism can further enhance the delivery of capacity development activities as an integrated process. This financing mechanism builds upon the existing role of the UN system in countries to facilitate national ownership. The UNCTs can help with the coordination at the national level of projects carried out by the mechanism and ensure that these projects are integrated, when appropriate, into activities of the UN system's entities active in the country. As the mechanism will match the national priorities to existing projects and funding available, the UNCTs offer an opportunity to work within this existing structure, potentially broadening the impact of the financing mechanism's initiatives and deepening support for the NSOs. National priorities and national development plans will guide the financing mechanism to meet national data needs. Working with the UNCTs, the financing mechanism can further ensure that capacity development initiatives reflect the reality of priorities established by the governments.