

18th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

Virtual meeting
11 June 2020, Open meeting

Opening

1. Mr. Ceita (co-chair) welcomed members and issue partners to the meeting.
2. Mr. Schweinfest and Ms. Perucci (secretariat) gave some opening remarks and shared with the group recent and ongoing work including the presentation of the report of the 51st session of the UN Statistical Commission at a virtual session of the ECOSOC management segment on 3 June, preparations for the 2020 World Statistics Day ahead of its celebration on the 20th October and highlights from the [global COVID-19 survey of National Statistical Offices](#).

Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) 2020

a. Logistical and programme updates related to COVID-19 contingency planning

3. The secretariat and Switzerland gave the group an update on the current situation regarding the preparations for the UNWDF 2020. A public announcement on 3 June had postponed the release of the programme and opening of registration. A final decision on postponing the physical meeting would be made in the first week of July.
4. In the meantime, contingency plans for a virtual Forum are being accelerated with the release of two questionnaires to gather views from [prospective participants](#)¹ and session organisers on their interests, needs and expectations from a virtual event. The questionnaires will be available until **Monday, 15 June** and will form the basis for organising the logistical and programme elements of a virtual Forum. The secretariat intends to share a provisional programme for a virtual Forum on the **Thursday, 18 June**

¹ The participant questionnaire is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. While the Forum is usually conducted in English, the concept of a virtual Forum is an opportunity to measure the demand for additional language support and delivery which could be easier and require less resources to implement in a virtual setting.

with both this group and programme committee. The secretariat requests members to assist the programme committee to identify and help secure publicly recognised speakers. The experience of running the UNWDF monthly webinar series showed adding a prominent speaker to a line-up could treble the base-line interest in a virtual event.

Action: The secretariat to share a provisional programme for a virtual format of the Forum on Thursday, 18 June. HLG-PCCB to identify and help secure publicly recognised speakers for any virtual format of the Forum by **Thursday, 25 June 2020.**

b. 2nd draft of the outcome document and update on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP)

5. The secretariat gave an update on the status of the outcome document following a subgroup meeting on this topic held on the 3 June. As a result of that meeting and comments received following the last meeting of the group, the secretariat prepared a revised draft of the **Bern Data Compact for a Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals** and a new version of the “starting points” paper on the strategy for producing the outcome document. The “starting points” paper is now updated to include the contingency for postponing the physical Forum and holding a virtual event where a statement currently entitled the **Global data community’s response to COVID-19** would be released and the eventual outcome document saved for when the physical Forum is held. In this scenario, the statement would go through a full public consultation (just like was planned for the outcome document) and a first draft of this statement would be prepared by the subgroup for the next HLG-PCCB meeting.
6. Members raised concerns about losing some of the momentum and relevance of the language if the outcome document was put on hold for another year and therefore supported some of those same themes and language being put into a statement associated with any virtual Forum. Members agreed any virtual Forum would be dominated by the experiences of data production and use in response to COVID-19 and the statement will need to reflect this too.

Action: HLG-PCCB to provide any additional comments on two papers shared under this agenda item by Thursday, 18 June 2020.

7. Following the discussion on the outcome document, PARIS21 and the five United Nations regional commissions gave an update on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) in their areas or respective regions. Paris21, on behalf the Bern Network, gave an update on work related to the “clearing house” was continuing and suggested a pre-launch in October 2020 before more work was done for a formal launch in 2021. Presentations given by [UNECLAC](#) and [UNESCAP](#) are available online. Despite the

COVID-19 disaster many activities were continuing virtually, and good progress was still being made under the six strategic areas of CTGAP.

8. HLG-PCCB members were appreciative of the work being advanced by the issue partners and looked forward to hearing updates in future meetings.

c. Selection of the fourth host and the timing of the fourth Forum (including Swiss recommendations)

9. The secretariat introduced this item as another area for contingency planning if a postponement of the next UN World Data Forum is confirmed in July. Currently two expressions of interest to host the following Forum were received by the 31 March 2020 deadline. Both parties were requested to create a full proposal to host by Monday, 31 August 2020 in line with the original pre-COVID-19 timetable where the next host would be chosen at the October HLG-PCCB meeting on the side-lines of the UNWDF.
10. A set of criteria and instructions for preparing a full proposal were shared with both parties and included criteria that reflected many of the Swiss recommendations made by email to the group dated 11 May. However, recommendations 1 and 2 on the prospective host position within the HLG-PCCB and the programme committee would require further discussion and analysis.
11. Some members expressed a preference to maintain the two-year gap between Forum and more information would be given at the next HLG-PCCB meeting on the contingencies for this depending on when the physical Forum would be held.

3. Update on the scoping paper on data stewardship

12. The secretariat presented an updated paper on *Data stewardship and National Statistical Offices: defining a stock-taking exercise*, following the first meeting of the subgroup for this work on 1 June. The new paper re-organised the elements of the stock-take using a Theory of Change methodology to define the necessary outcomes, outputs, activities and inputs to bring about the goal to **improve the use of data in society**. Similarly, the outcomes were broadened to promote better governance, better collaboration, better methods and better access by adopting different approaches to data stewardship.
13. Issues partners (Open Data Watch (ODW), the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) TRenDS) whose work inspired the paper were invited to comment. The key points raised from this group were around expanding mandates of NSOs, internal advocacy, to create a

“running list” of what we want to change in addition to main theory of change framework and to consider the politics related to some of these areas and how to tackle them.

14. Members points included concern over the scope implied by the word “data” in the paper, the strength that should be given to any recommendations or requests for a new mandate to come out of the work (para 9) and coverage of the work happening at the international level (i.e. SDG monitoring, the data revolution and the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group and the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (GWG)).

Action: HLG-PCCB and issue partners to provide any additional comments on the paper shared under this agenda item by Thursday, 18 June 2020 before it is made public. The secretariat would reconvene a meeting of the subgroup and seek additional members to develop a full range of case studies and examples to inform the framework proposed in the paper.

4. Updates on other events: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

15. The secretariat provided information on events of interest to the group being organised during a [virtual High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) week](#). Two key events related to data and statistics were:

- Tuesday, 7 July (10:45 – 12PM, EDT) HLPF Session 1- Part II
- Thursday, 9 July (13:00 – 14:00 EDT) Voluntary National Reporting data labs

16. In addition, Switzerland had submitted a proposal for a side-event during the same week, but details were still to be confirmed by the organisers.

6. Administrative and logistical arrangements for further meetings

17. The provisional agenda of the next meeting will have a special focus on the continuing preparations and contingencies for the next UNWDF (i.e. programme, outcome document/ statement and the next host timetable). Other topics like an update on the data stewardship work would be included if time permitted.

Action: The next meeting by teleconference was agreed as Thursday, 23 July tentatively scheduled for 7am (EDT) and suggested a one- hour time slot for the meeting

7. Any other business & closing

18. None

Annex 1: Agenda

18th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Thursday 11 June 2020, 7:00am – 9:00am

Virtual meeting

Open meeting

Final agenda (All times EDT)

Time (AM)	Agenda item	For
7:00 – 7:10	1. Opening	
	2. Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum 2020	
7:10 – 7:30	a. Logistical and programme updates related to COVID-19 contingency planning	Information
7:30 – 8:00	b. 2 nd draft of the outcome document and update on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) [link to document 1] [link to document 2]	Discussion
8:00 – 8:20	c. Selection of the fourth host and the timing of the fourth Forum (including Swiss recommendations) [link to document 1] [link to document 2]	Discussion
8:20 – 8:50	3. Update on the scoping paper on data stewardship [link to document]	Discussion
8:50 – 8:55	4. Preparatory work for upcoming events: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)	Information
8:55 – 9:00	5. Administrative and logistical arrangements for the next meetings (July and October)	Information
	6. Any other business & close	

Annex 2: List of participants

18th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

HLG member countries

1.	Albania	Ms. Vjollca Simoni Head of International Cooperation and European Intergration Sector Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
2.	Angola (HLG-PCCB co-chair)	Mr. Camilo S. F. de Ceita Director General Instituto Nacional de Estadística
3.	Argentina	Mr. Martin Chojo Director of Institutional and International Relations Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC)
4.	Argentina	Mr. Nicolás Petresky Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC)
5.	Argentina	Mr. Mariano Poledo National Director of International Relations Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC)
6.	China	Mr. Xian Zude Deputy Commissioner National Bureau of Statistics
7.	Ecuador	Diego Andrade Director Ejecutivo Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
8.	Ecuador	Ms. Monica Torres Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
9.	Ecuador	Mr. David Munoz NSS Planning Director Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
10.	Ecuador	Francisco Chiriboga Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
11.	Finland	Ms. Marika Pohjola Statistics Finland
12.	Hungary	Ms. Gabriella Vukovich President Hungarian Central Statistical Office
13.	Mexico	Mr. Julio Alfonso Santaella President Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
14.	Mexico	Mr. Eduardo Garcida General Director Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
15.	Mexico	Ms. Pilar García Velázquez Director of International Affairs Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
16.	Mongolia (HLG-PCCB co-chair)	Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush Chair National Statistical Office of Mongolia

17.	Morocco	Mr. Oussama Marseli Director Direction de la Statistique
18.	Phillipines	Dr. Claire Dennis S. Mapa National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Philippine Statistics Authority Represented by: Ms. Minerva Eloisa P. Esquivias OIC-Deputy National Statistician Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
19.	Phillipines	Mr. Benjamin Arsenio Y. Navarro Director III Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
20.	Senegal	Mr. Babacar Ndir Directeur Général Agence Nationale de la Statistique
21.	South Africa	Mr. Risenga Butler Maluleke Statistician General Statistics South Africa
22.	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Naif Alblawi Director of Partnerships and Statistical Coordination General Authority for Statistics (GASat)
23.	Saudi Arabia	Daham Nasser Aldaham General Authority for Statistics (GASat)
24.	State of Palestine	Ms. Ola Awad President Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
25.	State of Palestine	Ms. Haleema Saeed Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
26.	Switzerland	Mr. George Simon Ulrich Director General Swiss Federal Statistical Office
27.	Switzerland	Mr. Benjamin Rothen Deputy Head (International Affairs) Swiss Federal Statistical Office
28.	Switzerland	Ms. Bibiane Chammartin Project Road to Bern / UNWDF Swiss Federal Statistical Office
29.	United Kingdom	Nicola Shearman International Policy Advisor Office for National Statistics (ONS)
30.	United Kingdom	Oliver Mahoney International Policy Advisor Office for National Statistics (ONS)
31.	Japan (exofficio member)	Mr. Tsumura Akira Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards Statistics Bureau

IAEG-SDG

32.	Statistics Sweden	Ms. Sara Frankl Senior Advisor
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Issue partners

33.	Department for International Development (DFID)	Ms. Rachael Beaven Data Revolution Lead
34.	PARIS21	Mr. Johannes Jutting Executive Head
35.	The World Bank	Ms. Haishan Fu Director, Development Data Group
36.	Open Data Watch	Ms. Shaida Badiee Co-founder and Managing Director
37.	SDSN-TReNDS	Ms. Jessica Espey Director of TReNDS & Senior Advisor to SDSN
38.	GPSDD	Ms. Claire Melamed Executive Director
39.	UN ESCAP	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen Director, Statistics Division
40.	UN ESCWA	Mr. Juraj Riecan Director, Statistics Division
41.	UN ECE	Ms. Lidia Bratanova Director, Statistics Division
42.	UN ECA	Mr. Oumar Sarr African Centre for Statistics (ACS)
43.	UN ECA	Mr. Molla Hunegnaw Asmare African Centre for Statistics (ACS)
44.	UN ECLAC	Mr. Rolando Ocampo Director, Statistics Division

Secretariat

45.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest Director Statistics Division
46.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Francesca Perucci Chief Development Data and Outreach Branch
47.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford Statistician Development Data and Outreach Branch
48.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Linda Hooper Statistician Office of the Director

49.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Faryal Ahmed Associate Expert Development Data and Outreach Branch
50.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Paul Pacheco Senior Statistics Assistant Development Data and Outreach Branch