

## 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

Virtual meeting

15 February 2021, Open/ closed meeting

### Opening

1. Ms. Awad (co-chair) welcomed members and issue partners to the meeting.
2. Mr. Schweinfest (secretariat) gave some opening remarks and shared the preparations for the next UN Statistical Commission (1-3, 5 March 2021), which will be held virtually for the first time. He reminded delegations of the importance to register their delegates and to submit written statements by Friday, 19 January 2021 as interventions during the sessions will be extremely limited. There will be an opportunity for everyone to view proceedings in all 6 official UN languages on UN web TV, a frequently asked questions sheet on all the arrangements for the Commission can be found on the [UNSD website](#).

### Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF): Bern 2021

#### a. Logistics and communications update

3. Mr. Ulrich (Switzerland) presented the current preparations for the UN World Data Forum to be held in Bern, 3 – 6 October 2021. Following its postponement last year, the Swiss Confederation remained fully committed to hold the Forum but the final decision to go ahead on the current dates would be taken in June.
4. Ms. Perucci (secretariat) gave an update on the process for the future host. The HLG-PCCB membership agreed to restart the process for selecting the next host since the timing and requirements for hosting continued to change. The announcement of the new host selection process remains dependant on when the next Forum is held.
5. With the ongoing uncertainty around movement and travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the next Forum would be organised as a hybrid event accessible to in-person and remote participation. The host, programme committee and the secretariat would work closely together to ensure this Forum was as inclusive as possible and could serve

as a blueprint for future global conferences where virtual participation and engagement is now accepted as the norm. Members commented on the importance of selecting an appropriate platform and use of technology to ensure remote participants can engage and contribute easily in the discussions.

## **b. Programme development**

6. Ms. Vukovich (Chair of the programme committee) provided details on the current programme preparations for the next Forum. The Committee was already in the process of reviewing proposals shortlisted last year whose organizers recently resubmitted them for consideration. Considering the continued interest shown by organisers through this process, the committee is unlikely to run a new full call for proposals. Instead the committee will look at other more innovative and concise ways to collect new inputs and material from the data community to be shown at the next Forum. The next Forum will feature at least six High level plenary sessions as the centre pieces of the programme on critical [thematic areas](#).
7. Members expressed the need to promote and communicate through the Forum the transformative nature of data during a time of crisis and disaster and the key role all national statistical offices were playing in this regard.

## **Update and forward look at the work of the subgroups**

### **a. Preparation of the UNWDF Bern 2021 outcome document**

8. The secretariat proposed the subgroup should meet next in April to review the last draft of the outcome document and discuss plans and ideas for the consultation and launch of this outcome. Current members of this subgroup are Albania, Angola, Mexico, Palestine, the Philippines, Switzerland, the UK and PARIS21.

### **b. Data stewardship**

9. The secretariat thanked members for their additional comments following the last meeting on the Terms of Reference for the proposed new working group on data stewardship and the associated background document featuring collected case studies of current practices of data stewardship. A high-level side event to the upcoming UN Statistical Commission entitled [Data stewardship and the role of National Statistical Offices in the changing data landscape](#) was organised on 12 February to mark the initial work done by this group and understand how views had developed over the past year. Key themes during the conversation were the balance between data access and data privacy; quality optimisation of all data in the public domain; equity and inclusivity issues around data; and NSO responsiveness to shifting demands, data capability and literacy requirements around Government and in the broader data ecosystem.

10. Members and issue partners contributed their own activities and views on data stewardship. Ms. Bratanova gave details on a [data stewardship task force](#) created as a result of a [paper](#) at the 68<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). Mr. Ocampo (UNECLAC) mentioned a side event on the [role of national statistical offices as data stewards](#) was held during the recent Executive Committee in the region. Ms. Fu (World Bank) discussed data stewardship in the context of the preparations for the next [World Development Report on Data for Development](#) which will focus on integrated national data systems. Ms. Van Halderen (ESCAP) drew attention to a recent World Bank webinar on [reimagining National Statistical Systems: Risks and Opportunities for Official Statistics in the Public Data Agenda](#) where Professor Paul Cheung, previous Director of the UN Statistics Division, reflected on data stewardship and the role of National Statistical Offices and early insights into the 2021 World Development Report were shared. Ms. Melamed (GPSDD) raised the issue of potential harm to groups as the data ecosystem evolved (i.e. algorithm bias) and that this was worth considering under a data stewardship approach in addition to open data and individual data privacy/ rights.

