African Thematic Conference:
Managing a statistical organization in times of change

7-9 October 2019

Pretoria, South Africa

Breakout Sessions:

Modalities and Questions

MODALITIES FOR THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Sessions 1-4 are organised according to the areas identified in the concept note of the regional thematic conferences, as follows:

- For each session, 5 contributors will make a short presentation of around 20 minutes on a topic related to that thematic area. These presentations will mainly focus on national experience demonstrating major challenges, opportunities, issues, priorities and good practice.

- Presentations will be followed by 20 minutes of questions for clarification and answers by the contributors. These discussions will be moderated by the chair of the session.

- After the questions and answers for clarification, participants will be split in 4 groups. These groups remain the same for both breakout sessions (i.e. on Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning, see table below for composition of the groups).

- For each breakout session, groups will have 1 hour and 15 minutes to discuss a specific set of questions prepared in advance. Each group will nominate a rapporteur; preferably from a country that does not have a specific role otherwise. The rapporteur can be the same for both breakout sessions or different but must be from a country.

- The rapporteur of each group will have 5-10 minutes to present back in plenary the outcome and conclusions of the discussions from the breakout sessions. This will be followed by about an hour of general discussion. Presentations by the rapporteurs and the plenary discussion will be moderated by a facilitator.

- The conference is attended by the Chief Statistician or senior managers of the National Statistical Office (NSO) therefore discussion will be of a strategic nature rather technical.

- Participants from bilateral and multilateral partner organisations and other stakeholders can decide in which group they wish to participate and should appreciate that the purpose of the breakout session is to gauge experience and point of view from the national representatives.

Partic-ipant	GROUP			
	1A	1B	2A	2B
1	**Botswana (1)**	Lesotho (1)	**Angola**	**Egypt (2)**
2	Egypt (1)	Liberia (1)	Botswana (2)	Ethiopia (2)
3	Eswatini (1)	**Malawi**	Eswatini (2)	Lesotho (2)
4	Ethiopia (1)	Mauritius (1)	Gambia (2)	Mauritius (2)
5	Gambia (1)	Namibia (1)	Ghana (2)	Namibia (2)
6	**Ghana (1)**	Nigeria (1)	Liberia (2)	Somalia
7	*Seychelles*	Rwanda	**Nigeria (2)**	*South Africa (4)*
8	South Africa (1)	South Africa (2)	*South Africa (3)*	South Sudan (2)
9	Sudan (1)	South Sudan (1)	Sudan (2)	Zambia
10		Zimbabwe (1)		Zimbabwe (2)
Bold indicates presenter in that session				
Italics indicates session chair				

QUESTIONS FOR THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session 1: **Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of National Statistical Systems (NSS)**

Group 1A & B

1. What are the main incentives for strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of your respective NSSs?

2. What challenges and deterrents have you faced/do you expect to face in improving the institutional and organisational frameworks of your respective NSSs?

3. Have you identified in your group some success stories new initiatives or best practices related to the theme of session 1? Please explain shortly.

4. What kind of support is missing from bilateral and multilateral partners in that respect?

5. Is there anything important that seems not to be covered in the handbook and/or was not discussed in session 1?

Session 2: Securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks

Group 2A & B

1. Are there any mechanisms in place to secure the quality and coherence of official statistics and indicators? Please explain.

2. How are your main user groups, both inside and outside the government, consulted and engaged in your respective initiatives for securing the quality of official statistics? Please explain.

3. Can you provide us with any relevant success stories, new initiatives or best practices?

4. What additional support from bilateral and multilateral partners could support efforts for securing the quality of official statistics?

5. Have we missed any issues in the Handbook or in the discussions in session 2 that you would like to see covered?

GROUPS FOR BREAKOUT 2

Partic-ipant	GROUP			
	3A	3B	4A	4B
1	Angola	Lesotho (1)	Botswana (2)	Egypt (2)
2	Botswana (1)	Liberia (1)	Eswatini (2)	**Ethiopia (2)**
3	Egypt (1)	Malawi	Gambia (2)	Lesotho (2)
4	Eswatini (1)	**Mauritius (1)**	Ghana (2)	Mauritius (2)
5	Ethiopia (1)	Namibia (1)	Liberia (2)	Namibia (2)
6	Gambia (1)	Nigeria (1)	Nigeria (2)	Somalia
7	Ghana (1)	*Rwanda*	**South Africa (3)**	**South Africa (4)**
8	Seychelles	South Africa (2)	Sudan (2)	South Sudan (2)
9	**South Africa (1)**	South Sudan (1)	Zimbabwe (2)	Zambia
10	Sudan (1)	Zimbabwe (1)		
Bold indicates presenter in that session				
Italics indicates session chair				

Session 3: Supporting the transformation of statistical production processes from the data collection to dissemination in the context of the digital and technological revolution

Group 3A & B

1.   What could be the benefit of a broader integration of i.) administrative data, ii.) big data, and iii.) geospatial information in the production of official statistics and indicators? And what are the main issues in using these 3 categories of data sources?

2.   To what extent has innovative technologies been deployed in your respective production processes starting at data collection to the dissemination of official statistics? Please explain.

3.   Can you provide us with any relevant success stories, new initiatives or best practices regarding question 1 and 2 above?

4.   What additional support would you wish to receive in order to better grasp the digital revolution in the production of statistics and indicators?

5.   What is missing from the discussion on this session that should be covered in the Handbook?

Session 4: Mobilizing and securing adequate resources and infrastructure, and promoting regional and global cooperation for the development of national statistical capacity

Group 4A & B

1.   Which resources given to official statistics are the most critical for securing and further developing statistical capacity that is fit for purpose? Please explain.

2.   Can you provide us with any recent success stories, new initiatives or best practices related to mobilizing and securing adequate resources for official statistics?

3.   How could bilateral and multilateral partners contribute to the mobilization of adequate resources for official statistics without significantly increasing their respective technical assistance budgets?

4.   Can you provide us with any recent success stories, new initiatives or best practices related to the protection of core data and critical statistical infrastructure against natural disasters?

5.   What is missing from the discussion on this session that should be covered in the Handbook?