

High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB)

Concept note on the participation of issue partners in the work of the HLG-PCCB

(15 August 2016; first revision 12 April 2020; second revision 3 May 2022)

1. Mandate of the HLG-PCCB

The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) consists of the chief statisticians from 22 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) representing the continental regions of the World¹ with the chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) as an ex-officio member. The main purpose of the HLG-PCCB is to provide strategic leadership in addressing the statistical capacity needs of NSOs in the follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicator framework. To achieve this, the HLG-PCCB coordinates closely with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), its sister working group responsible for the technical specifications of the SDG indicator framework. To facilitate the exchange, the co-chairs of each group are included in each other's meetings to share updates and connect the work of these two UNSC bodies.

Another important responsibility of the HLG-PCCB is providing strategic leadership and guidance to the organisation of the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF), including its programme and outcomes. The UNWDF continues to be a primary mechanism to engage the wider data ecosystem to spur data innovation, nurture partnerships, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data, and build a pathway to better data for sustainable development. To provide a routine mechanism to review plans for the UNWDF and discuss other areas of work, the HLG-PCCB meets up to four times a year in alignment with the UNWDF cycle.

2. Purpose of this concept note

To accomplish the HLG-PCCB's mandate, there is a clear need for a frequent and well-defined method of engagement with the wider data ecosystem as non-members and observers (hereafter called issue partners) in its work. The intention of this concept note is to describe a set of working methods to enable the timely collection of key inputs from issue partners thereby ensuring the quality of the HLG-PCCB's outputs and the integrity

¹ Chief Statistician are chosen as follows; 5 from the Asia and Pacific region, 3 from Northern Africa and Western Asia, 5 from Northern America and Europe, 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 4 from Sub-Saharan Africa.

and transparency of its processes; while at the same time, balance this with the need for the work to proceed in a focused, deliberate and efficient manner. This concept note describes the modalities of the HLG-PCCB engagement with issue partners, either through its in-person or virtual meetings. It outlines the involvement of issues partners on specific agenda items at meetings and in specific areas of work. This concept note will be reviewed and revised in agreement among HLG-PCCB members as needed.

3. Methods of engagement

The HLG-PCCB has adopted the practice of including issue partners in open segments of its meetings. Below are the recommended methods of engagement for the conduct and communication of HLG-PCCB work processes and products.

A. Issue Partners

To engage the wider data ecosystem in its work, the HLG-PCCB will invite issue partners with expertise in a specific area of interest to contribute their technical advice and share their experiences. The criteria for their invitation will depend on the strategic priorities established by the HLG-PCCB and be according to the nature of the topics for discussion at each meeting or stage of a workstream. Before HLG-PCCB meetings, the co-chairs will agree upon the issue partners to invite based on the recommendation of HLG-PCCB members and the items on the agenda.

Standing issue partners:

At its 11th meeting in May 2018, the group decided to include the Partnership in statistics for development in the 21st century (PARIS21) as a “standing issue partner”.

At its 24th meeting in February 2022, the group decided to include the five regional commissions of the United Nations (UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNESCWA); the World Bank (WB), the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), Open Data Watch (ODW) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) TReNDS as additional “standing issue partners” considering their continual association with the work of the group.

As a “standing issue partner”, these organizations are automatically invited to attend all open segments of the meetings. The secretariat will continue to ask members on an ad-hoc basis to approve additional “standing issue partners”.

Occasional issue partners:

Select members of the UNWDF Programme Committee members are invited to the HLG-PCCB meeting immediately following the UNWDF to reflect on the forum and its outcome.

Potential issue partners:

Some potential issue partners from the wider data ecosystem include but are not limited to the following:

- Experts working in specific topics
- Representatives from the Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN)
- Representatives from other non-UN regional organizations such as Eurostat, OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) among others
- Experts from the geospatial, Earth observations, data science and information technology sector
- Representatives from relevant UN and related expert groups and processes (e.g. CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCEEA) to ensure communication and coherence between indicator frameworks, among other themes
- Experts from the donor and philanthropic community involved in the resourcing and financing of statistics
- Experts from academia and professional bodies such as the International Statistical Institute (ISI), civil society, the private sector, and the media

B. Frequency and type of meetings

The HLG-PCCB will convene up to four quarterly meetings per year, according to the following schedule:

Meeting schedule	Type of meeting
Q1: January to March	Closed/ Open
Q2: April to June	Closed/ Open
Q3: July to September	Closed/ Open
Q4: October to December	Closed/ Open
Notes: In general, <i>closed meetings</i> will feature logistics and strategic planning items on its agenda and <i>open meetings</i> will feature information and discussion items on its agenda. <i>Closed meetings</i> are available to HLG-PCCB members and relevant Secretariat staff only. <i>Open meetings</i> are open to HLG-PCCB members, standing issue partners and invited issue partners. Co-chairs, in consultation with the rest of the membership, may choose to invite issue partners on a thematic basis (see section A above).	

Considering the efficient use of limited resources, the HLG-PCCB will conduct the majority of its meetings virtually, except in instances when an in-person meeting can be organised alongside another large event attended by members such as the UN Statistical Commission or the UN World Data Forum; or where a member offers to host a meeting for a focused and detailed task such as the review and finalisation of the UNWDF programme.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, ad-hoc or special meetings of members may be required and usually held in a closed session. The HLG-PCCB may also operate sub-groups with a subset of members on special topics where the focus will be on an output to be reported back to the HLG-PCCB's meetings.

C. Website communication

The HLG-PCCB will publish documents pertinent to its work when their status is "open" on the public website and when "closed" on its member-only wiki page, detailed as follows:

Open website:	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/
Closed website (Member's only wiki page):	https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/HLG/HLG-PCCB+for+the+2030+Agenda+members-only

D. Electronic consultations:

The documents from the HLG-PCCB's meetings will be made available on the Secretariat (United Nations Statistics Division) open or closed websites as follows:

1. Meeting agenda:

Document version	Access to non-members
Draft (following co-chairs review)	Open
Final (following meeting)	Open

2. Meeting summary/action items:

Document version	Access to non-members
Draft (following co-chairs review)	Closed
Final (following members review)	Open

3. Other meeting documents/ outputs:

Document version	Access to non-members
Draft (by Secretariat or following co-chairs review)	Closed
Final draft (following members review)	Open
Final (following public consultation, where applicable)	Open