**Action: Members and issue partners are requested to indicate to the secretariat their interest to support and join the working group on data stewardship, once established by the [UN Statistical Commission at its forthcoming session](#).**

### c. Financing mechanism and implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP)

11. The secretariat presented a proposal for the work of this newly merged subgroup on the financing mechanism and implementation of the CTGAP. The proposal recommends conducting a review of the CTGAP to mark its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. This is an opportune time for a review to reflect recent developments in reporting and monitoring on the 2030 Agenda and the changing financial and data environment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The review is recommended to include inputs from all parts of the data community; and thereby:

- highlight progress and issues with implementation (including uneven activity across actions and actors)
- communicate new or existing areas of prioritisation
- stress improvements to the operationalization and use of the plan

12. The result of the review may lead to important revisions of CTGAP to ensure it is fit for purpose for at least another 5 years. The secretariat suggests the subgroup should meet next in April to discuss in more detail this proposal. Current members of this subgroup are Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom and PARIS21.

**Action:** Members are requested to provide comments on the CTGAP review proposal paper in advance of the subgroup meeting in April.

#### **Administrative and logistical arrangements for further meetings**

13. The dates for the next meetings are tentatively scheduled in the current 2-hour virtual format (7:00 to 9:00AM EST) for:

- Wednesday, 26 May 2021 (previously announced as 24 May)
- Wednesday, 21 Jul 2021
- Sunday, 3 & Thursday, 7 October 2021 (coincide with day before/after UN World Data Forum)

14. Consultation within the five regional commissions will begin soon to decide on the rotation of members. New members will be nominated before the end of the current term in May 2021 and inducted into the group starting with the July meeting and the members they replace will continue to serve until the conclusion of the next UN World Data Forum.

#### **Any other business & closing**

15. None

Annex 1: Agenda

**Twenty-first meeting of the High-level Group  
for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development**

Monday 15 February 2020, 7:00am – 9:00am

Virtual meeting

Open/ Closed meeting

**Agenda (all times EDT)**

<b>CLOSED MEETING</b>		
07:00 – 07:05am	1. Opening	
07:05 – 07:25am	2. Preparations for Bern 2021 and future UNWDF host <a href="#">[link to paper on member's wiki]</a>	For discussion
07:25 – 07:30am	3. Administrative and logistical arrangements - preparations for May, July and October meetings	For information
	4. Updates to the 52 <sup>nd</sup> session of the Statistical Commission [Report: <a href="#">Arabic</a> , <a href="#">Chinese</a> , <a href="#">English</a> , <a href="#">Español</a> , <a href="#">Français</a> , <a href="#">Russian</a> ]	
<b>OPEN MEETING</b>		
07:30 – 07:35am	1. Opening	
07:35 – 08:00am	2. Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF): Bern 2021	
	a. Logistics and communications update	For information
	b. Programme development	For discussion
08:00 – 08:55am	3. Update and forward look at the work of the subgroups:	For discussion
	a. Preparation of the UNWDF Bern 2021 outcome document <a href="#">[link to background document]</a>	
	b. Data stewardship <a href="#">[link to background document]</a>	
	c. Financing mechanism and implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data <a href="#">[link to paper on member's wiki]</a>	
09:00am	4. Any other business	

## Annex 2: List of participants

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

#### HLG-PCCB member countries

1.	Albania (HLG-PCCB co-chair)	Ms. Elsa Dhuli
2.	State of Palestine (HLG-PCCB co-chair)	Ms. Ola Awad
3.	Argentina	Mr. Mariano Poledo
4.	Argentina	Mr. Martin Chojo
5.	Argentina	Mr. Nicolás Petresky
6.	China	Ms. Cheng Jinjing
7.	China	Mr. Hongzheng
8.	Ecuador	Ms. Monica Torres
9.	Finland	Ms. Marika Pohjola
10.	Finland	Mr. Ville Vertanen
11.	Hungary	Ms. Gabriella Vukovich
12.	Mexico	Mr. Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell
13.	Mexico	Ms. Pilar García Velázquez
14.	Mexico	Mr. Eduardo Gracida
15.	Mongolia	Ms. Badamtsetseg Batjargal
16.	Philippines	Mr. Benjamin Navarro
17.	South Africa	Mr. Risenga Butler Maluleke
18.	State of Palestine	Ms. Haleema Saeed
19.	Switzerland	Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich
20.	Switzerland	Mr. Benjamin Rothen
21.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Oliver Mahoney
22.	Japan (exofficio member)	Ms. Azusa Yamada

#### IAEG-SDGs

23.	Canada	Ms. Cara Williams
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### Issue partners

24.	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)	Mr. Johannes Jütting
25.	UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)	Ms. Rachael Beaven
26.	Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data	Ms. Claire Melamed
27.	Open Data Watch (ODW)	Ms. Shaida Badiee
28.	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Mr. Oliver Chinganya
29.	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	Ms. Lidia Bratanova
30.	UNECE	Ms. Tiina Luige
31.	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)	Mr. Rolando Ocampo
32.	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen
33.	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)	Mr. Juraj Riecan
34.	World Bank (WB)	Ms. Haishan Fu

### Secretariat

35.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest
36.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Francesca Perucci
37.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford
38.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Faryal Ahmed