Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)

Executive Board Meeting: August 8, 2018, 8:00am – 9:15am, New York Time

<u>Chair</u>: Helen MacGillivray

<u>Participants</u>: Brazil (IBGE), India (National Statistical System Training Academy), ISI, UNITAR, and UNSD.

<u>Absent</u>: PARIS 21

Summary of discussions

1. Welcome and introduction

- This was the first meeting of the Executive Board and the Chair described the **work conducted since the last meeting**. All the task teams had conducted their first meeting of their task teams and, except for task team 1, were available to briefly summarize the discussions that took place in their task teams. The Chair briefly summarized for the meeting the task team 1 discussions.

2. Introduction to the work streams and activities

- The team leaders present on the call shared with the Executive Board the discussions that took place in their respective task team meetings. A summary of these discussions was circulated to the respective task team members after the meeting, and is provided in the Annex of this report for reference.

- **Discussions and decisions**:
    - **Stock taking should expand beyond courses just available in English** as not all regions use English as their primary language. Many institutions in the GIST also operate in a non-English language, or have training in other languages in addition to English.
    - Producing **exemplars** for different situations facilitates sharing to increase harmonization and also enables consistent approaches to fully describe courses. It does not entail prior identification of best practices, but is likely to include selection of courses/training that can be shared to highlight specific attributes that are generally applicable. In the process, **good practices** may be identified, for example: courses with good modalities, courses with good pedagogical elements, etc.
    - For **statistical literacy**, engaging with entities such as International Association of Statistics Education can be helpful. ISI would also be interested in this activity. In addition, statistical literacy should also focus on literacy of the media, as they are the bridge that connect data with a wider audience.

3. Update on the consultancy

- UNSD informed the Board that a consultant has been identified for the team on stock taking, needs assessment and gap analysis, and the recruitment would be complete by the end of August. The consultant's task would focus on three main outputs

    i. An inventory of courses/trainings provided by GIST founding members (due October 15, 2018)
    ii. An assessment of demand for trainings delivered by GIST founding members (due November 30, 2018)
    iii. Gap analysis based on i) and ii) (due January 15, 2019)

- **Discussions and decisions**:

    o Given the interlinkages between the task teams, the **consultant will gather necessary information for other task teams** as well. He/she will liaise with task team leaders, as required, to identify relevant but succinct questions to be incorporated in his surveys when he develops an inventory of training courses.
    o Task team leaders will work with their teams to **formulate information requirements** that will be communicated to the consultant. Task teams are encouraged to be cognizant of the fact that the primary responsibility of the consultant is to conduct stock taking and needs assessment; additional information gathering should not take away from this core task.

4. Informal meeting at the World Data Forum

- Depending on the availability of the Founding Members, an informal meeting of the GIST could be organized at the World Data Forum. Task team leaders can inquire within their groups and inform UNSD about availability for an informal breakfast meeting.

5. Activation of the Stakeholder Advisory Group

- The Board discussed that at the moment activities will continue without the involvement of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). Once there are concrete outputs to get feedback on, the Founding Members can consider mechanisms in which to involve the SAG, keeping in mind the schedule of the Statistical Commission. Task teams may identify specific questions or issues on which they would like to consult the SAG.

Action points

1. UNSD to finalize administrative steps to bring the consultant on board. UNSD will inform task team leaders when the consultant can start working, and share contacts of the team leaders with the consultant by August 31. The team leaders can then provide guidance to the consultant.

2. Task teams to work on formulating information requirements that will be communicated to the consultant towards the end of August. Task team leaders will work with their teams and continue their ongoing work and update the Executive Board members via email by August 31.

3. Task team leaders to inquire with their members on their availability for an informal meeting during the World Data.

Annex: Summary of discussions of individual task team meetings

1. **Team on stock taking, needs assessment and gap analysis**
   - PARIS 21 was selected to be the team leader of the task team.
   - Founding members have a wide range of courses available—both open and restricted, various languages, for instance. In terms of the scope of the stock taking exercise, members discussed the need to be aware of what exists, while focusing on getting results and on actionable things. In terms of languages, given that GIST's membership consists of regional and global institutes, stock taking should focus primarily on training in English language (possibly also regional languages if regional institutes provide training in a specific regional language).
   - Founding members have already completed need assessment exercises, and have developed need assessment tools. These would be shared with the group and the consultant, and will serve as the starting point for the consultant's work on needs assessment.
   - Task teams will formulate the dimensions based on which courses will be categorized, and an excel sheet with all the information will be developed. This will also help guide the consultant's work.

2. **Team on exemplars and best practices**
   - Given the overlap in activities, Task Team 2 and 3 was combined into one single team.
   - India was selected as the team leader for the new team. Given the combination of two larger teams, Brazil (IBGE) would also co-lead this team.
   - The members decided that the main aim of the group would be to
     a. Develop guidelines and criteria on types of outcomes for effective training on official statistics and
     b. Apply the criteria and guidelines on the list of training prepared by the consultant for task team 1
     c. Based on this, identify a short list of best practices which can be shared widely for everyone's use.

3. **Team on technology and innovation**
   - UNITAR was selected to be the team leader of this task team.
   - Members are planning to draft guidance for consultant so that information relevant to this task team will can be gathered during the stock-taking exercise.
   - There was a consensus that the focus would be on e-learning, and how to increase the outreach of the existing e-learning platforms in a meaningful way.
   - Members will share existing studies, evaluations, and other resources that have already been conducted by their respective organizations.

4. **Team on statistical literacy**
   - UNITAR was selected as the team leader of the task team.

- Members discussed the scope of the activities of the task team. It would include two broad elements:
  - Understanding current statistical literacy efforts targeted towards policy makers
  - Understanding current training/services for statisticians on how to communicate data effectively to wider audiences: including policymakers, journalists etc.
- Members will provide a list of questions/guidance materials for consultant to gather information.
- Members will potentially conduct a survey that assesses needs of policy makers to see what are the gaps in terms of statistical literacy. Members also discussed focusing on core competencies that policy makers need to have to be considered for being considered as competent in data literacy. Members also identified workshops/seminars, such as the World Data Forum, as venues where needs of policy makers can be assessed.