Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

HLG-PCCB May 2019
Agenda item 8 Coordination of statistical capacity building

Gemma Van Halderen
Director, Statistics Division

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Who is ESCAP?

The **United Nations** **E**conomic and **S**ocial **C**ommission for **A**sia and the **P**acific

"…the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region"

One of five Regional Commissions of the United Nations

Works closely with other UN programmes and agencies, the Asian Development Bank, NGOs and civil society

53 Member States (including Australia) and 9 Associate Members

Two thirds of the world's population is located in the ESCAP region

ESCAP Committee on Statistics

" ... by 2030, national statistical systems are enabled and empowered to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of Agenda 2030."
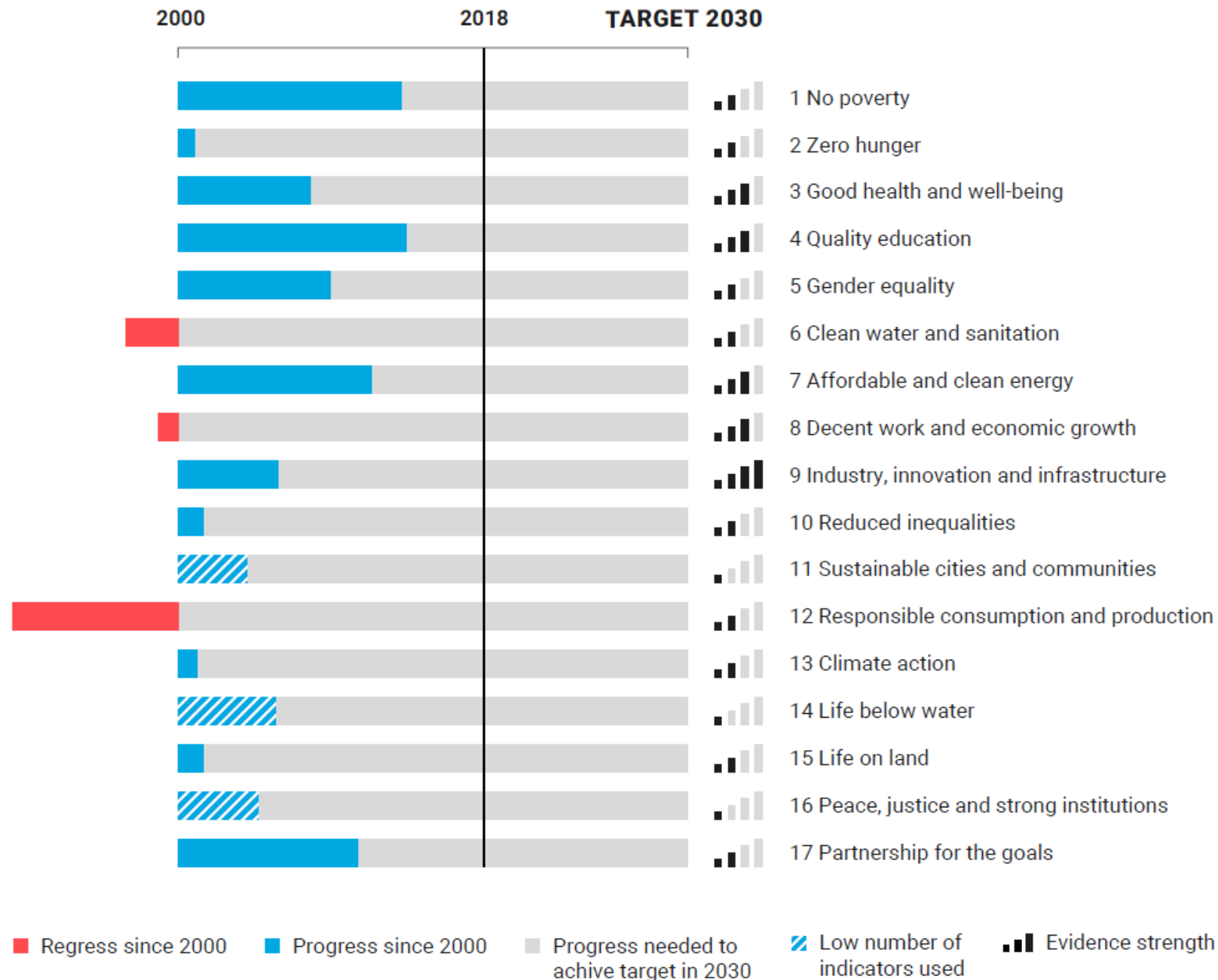
How is Asia and the Pacific going?

- How much progress has been made since 2000 in regards with each of the 17 SDGs?

- How likely will the targets be achieved by 2030, judging by pace of progress thus far?
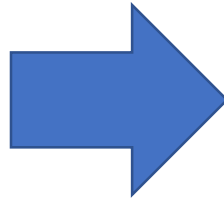
Snapshot: progress so far

Dashboard: expected achievements

Goal 1	1.1 International poverty	1.2 National poverty	1.a Resources mobilization	1.5 Resilience of vulnerable	1.3 Social protection	1.4 Equal rights	1.b Sound Policy frameworks				
Goal 2	2.1 Food security	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.a Investment in agriculture	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.4 Sustainable food production	2.b Trade restrictions in agriculture	2.c Food commodity markets			
Goal 3	3.1 Maternal mortality	3.2 Neonatal & child mortality	3.b R&D of medicines	3.d Risk management capacity	3.9 Health impact of pollution	3.3 Communicable diseases	3.4 NCD & mental health	3.7 Sexual & reproductive health	3.6 Road traffic accident	3.c Health financing	3.8 Health coverage	3.5 Substance abuse	3.a Tobacco Control
Goal 4	4.c Qualified teachers	4.1 Effective learning outcome	4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy	4.2 Early childhood development	4.3 TVET & tertiary education	4.5 Equal access to education	4.4 Skills for employemnt	4.7 Knowledge & skills on SD	4.a Education facilities	4.b Scholarships available		
Goal 5	5.5 Women in leadership	5.1 Discrimination against women…	5.2 Violence against women & girls	5.3 Early marriage	5.4 Unpaid work	5.6 Reproductive health & rights	5.a Equal economic rights	5.b Use of technology	5.c Gender equality policies			
Goal 6	6.2 Sanitation & hygiene	6.1 Safe drinking water	6.4 Water-use efficiency	6.6 Water-related ecosystems	6.3 Water quality	6.5 Water resources management	6.a International cooperation	6.b Participation ofl ocal communities				
Goal 7	7.1 Access to energy services	7.3 Energy efficiency	7.2 Renewable energy	7.a International cooperation	7.b Energy infrastructure							
Goal 8	8.6 Youth NEET	8.8 Labour rights	8.5 Employment & decent work	8.10 Capacity offi nancial institutions	8.4 Global resource efficiency	8.2 Economic diversification…	8.1 Per capita economic growth	8.3 Development-oriented policies	8.7 Child & forced labour	8.9 Sustainable tourism	8.a Aid for Trade	8.b Global strategy for youth…
Goal 9	9.c Access to ICT	9.4 Upgrade infrastructure	9.5 Research & tech capabilities	9.1 Infrastructure development	9.b Domestic technology…	9.2 Industrialization	9.3 Access to financial services	9.a Resilienti nfrastructure				
Goal 10	10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)	10.c Transaction costs of remittances	10.2 Social, economic & political inclusion	10.4 fiscal & Social protection policies	10.3 Inequalities of outcome	10.5 Global financial markets	10.6 inclusive global governance	10.7 Safe migration & mobility	10.a Differential treatment for…	10.b ODA & financial flows		
Goal 11	11.1 Housing & basic services	11.2 Transport systems	11.6 Air quality & waste management	11.5 Resilience to natural disasters	11.3 Inclusive & sustainable…	11.4 Protect cultural & natural heritage	11.7 Green & public spaces	11.a Urban planning	11.b Disaster risk management policies	11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings		
Goal 12	12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources	12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes	12.1 Sustainable consumption…	12.3 Food waste & losses	12.5 Reducing waste generation	12.6 Sustainability information…	12.7 Public procurement…	12.8 Information on SD	12.a Scientific & technological…	12.b Sustainable tourism	12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies	
Goal 13	13.2 National climate change policies	13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity	13.3 Climate change awareness	13.a Needs of developing countries	13.b Planning & management…							
Goal 14	14.5 Conservation of coastal areas	14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystem	14.1 Marine pollution	14.3 Ocean acidification	14.4 Destructive fishing	14.6 Fisheries subsidies	14.7 Marine resources in SIDS	14.a Research capacity & marine…	14.b Small-scale artisanal fishers	14.c Implementing international law		
Goal 15	15.2 Forests management	15.4 Mountain ecosystems	15.5 Loss ofb iodiversity	15.1 Terrestrial & inland freshwater	15.3 Desertification	15.6 Utilization of genetic resource	15.7 Protected species	15.8 Invasive alien species	15.9 National & local planning	15.a Financial resources	15.b Resource mobilization	15.c Trafficking of protected species
Goal 16	16.1 Reduction violence	16.b Non-discriminatory laws	16.2 Violence against children	16.3 Justice for all	16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows	16.5 Corruption and bribery	16.6 Effective institutions	16.7 Inclusive decision-making	16.8 Inclusive global governance	16.9 Legal identity	16.10 Public access to information	16.a Violence, terrorism & crime
Goal 17	17.19 Statistical capacity	17.8 Technological capacity-building	17.4 Debt sustainability	17.11 Exports of developing countries	17.10 Multilateral trading	17.9 Capacity building for SDGs	17.6 International cooperation	17.1 Tax & other revenue	17.3 Additional financial resources	17.2 Developed countries…	17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs	17.7 Transfer oft echnologies	17.12 Duty-free market access
	17.13 Global macroeconomic…	17.14 Policy coherence for SD	17.15 Country's policy space	17.16 Global partnership for SD	17.17 Public, public-private and civil…	17.18 Data availability						

Key messages

Lots of data gaps

Lots of 'technical assistance' required

Lots of 'statistical infrastructure' required

→

Development partners need to empower and enable NSOs and NSSs….

How do we coordinate to successfully enable and empower NSOs and NSSs?

UN partners building capacity in Asia and the Pacific

'Statistical' partners from the UN Secretariat **Global –** UN DESA Statistics Division, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNEP **Regional –** UN ESCAP, UNECE **Country –** not aware of any operating at the country level	**'Statistical' partners from UN Specialised Agencies, Funds, Specialised programmes etc** **Global –** ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UN-Women, UNFPA (sometimes different parts e.g. the global data custodian as well as the capacity building arm of these organisations) **Regional –** ILO-AP, FAO-AP, UNICEF-AP, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-AP **Country –** not aware of any statisticians working at country level
'Non-statistical' partners from the UN Secretariat **Global –** e.g. UN DESA Population Division, UN DESA Statistical Division (UN-GGIM) **Regional –** UNODC-AP, UN-Habitat AP, ESCAP Divisions (e.g. Social Development Division, Trade Division) **Country -** not aware of any operating at country level	**'Non-Statistical' partners from UN Specialised Agencies, Funds, Specialised programmes etc** **Global –** e.g. ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP **Regional –** e.g. ILO-AP, FAO-AP, UNICEF-AP, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-AP, UNSDG-AP **Country –** UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDRR, UNDP, UN-Women

UN partners building capacity in Asia and the Pacific

'Statistical' partners from the UN Secretariat **Global –** UN DESA Statistics Division, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNEP **Regional –** UN ESCAP, U **Country –** not aware of	**'Statistical' partners from UN Specialised Agencies, Funds, Specialised programmes etc** **Global –** ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UN-Women, UNFPA (sometimes ...stodian as well as the ...sations) ...P, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA- ...ans working at country level
'Non-statistical' partner... **Global –** e.g. UN DESA P... Division (UN-GGIM) **Regional –** UNODC-AP, UN-Habitat AP, ESCAP Divisions (e.g. Social Development Division, Trade Division) **Country -** not aware of any operating at country level	...pecialised ...mmes etc **Regional –** e.g. ILO-AP, FAO-AP, UNICEF-AP, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-AP, UNSDG-AP **Country –** UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDRR, UNDP, UN-Women

Also need to add other international partners such as OECD, World Bank, ADB, Paris21, IMF, etc

UN partners building capacity in Asia and the Pacific

'Statistical' partners from the UN Secretariat

Global – UN DESA Statistics Division, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNEP

Regional – UN ESCAP, U

Country – not aware of

'Statistical' partners from UN Specialised Agencies, Funds, Specialised programmes etc

Global – ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UN-Women, UNFPA (sometimes
stodian as well as the
sations)

P, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-

ans working at country level

Also need to add others such as Germany (GiZ), Italy (iStat), UK (DfID), Australia (DFaT), New Zealand, …..

'Non-statistical' partner

Global – e.g. UN DESA P
Division (UN-GGIM)

Regional – UNODC-AP, UN-Habitat AP, ESCAP Divisions (e.g. Social Development Division, Trade Division)

Country - not aware of any operating at country level

pecialised
mmes etc

Regional – e.g. ILO-AP, FAO-AP, UNICEF-AP, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-AP, UNSDG-AP

Country – UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDRR, UNDP, UN-Women

UN partners building capacity in Asia and the Pacific

'Statistical' partners from the UN Secretariat **Global –** UN DESA Statistics Division, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNEP **Regional –** UN ESCAP, U[...] **Country –** not aware of [...]	**'Statistical' partners from UN Specialised Agencies, Funds, Specialised programmes etc** **Global –** ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UN-Women, UNFPA (sometimes [...]stodian as well as the [...]sations) [...]P, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-[...] [...]ns working at country level
'Non-statistical' partner[...] **Global –** e.g. UN DESA P[...] Division (UN-GGIM) **Regional –** UNODC-AP, UN-Habitat AP, ESCAP Divisions (e.g. Social Development Division, Trade Division) **Country -** not aware of any operating at country level	[...]pecialised [...]mmes etc **Regional –** e.g. ILO-AP, FAO-AP, UNICEF-AP, UN-Women-AP, UNFPA-AP, UNSDG-AP **Country –** UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDRR, UNDP, UN-Women

Is there any wonder a country can be overwhelmed?

Is there any wonder a UN Country Team can be overwhelmed?

What are we trying to do in Asia-Pacific

Work with member states

ESCAP Committee on Statistics

- Declaration, Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind
- Three commitments from Development Partners
- Monitoring and evaluation framework under development. Expect all development partners to be within scope (global, regional, country level)

Regional groups

- Regional Steering Groups for Regional Programmes in: Economic Statistics, Population and Social Statistics, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, Agriculture and Rural Statistics

- Expert Groups for: Disaster-related statistics

Work with agencies

Regional Coordination Mechanism

- Thematic Working Group on Statistics and a Thematic Working Group on Womens Empowerment which has a statistics subgroup

- UN and non-UN agencies (e.g. Paris 21)

- Information sharing and identification of collaboration opportunities

- Only activities initiated by regional partners (e.g. UN-ESCAP, not UNECE or UNSD)

Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific

Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training

Be an advocate

- Observer on UN Statistical Commission (Chair: Member States)

- Observer on HLG-PCCB, IAEG-SDG Indicators (Chair: Member states)

- Member of a UN Sustainable Development Group Task Team on Data for the 2030 Agenda (Chair: UNSDG and UNICEF NY)

- Member of UN Committee of Chief Statisticians (Chair; UNSD)

- Member of Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (Chair: UNODC and OECD)

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Declaration
Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

Countries commit to...

a. Integrate statistics development with national development policies & plans

b. National monitoring framework

c. NSS advisory body

d. NSS roles and responsibilities

e. Empower NSO to lead NSS

f. Legislation and institutional mechanisms, esp. for frontier technologies

g. Communication, statistical literacy and culture

h. Advocacy for expanded use of official statistics

i. Revisit national policies and strategies to implement a. – h.

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Declaration
Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

Call on ESCAP to …

a. Support member States

b. Engage with development partners to ensure ongoing, coordinated and effective implementation

c. Prepare an overview of progress

d. Report to 75th ESCAP Commission

e. Organise midpoint conference in 2024

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Are we being successful?

Work with member states

Mixed

- **Failing**. A data collection exercise, attributed to ESCAP, was specifically mentioned at the 50th Session the example where better coordination is needed

- **Hopeful** - UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics endorsed a declaration which explicitly calls for better coordination. Success can depend on how well we monitor and measure (by 2024)

Work with agencies

Work in progress

- Experiencing improvement between UNSD and UN Regional Commission Statistical Divisions over last 12 months

- Experiencing improvement between UN ESCAP Statistics Division and Bangkok-based UN Specialised Agencies

- Several good relationships e.g. UNICEF, ILO-AP, FAO-AP, UN-Women-AP, Paris21, DfID, iStat, South Pacific Community

Be an advocate

Getting braver

- Speaking up at UN Statistical Commission, Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities, UN-Committee of Chief Statisticians

- Speaking at HLG-PCCB

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Will UN Development System Reforms help?

Work with member states

- Are NSOs involved in the UNDS deliberations?
- Do NSOs engage with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representatives in NY?
- What is the relationship between the NSO and UN Country Teams?

Work with agencies

- The SG is recommending a Regional Collaboration Platform. Details are still emerging.
- Development Coordination Office (DCO) will have new roles. Details still emerging
- Revitalised Resident Coordinator system offers some hope, especially if all UN and non-UN agencies are connected into development of UN Development Assistance Frameworks. This is likely to be a challenge across country-regional-global levels, as well as across Secretariat/non-Secretariat agencies. Will not pick up non-UN e.g. OECD, iStat, Paris21

Be an advocate

- New stakeholders will emerge
- Opportunity to re-set mindsets

Can we learn from good practices in the Pacific?

Sub-regional strategies and programmes (Secretariat: SPC)

- Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
- Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP)
- Five-Year National Statistics Collection Program

Sub-regional governance (Secreariat: SPC)

- Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (Chair; Nauru (2018)
- Pacific Statistics Methods Board (Chair: SNZ)
- Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG) (Chair: ABS)

Sub-regional secretariat

Regionally based Secretariat staffed by regional staff (SPC, new Director, ex-Chief Statistician, Fiji)

