Joint Subgroup of the High-level group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Inter-agency and expert group on SDG indicators
(Joint HLG/IAEG-SDG subgroup)

Terms of reference
(as of 1 June 2016)

1. Background

One of the main conclusions that emerged from the fourth meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda (HLG), which was held on 6 March 2016 and attended by the co-chairs of the Inter-agency and expert group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs), was the need for a more coordinated effort by both the HLG and the IAEG-SDGs to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to support national statistical systems in the implementation of the global SDG indicator framework.

At its forty-seventh session, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the proposal to establish a joint subgroup of the High-level Group and the IAEG-SDGs, tasked with developing a plan to address the *immediate* priorities including statistical capacity building and financial framework for the implementation of the global SDG indicators.

2. Objective

The Joint HLG/IAEG-SDG subgroup will be the venue for linking the work of the HLG and IAEG SDGs. In particular, it will plan for a process for the HLG to obtain from the IAEG-SDGs, in an efficient manner, information on the development of the SDG indicators and the gaps in data availability and quality to inform the decisions and actions of the HLG in the most efficient possible way.

The National Statistical Systems have a pivotal role in the SDG indicator implementation. Their role as the gate keeper of data traffic flows needs to be strengthen and reinforced through the recommendations of this joint subgroup. The recommendations of this subgroup are namely advisory, aiming at ensuring harmonization between the HLG and IAEG-SDG groups.

3. Membership

The Joint HLG/IAEG-SDG subgroup will be composed of five members from the HLG and five members from the IAEG-SDGs, taking into account the appropriate regional representation and including the co-chairs of each group.

The Membership was decided as such:

IAEG-SDGs – Canada, Colombia and Egypt; co-chairs – Mexico and Philippines

HLG – Italy, Denmark and Palestine; co-chairs – Hungary and Cote d'Ivoire

4. Organization of work

The joint subgroup will report back to the HLG and the IAEG-SDGs. The joint subgroup is a country-led undertaking mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The joint HLG/IAEG-SDG subgroup will conduct its activities through electronic means. When possible, and in connection with other UNSD meetings or global events, the joint HLG/IAEG-SDG group could meet to further discussion on the main issues that have progressed over the year.

The top priorities of the raised issues and all results and recommendations will be summarized and circulated to the HLG and IAEG-SDGs. The HLG and IAEG-SDGS will then share the recommendations on their respective websites.

The United Nations Statistics Division will act as Secretariat of the joint subgroup.

5. Time frame

In order to focus on the most immediate priorities for statistical capacity building and financial framework in the context of the implementation of the global SDG indicator framework, the joint HLG/IAEG-SDG subgroup will initially establish its work plan for two years, until the forty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission.