

16th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)
New York

01 March 2020, Closed meeting

1. Opening

- The co-chairs, Ms. Ayush and Mr. Ceita welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum 2020

a & b Logistical updates and Programme developments

- The secretariat (UNSD) explained the session proposal process for the next UN World Data Forum and other developments in the logistics and communications for the event. UNSD received 521 proposals, 14 of which were removed in initial screening for either being duplicates or incomplete. The 507 remaining proposals were given an initial score by UNSD, of which 391 proposals were recommended for further review by the Programme Committee. The proposed programme will be presented to this group at its May meeting for final review, and the programme will be finalised and announced through the UNSD website on the 1st June 2020.
- Switzerland mentioned their outreach strategy in the build-up to the Forum with a series of events on the “Road to Bern” and through their embassies across the world. They highlighted ‘sustainability’ as one of the key priorities for the Forum.
- Switzerland were interested in engaging more groups outside the official statistics community like the private sector, for example Facebook and Lufthansa.
- HLG-PCCB members saw the build-up of communications, messaging and branding for the Forum as a key priority. They are interested in the selection of high-level speakers by the Programme Committee for the programme.
- HLG-PCCB members were also interested to link the global communications with their own national communication and promotion of the Forum.
- UNSD mentioned the coincidence of the Forum with World Statistics Day which happens once every 10 years. Some connection needs to be made between the two, while making the distinction between them. Countries should prepare domestic activities to take advantage of the occasion and date.

Action: HLG-PCCB to tap their networks for additional high-level speakers to appear in the plenary sessions of the Forum

c. Update on the outcome document

- HLG-PCCB were appreciative of the work done so far on the outcome document and agreed with the approach made in the discussion document which made three proposals:
 - 1) a message styled as a compact with the data community and therefore “owned” by this community as demonstrated by a shared common language developed through a wide and open consultation;
 - 2) a core message that is clear and concise (no more than 2-3 pages) with announcements of key achievements since the last Forum, emphasis on urgent follow-up actions and establishes future commitments to accelerating the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals; and
 - 3) the message as the central thrust of the communication strategy promoting the UNWDF and can be used to develop a slogan/ tagline and further branding for the forum which also echoes its key themes. As such, HLG members are invited to propose their own slogan/ tagline¹ which will be put to a vote during the open consultation.
- There was consensus that the document should be aimed at the wider data and statistics community, and not primarily to the statistical community.
- Switzerland and PARIS21 were keen to identify a set of commitments by the time of the Forum, in particular through the Bern Network on financing. It should aim to have countries and donor countries make financial commitments. Switzerland proposed styling the outcome document as the “Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action”.
- UNSD (Director) suggested identifying specific stakeholders in the data community and applying a generic commitment within the outcome document; “We, academia/ private sector/ civil society/ ... commit to ... [statement]”
- **Action: Outcome document sub-group to prepare a draft outcome document for HLG-PCCB review in April. Language of the document should be concise, clear and appeal to the widest audience while making concrete commitments and statements of action.**

3. Coordination of the UN statistical system

a. & b. Draft joint statement / Draft resolution

- Following a special meeting of the HLG on 3 February to discuss the report of the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations system (CCS-UN), the Secretariat with feedback from members prepared a joint statement/a draft resolution to be presented at the Statistical Commission.
- UNSD shared the resolution draft to members during the meeting and members were given time to review the text and provide comments.
- HLG-PCCB were mainly supportive of the joint-statement (shared before the meeting) and the resolution draft. Specific comments from Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico were collected during the meeting and applied to the draft. HLG-PCCB members were asked to approach their missions with the text and discuss it.
- One of the Co-Chairs, Mongolia would make a joint statement on behalf of the group under agenda item 3b on the first day of the Statistical Commission (3 March). Members were encouraged to make individual interventions on the floor following the joint statement. The draft

resolution would be presented at the same time and the Statistical Commission would be asked to support it.

4. Evaluation of the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP)

a. & b. Update on the financing work / Review objectives and next steps of the subgroup

- DFID, PARIS21 and World Bank gave an overview of recent developments in the area of financing for data and statistics.
- The World Bank mentioned the 19th round of the International Development Association (IDA) was recently announced with a horizontal element aimed at 30 least developed countries to support the foundational areas of their statistical systems (i.e. Census, surveys etc.) and complement domestic financing. Separately the Global Trust Fund could be leveraged to fund more innovative approaches in statistical systems. IDA can support and leverage the trust fund to establish good practices and provide specialized technical advice. The Global Trust Fund is another fund managed by the Bank that development agencies can come together to coordinate respective roles particularly in country operations.
- DFID spoke of the work under the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to coordinate, raise awareness and strengthen communication around funding for data and statistics by building a community of practice within this group.
- PARIS21 stated the need to spend funds efficiently. PARIS21 mentioned their work to create a “clearing house” for development partners and recipient countries to use as well as piloting a new approach to developing statistical capacity within countries which looked at both domestic and donor resources. There is a need to leverage sectorial funds, for example, health and education gets a lot of money, but this does not usually cover foundational statistics. These efforts were being championed through the Bern Network (bernnetwork.org).
- HLG-PCCB members were appreciative of the work being advanced by the three organisations and looked forward to hearing updates in future meetings.

5. Administrative and logistical arrangements (Preparations for May virtual meeting)

- The provisional agenda was agreed to include: UNWDF programme & outcome document, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July, Data Stewardship, Financing for data and statistics, and World Statistics Day.
- The High-Level Forum on Official Statistics (Monday seminar at the Statistical Commission) will consider the topic “Data Stewardship - A Solution for Official Statistics' Predicament?” and the HLG-PCCB is likely to be asked to provide a scoping paper on this topic at the next session of the Statistical Commission.
- The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will hold a session on “Investing in data and statistics for the SDGs” on Friday, 10th July (4:30 – 6pm). This session will be important considering the ongoing process of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) which usually contain multiple references to official statistics and therefore the chief statistician or senior statistician should be involved and may be part of the delegation coming to the HLPF.

