



NEXT STEPS ON THE UN CHIEF STATISTICIAN PROPOSAL

11th HLG-PCCB Meeting, Rabat,
Morocco, 10 May 2018

STARTING POINT

- Members: South Africa, Angola, Mongolia, Argentina, Suriname, Italy, Palestine and Switzerland;
- UNSC decisions - 49/103
 - (e) Recognized the **need of a stronger coordination and more efficient UN Statistical system** as well as the **need of a stronger voice of official statistics within the UN system**;
 - (f) In this context, the Commission considered an early proposal to establish a UN chief statistician. The commission tasked the HLG-PCCB **to report back to the Commission at its next session with a proposal that further clarifies the role, seniority and functions of this possible position, amongst other options** taking into account what is likely to improve global statistical performance in a wider context of ongoing reform processes in the UN;
 - (g) Asked the HLG-PCCB to conduct **consultations with relevant actors** especially the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations Systems.

AIM OF THE SUBGROUP

1. Lead discussions with relevant actors:
 1. Regional commissions;
 2. Chief Statisticians of the United Nations Systems;
 3. Office of the General-Secretary;
 4. UNDESA;
 5. Missions in New York and Foreign Departments;
 6. Share and collect information with relevant stakeholders;
2. Conduct a global consultation if possible and needed;
3. Present the content of the paper at the 2nd UN World Data Forum?;
4. Draft and finalize an official paper for the 50th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2019;

CONTENT OF THE PAPER TO THE UNSC

1. Introduction (summary of the audit report and the discussion as well as the decisions of the 49th Session of the UNSC);
2. Summary of a global consultation;
3. Why a stronger coordination and more efficient UN Statistical system is needed – and elaboration which solutions may be realistic – maybe different option;
4. Clear description of the tasks of a UN Chief Statistician;
5. Necessary skills of a UN Chief Statistician;
6. Institutional setting of the UN Chief Statistician;
7. Summary and points for discussion.

WORKING METHODS OF THE SUBGROUP

- The group is led by two countries (co-chairs);
- The countries discuss the content actively with the regional commissions;
- The co-chairs discuss the content actively with Chief Statisticians of the United Nations Systems;
- The countries discuss the content with other relevant stakeholders;
- All members of the subgroup will be partly responsible for different chapters in the paper;
- The subgroup works mostly via e-mail but will have a few conference calls;
- The subgroup meets at the second UN World Data Forum in Dubai.

TIMELINE

- 10 May 2018: Discussion with the HLG-PCCB to finalize the work programme and the mandate of the group;
- 9 to 13 July 2018: HLPF – possible breakfast or dinner with selected people;
- 24 September 2018: Meeting of the Committee of the Chief Statistician of the United Nations System in Vienna;
- 26 September to 17 October: Global Consultation;
- 22 to 24 October 2018: 2nd UN World Data Forum;
- 30 November 2018: Finalizing the paper for the 50th UN Statistical Commission;
- 5 to 8 March 2019: 50th Session UN Statistical Commission

PROPOSALS AND QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- (1) Change of the name of the subgroup? Proposal: «HLG-PCCB subgroup on a more efficient statistical system within the UN»;
- (2) Who are our main stakeholders?;
- (3) How to deal with the position of the missions?;
- (4) Can and should we do a global consultation?;
- (5) Can and should we discuss this topic at the 2nd UNWDF?
- (6) General comments on the aim of the subgroup, the content of the paper, the working methods and the timeline?