

# Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)

## Second Annual Meeting

8:15 am - 9:30 am; Thursday, March 7, 2019

United Nations, New York

## Meeting Summary

**Attendees: AITRS, EASTC, IMF, ISI, UNITAR, UNSIAP, ESCAP, UNSD, AfDB, China, India, United States, State of Palestine, Japan, Italy, FAO.**

### 1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting started with a welcome from the Chair and a quick introduction from all present. The Chair provided a brief context for the objective of the meeting—to reflect on the work in the past year and forge a common understanding of the areas to address in the year

### 2. Update on GIST's activities in the past year

- UNSD provided an overview of the work that the network and its task teams have conducted the past year. The complete list of outputs that were produced can be accessed at <https://unstats.un.org/gist/resources/Outputs-from-Task-Teams/>.
- The presentation which summarizes this information is available at <https://unstats.un.org/gist/meetings/> under Second Annual Meeting
- These task teams will be updated or adjusted from their current form, and new or adjusted ones will be formed based on the four areas identified below.

### 3. Proposal for new work streams for the next year

- UNSD introduced four work streams that have emerged from the executive board meeting based on the work and input from the teams. The four areas are (also provided in more details in the Annex of this meeting minute):
  - Online gateway for training courses
  - E-learning community of practice
  - Statistical Literacy in the context of the 2030 Agenda
  - Addressing specific NSO demands
- Following were the key messages from the discussions under this topic:



- The group agreed the proposal of the four new work streams.
- The network needs to consider specific ways in which **thematic topics**, for instance migration and gender statistics, are included in networks' activities. One suggestion was for the network to play a matchmaking role to connect **thematic expertise and training with NSO demands**. In addition to thematic issues, cross cutting issues, such as data disaggregation and SDG monitoring, that are highly relevant for the 2030 Agenda need to be focused on.
- There is a growing sense among GIST members that **practical concrete outputs** that NSOs can use right away to meet the data needs of monitoring the SDGs is something that the Network should focus on. The group needs a few tangible outputs which can be showcased and keep GIST relevant. Statistical literacy was highlighted as one possible topic.
- There have been **concrete requests by member states on specific areas** during the statistical commission. The Network could follow up on those specifically. Some of the areas include: new data sources, data disaggregation, open data/interoperability, and SDG monitoring.
- Sharing of **best practices** in training needs could enable knowledge exchange

#### 4. Next steps

- Participants agreed to pursue the four broad areas for next year, with the task team members defining the scope of these groups in more details.
- UNSD to send a survey to GIST members to ascertain preferences for the task teams.
- Members welcomed FAO to the Network.



## Proposed streams of work for 2019 (based on meeting discussions)

### 1. Online gateway for training courses

- Developing an online entry point for people seeking information on statistical training
- Existing inventory can serve as a starting point
- Existing GIST website or a new portal could be used
- Team can identify ways in which this can be updated continuously
- Team can identify dimensions for each course to be listed
- Can also be a place to share good practices among GIST members

### 2. E-learning community of practice

- Builds on the needs specified by the survey on technology and innovation
- Provide practical information on various aspects of e-learning
- Some aspects: cost, technology platform, pedagogy etc.
- The scope of the community can be further defined by the task team

### 3. Statistical literacy in the context of 2030 Agenda

- Statistical literacy and communication of statistics has been consistently highlighted as a key issue.
- Handbook/guide/e-learning materials on statistical literacy: policy makers, as well as NSO capabilities
- Advice and best practices on how NSOs can produce outputs that are useful for policy makers

### 4. Addressing specific NSO demands to meet data needs for SDGs

- 'Match-making' between thematic topic experts/training and NSO needs
- Produce practical concrete requests by member states on specific areas such as new data sources, data disaggregation, open data/interoperability, and SDG monitoring.
- Knowledge sharing between NSOs and GIST members