Action: The next meeting by teleconference was agreed as Thursday, 7 May tentatively scheduled for 7am (New York time) and suggested a two- hour time slot for the meeting

6. Updates to the 51st session of the Statistical Commission

- No additional updates were reported on the 51st session of the Statistical Commission

7. Any other business & closing

- UNSD gave an update to the group on the UN data strategy.
- Following the Executive Committee's Decision 2019/64, UNSD's parent department DESA has been fully engaged in efforts led by the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) to develop an overarching data strategy for the UN System, underpinned by normative principles, and fully linking with broader UN System data initiatives.
- DESA co-leads with EOSG the development of the governance pillar of the UN Data Strategy. This pillar focuses on the establishment of multi-layered governance framework that seeks to establish oversight and accountability at the right level so as to ensure that data is managed holistically as a strategic asset, and in alignment with the different mandates and guidance provided by relevant intergovernmental processes.
- UNSD explained as part of this work, it is crucial to build on the existing internationally agreed standards and best practices that enable data assets at the national, regional and global levels to be more findable, accessible, and interoperable.

Annex 1: Agenda

Sixteenth meeting of the
High-level Group

for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sunday 1 March 2020, 9:30am – 1:00pm

Venue: 2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-1949

Closed meeting

Final Agenda

9:30 – 9:40am	1. Opening
9:40 – 11:00am	2. Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Logistical updatesb. Programme developmentsc. Update on the outcome document [link to document]
11:00 – 11:15am	Break
11:15 – 12:15pm	3. Coordination of the UN statistical system <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Draft joint statement [link to document]b. Draft resolution [link to document]c. Update on the UN data strategy
12:15 – 12:35pm	4. Evaluation of the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Update on the financing work [link to document]b. Review objectives and next steps of the subgroup
12:35 – 12:45pm	5. Administrative and logistical arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Preparations for May virtual meeting
12:45 – 12:55pm	6. Updates to the 51 st session of the Statistical Commission
12:55 – 1:00pm	7. Any other business & closing

Annex 2: List of participants

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HLG member countries

1.	Albania	Ms. Elsa Dhuli Deputy Chair of Steering Body Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
2.	Albania	Ms. Vjollca Simoni Head of International Cooperation and European Integration Sector Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
3.	Angola	Mr. Camilo S. F. de Ceita Director General Instituto Nacional de Estatística
4.	Angola	Mr. Aurelio Nunda Technician NSO Angola
5.	Angola	Mr. Duke Alexandre Technician NSO Angola
6.	Argentina	Mr. Pedro Lines Technical Director INDEC
7.	Argentina	Mr. Mariano Poledo National Director of International Relations INDEC
8.	Burundi	Mr. Nicolas Ndayishimiye Directeur Général Institut de Statistiques et d'Etudes Economiques
9.	Ecuador	Mr. Diego Andrade Ortiz Director Ejecutivo Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
10.	Ecuador	Mr. David Munoz NSS Planning Director Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
11.	Finland	Ms. Johanna Laiho-Kauranne Deputy Director General (information process) Statistics Finland
12.	Finland	Mr. Timo Koskimäki Deputy Director General of Statistics Production Statistics Finland
13.	Hungary	Ms. Tamara Pal Head of International Relations Hungarian Central Statistical Office
14.	Kenya	Mr. Zachary Mwangi Chege Director General Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
15.	Mexico	Ms. Pilar García Velázquez Director of International Affairs Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)

16.	Mongolia	Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush Chair National Statistical Office of Mongolia
17.	Mongolia	Ms. Khuslen Zorigt Director of Foreign Relations Division National Statistical Office of Mongolia
18.	Morocco	Mr. Oussama Marseli Director Direction de la Statistique
19.	Philippines	Mr. Claire Dennis S. Mapa National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
20.	Philippines	Ms. Rosalinda P. Bautista Deputy National Statistician Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
21.	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Abdul Aziz Alateeq Advisor General Authority of Statistics
22.	Senegal	Mr. Babacar Ndir Directeur Général Agence Nationale de la Statistique
23.	South Africa	Mr. Risenga Butler Maluleke Statistician General Statistics South Africa
24.	South Africa	Mr. Nthabiseng Makhatha Deputy Director General Statistics South Africa
25.	State of Palestine	Ms. Ola Awad President Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
26.	State of Palestine	Mr. Ahmad Omar Director of Analysis and Forecasting Department Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
27.	Switzerland	Mr. Benjamin Rothen Deputy Head (International Affairs) Swiss Federal Statistical Office
28.	United Kingdom	Mr. Robert Bumpstead Chief of Staff ONS

IAEG-SDG

29.	Statistics Sweden	Ms. Sara Frankl Senior Advisor
30.	Statistics Sweden	Ms. Viveka Palm Co-chair IAEG-SDGs, Deputy Director

Issue partners

31.	Department for International Development (DFID)	Mr. Neil Jackson Chief Statistician
32.	PARIS21	Mr. Johannes Jutting Executive Head
33.	The World Bank	Ms. Haishan Fu Development Data Group

Secretariat

34.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest Director Statistics Division
35.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford Statistician Development Data and Outreach Branch
36.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Matthias Reister Chief, Development Data Section Development Data and Outreach Branch
37.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Faryal Ahmed Associate Expert Development Data and Outreach Branch