

## Annex III

### **Proposed revised version of the terms of reference for the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

#### **Terms of reference for the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

1. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will establish a global action plan for sustainable development data and in this function will:

(a) Provide strategic leadership for the Sustainable Development Goal implementation process as it concerns statistical monitoring and reporting within the framework of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(b) Promote national ownership of, and foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination for, the follow-up and review system of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including to ensure consistency between national and global monitoring and reporting;

(c) Recommend priority areas to target funding for statistical capacity-building and advocate for resource mobilization, management and monitoring;

(d) Review and make recommendations as appropriate and in cooperation with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to facilitate modernization and harmonization of data infrastructures and identify ways to leverage the resources and creativity of the private sector;

(e) Advise on how to harness the opportunities provided by the data revolution to support the Sustainable Development Goal implementation process, following up on the recommendations of the report entitled “A world that counts: mobilizing the data revolution for sustainable development” by the Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, and taking into account the levels of development of the countries;

(f) Promote engagement between the statistical community and other stakeholders working on the implementation and monitoring of globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(g) Provide guidance on the content and organization of a world forum on sustainable development data, and lead the efforts of the global statistical community to reach out and cooperate with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector.

2. In undertaking its work, the High-level Group will consult closely with the Co-Chairs of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in relation to statistical capacity-building for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. It will also engage with existing joint initiatives for statistical capacity-building and

technical assistance, such as those undertaken under the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the Memorandum of Understanding of the Development Banks with the United Nations on cooperation on statistical activities and other coordination and cooperation agreements in order to avoid any duplication of work and to extend efficiencies as they are identified.

3. The High-level Group will comprise 22 member representatives of national statistical offices, with balanced geographical representation following broadly the distribution in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. Members of the High-level Group will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms<sup>a</sup> for an initial period of two years, after which some are expected to be rotated on the basis of the following criteria: two members will be replaced from each region where there are four or five members, and one will be replaced where there are three or fewer members from the regions.<sup>b</sup> It is preferable that members of the High-level Group not serve concurrently as members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. The members of the High-level Group will elect two Co-Chairs. One or both of the Co-Chairs are also expected to rotate every two years. However, when they step down they are invited to serve for an additional term of two years as members.

4. The High-level Group can include, as issue partners, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies as well as other specific representatives as decided by the members of the High-level Group. The High-level Group will seek inputs from countries that are not members of the High-level Group, through their respective regional mechanisms.

5. The Statistics Division will act as the secretariat of the High-level Group.

6. The High-level Group will operate under the auspices of the Statistical Commission and will report to it annually, seeking its guidance.

7. The mandate and functioning of the High-level Group will be reviewed by the Statistical Commission as needed.

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<sup>a</sup> Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Committee on Statistics, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

<sup>b</sup> Currently, there are five members from Africa, two from Western Asia, four from Asia, one from the Pacific, two from the Caribbean, three from Latin America, one from Eastern Europe and four from Europe and North America.