Coordination of NSOs, partners and donors

Annex 3: Service proposition of technical assistance providers in different phases of a statistical collection							
STATISTICAL ACTIVITY PHASE	**PHC**	**HIES**	**DHS***	**MICS***	**Disability***	**Agriculture***	**LFS***
Collection design, budgeting and planning	**UNFPA, SDD**, *ABS, SNZ*	**SDD, WB**	**UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**	**FAO, SDD**	**ILO, SDD**
Questionnaire design and user engagement	**UNFPA, SDD**, *ABS, SNZ*	**SDD, WB**	**UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**, WG	**FAO, SDD**	**ILO, SDD**
Collection cartography and household listing	**SDD**, *UNFPA*	**SDD**, WB	**UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD**	**SDD, UNICEF**	**SDD, UNICEF**	**FAO, SDD**	**SDD, ILO**
Selection of data capture and processing technology	**SDD**, *UNFPA*	**SDD**, WB	**UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD**	**SDD, UNICEF**	**SDD, UNICEF**	**FAO, SDD**	**SDD, ILO**
Field work training and management	**SDD**, *UNFPA*	**SDD**, WB	**UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**, WG	**FAO, SDD**	**ILO, SDD**
Data processing and cleaning	SDD, *UNFPA*	**SDD**, WB	**SDD**, UNFPA, UNICEF	**SDD**, UNICEF	**SDD, UNICEF**	**SDD, FAO**	**SDD, ILO**
Secondary data assurance	**UNFPA, SDD**, *ABS, SNZ*	**SDD**, WB	**UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**	**UNICEF, SDD**, WG	**FAO, SDD**	**ILO, SDD**
Data archiving and anonymisation	**SDD**	**SDD**	**SDD**	**SDD**	**SDD**	**SDD**	**SDD**
Data analysis, dissemination and use	**UNFPA, SDD**, *ABS, SNZ*	**SDD, WB**, PFTAC, ABS	**UNFPA, UNICEF**, SDD	**UNICEF**, SDD	**UNICEF, SDD**, WG	**FAO**, SDD	**ILO**, SDD
* indicates that the Statistics for Development Division's services are provided on a cost-recovery basis							
The order of technical partner proposes the leader for the activity for within each statistical collection.							
ABS= Australian Bureau of Statistics, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, ILO = International Labour Organization, PFTAC = Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center, PHC = population and housing census, SDD = Statistics for Development Division, SNZ = Statistics New Zealand, UNFPA = United Nations Development Fund, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, WB = World Bank, WG = Washington Group							

What are member States asking of the UN?

UN Statistical Commission (50th Session)

Decision 50/103 Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(e) Recognized the urgent need for a better coordinated and more efficient United Nations statistical system, to reduce the reporting burden and to raise the standing of official statistics within the United Nations system, and, to that end, supported the following recommendations:

(i) to immediately strengthen the existing coordination mechanisms,

(ii) to then take the issue of official statistics to the higher political level, including the Economic and Social Council and

(iii) to ensure the active involvement of the statistical community, as presented in the background document prepared by the High-level Group, as appropriate;

UN ESCAP Statistics Committee (6th Session)

Recommendation 1 The Committee recommends that the declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/7) be adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The declaration calls on development partners

a) To provide coordinated technical, financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to countries and to ensure countries have full access to data held by development partners in support of the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

b) To consult the national statistical office or national statistical system concerned before conducting any statistical study or survey;

c) To continue to develop and strengthen international statistical standards and to provide technical support for their implementation

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

What are some immediate steps ESCAP are doing?

Work with member states

Data collection exercises

- Asked the Global Working Group on Big Data Task Team on Skills, Training and Capacity Building to re-consider sending questionnaires to countries, drawing their attention to the recently completed exercise by the Global Institutes for Statistical Training (GIST).

- Commissioned a consultant to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for two ESCAP Committee on Statistics strategies (declaration and collective vision) that makes use of existing evidence (e.g. from Paris21's Statistical Capacity Monitor, or from the UNSC Friends of Chair-FPOS assessment on compliance with Fundamental Principles). Data collection at the country level will be by exception, and through personal approaches (e.g. phone calls), not questionnaires

- Reviewing ESCAP's Committee on Statistics groups with a view of consolidating where possible or converting to Communities of Practice.

Work with agencies

Groups and forums

Worked closely with UN-Women Asia Pacific to first consult member States before creating a regional Expert Group on Gender Statistics.

- How does the request of member States to the UNSC filter to the participants at these global and regional levels?

Reviewing ESCAP's Committee on Statistics groups with a view of consolidating where possible. One group (Partners for Statistics Development) has already been abolished and combined with another existing group (Thematic Working Group on Statistics)

Be an advocate

UNSC Decision 50/107 Regional statistical development

(d) Recognized the important contribution and global relevance of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind issued by the Asia-Pacific statistical community as a critical means for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and recommended the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to coordinate with the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to continue to communicate the global relevance of the Declaration as it prepares for the third United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in Switzerland in 2020

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Thanks…. ☺

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific