# Asia Thematic Conference:
# Managing a statistical organization in times of change

# 12-14 February 2020

# Manila, Philippines

**Conference modalities
(including break-out session instructions)**

## MODALITIES FOR MAIN CONFERENCE SESSIONS

- The main sessions 1 to 4 are organised according to the themes identified in the thematic conference agenda

- For each session, 5 - 6 contributors will make a short presentation of around 15 minutes on a topic related to that theme. These presentations will mainly focus on national experience demonstrating major challenges, opportunities, issues, priorities and good practice.

- Presentations will be followed by 30 or 45 minutes of discussion which should consist mainly of questions for clarification and answers by the contributors. The breakout sessions will enable a fuller discussion of the topics presented.

- The chair of the session will be responsible to moderate each session including the time management of the presentations and subsequent discussion. This chair will be assisted by the conference organisers to ensure presenters keep to their allocated speaking time and the session does not overrun its indicated time.

- Presenters can also seek advice from conference organisers on what areas to focus on according to the theme of the session. The conference will be attended by Chief Statisticians, senior policy officials and other senior managers of the National Statistical System (NSS) therefore discussion should be of a strategic nature rather technical.

## MODALITIES FOR THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Following the conclusion of the main sessions 1 & 2 and then 3 & 4, participants will be split in 4 groups.

- The groups for both breakout sessions are defined along the following criteria:

  (1) if a country or area is represented by more than one participant, these participants are allocated to different groups to focus on different sessions/ topics;
  (2) the chair and presenters of a particular session are requested to participate in a breakout session related to that session.

  An advanced allocation for the breakout sessions is made on pages 3 & 5.

- For each breakout session, groups will have 1 hour and 15 minutes to discuss a specific set of questions prepared in advance (see pages 3 – 6). 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 a country representative.

- 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.

- 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.

## GROUPS FOR BREAKOUT 1

(Draft proposal)

| Partici-pant | GROUP | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1A | 1B | 2A | 2B |
| 1 | Afghanistan (1) | Bangladesh (1) | Afghanistan (2) | Bangladesh (2) |
| 2 | Brunei Darussalam (1) | Fiji (1) | Brunei Darussalam (2) | India (2) |
| 3 | Cambodia (1) | Indonesia (1) | Cambodia (2) | *Indonesia (2)* |
| 4 | *India (1)* | Iran (1) | Fiji (2) | Iran (2) |
| 5 | Lao People's Democratic Republic (1) | *Malaysia (1)* | Lao People's Democratic Republic (2) | Malaysia (2) |
| 6 | Myanmar (1) | Nepal (1) | *Myanmar (2)* | Nepal (2) |
| 7 | Philippines (1) | Philippines (2) | Philippines (3) | Philippines (4) |
| 8 | Sri Lanka (1) | Thailand (1) | Sri Lanka (2) | Thailand (2) |
| | | Viet Nam (1) | | Viet Nam (2) |
| | | | | |
| Participants in italics have been presenters in the respective session. | | | | |
| (1), (2) etc. indicates the first, second or third participant of the given country or area, if there is more than one participant | | | | |

## QUESTIONS FOR THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Session 1: Supporting the transformation of statistical production processes from the data collection to dissemination in the context of the digital and technological revolution**

**Objective:** Discuss your national experience of transforming statistical production processes from data collection to dissemination in the context of the digital and technological revolution

**Group 1A & B**

1.      What could be the advantages and disadvantages of a broader integration of i.) administrative data, ii.) big data, iii.) geospatial information and iv.) population & housing census in the production of official statistics and indicators? Are there any issues in using these 4 categories of data sources? If yes, name the most important issues.

2.      To what extent have 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 any relevant success stories, new initiatives or best practices regarding question 1 and 2 above? Examples of failed attempts may also be helpful.

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 2: Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of National Statistical Systems (NSS)

**Objective:** Discuss your national experience of strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of the National Statistical System

**Group 2A & B**

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

2.      What role might coordination play in strengthening the institutional and organizational frameworks of national statistical systems in general? How important might it be in your respective NSSs?

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

4.      Have you identified in your group some success stories new initiatives or best practices related to adapting the NSS framework in response to challenges discussed in Session 1? Please explain shortly.

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

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

(Draft proposal)

| Partici-pant | GROUP | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1A | 1B | 2A | 2B |
| 1 | Afghanistan (1) | Brunei Darussalam (1) | Afghanistan (2) | Bangladesh (1) |
| 2 | *Bangladesh (2)* | India (2) | India (1) | Brunei Darussalam (2) |
| 3 | *Cambodia (1)* | Fiji (1) | Cambodia (2) | Fiji (2) |
| 4 | Indonesia (2) | Iran (2) | Malaysia (1) | Indonesia (1) |
| 5 | *Lao People's Democratic Republic (1)* | Malaysia (2) | Lao People's Democratic Republic (2) | Iran (1) |
| 6 | Philippines (1) | Myanmar (1) | Myanmar (2) | *Nepal (1)* |
| 7 | Sri Lanka (2) | Nepal (2) | Philippines (2) | Philippines (4) |
| 8 | Thailand (1) | Philippines (3) | *Viet Nam (2)* | Sri Lanka (1) |
| | | Viet Nam (1) | | Thailand (2) |
| | | | | |
| Participants in italics have been presenters in the respective session. | | | | |
| (1), (2) etc. indicates the first, second or third participant of the given country or area, if there is more than one participant | | | | |

## Session 3: Securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks

**Objective:** Discuss your national experience of securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks

### Group 3A & 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.    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**

**Objective:** Discuss your national experience of 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 more effectively to the mobilization of adequate resources for official statistics?

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?

## MODALITIES FOR POST CONFERENCE INTERACTIONS

- The conference organiser will contact participants following the conference to obtain further details on the national experience for the purposes of demonstrating major challenges, opportunities, issues, priorities and good practice in the next edition of the Handbook and the good practices database.

- Participants are also welcome to leave comments on the advanced draft chapters through the Handbook wiki, https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/HSO/Handbook+Statistical+Organization or alternatively can provide comments via email at statistics-handbook@un.org.