



United Nations
Statistics Division



**United Nations Statistics Division/DESA
(UNSD)**

**National Bureau of Statistics of China
(NBS)**

Global Preparatory Seminar for the United Nations World Data Forum

7-9 September 2016, Guilin, China

Agenda

Background

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA/UNSD) will jointly organize a Global Preparatory Seminar for the United Nations World Data Forum in Guilin, China, from 7-9 September.

Following the decision of the 47th Session of the Statistical Commission, the High-level Group on Partnership, Coordination, and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda will organize a UN World Data Forum to engage with public and private measurements experts, statistical producers, information system specialists, and users, as well as all other key stakeholders facilitating discussion on data for sustainable development. The Forum will convene on 16-18 January 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Global Preparatory Seminar, staged ahead of the UN World Data Forum, is expected to provide countries with an opportunity to prepare their participation and contributions for the UN World Data Forum. The Global Preparatory Seminar will serve as a platform for participants representing a wide range of stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges faced in the production and utilization of data for the follow-up and review of Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

Global Preparatory Seminar for the United Nations World Data Forum

7-9 September 2016 Guilin, China

Agenda of the Seminar

Wednesday, 7 September 2016

09:00 – 10:00

Opening Ceremony

Chair: Mr. Xia Rongpo, Director General, China Statistical Training Centre in collaboration with UN Statistics, National Bureau of Statistics of China

Speakers:

- Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Mr. Zheng Jingping, Deputy Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China
- Mr. Huang Shiyong, Vice-Chairman of the People's Government of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Keynote

- Mr. Zheng Jingping, Deputy Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China

10:00 – 10:30

Tea Break

10:30 – 12:00

Panel 1: High level panel: A transformative vision for data for sustainable development

In line with the vast data requirements for the follow-up and review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals comes the need for a new way of thinking regarding how data, statistics, and information are collected, processed, and disseminated. A transformative vision is crucial to ensure that all countries and the international statistical community meet the data and statistics requirements to measure progress of the 2030 Agenda and support decision making at all levels. This panel will discuss what that transformative vision for data for sustainable development could envision and try to address the challenges of making that vision a reality.

Some key discussion questions:

- *What are the main difficulties and challenges the world is facing with regard to data for sustainable development?*

- *What steps and actions are needed to produce accessible, reliable, high quality, timely, and disaggregated data to bring our vision close to reality?*
- *How do you see the transformative vision for data affecting the way data are currently collected, processed, and disseminated for policy-makers and the general public?*

Chair: Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UN Statistics Division/DESA

Panelists:

- Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Chair of Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals
- Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician General, Statistics South Africa
- Ms. Lv Zhibin, Associate Director & Senior Analyst, Macro-economy & Consumption Research Center of Alibaba, Alibaba Group

Discussion

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Panel 2: Counting the uncounted: innovative tools for data disaggregation

This session will explore various perspectives on the meaning of “leaving no one behind” and what are the implications for national statistical offices. The 2030 Agenda will not be met if the most vulnerable are not reached. The session will examine leaving no one behind from a human rights and statistical perspective and address how data production, collection, and analysis needs to be adapted or changed to meet the needs of the agenda. Data disaggregation is a means to make the vulnerable visible and to measure all to establish who is left behind and where they are in order to reach them. This session builds on the recent Expert Group Meeting on disaggregation held in June 2016.

Chair: Mr. Claes Johansson, Chief, Data Dissemination, Data & Analytics Section, UNICEF

Panelists:

- Mr. Chhan Lay, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia
- Mr. Roberto Luis Olinto Ramos, Director of the Directorate of Surveys of IBGE (Brazil)
- Ms. Wang Pingping, Director-General, Department of Household Surveys, National Bureau of Statistics of

China

- Mr. Samuel Joseph Clark, Professor, Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 **Tea Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Panel 3: Data from all parts of society**

Measuring sustainable development requires data and information from all parts of society. Data and statistics are collected and produced in different realms, whether by statisticians in government (national, sub-national, and local), data scientists in private sectors, information collectors from civil society, or researchers from scientific and academic communities. In addition, the boom of new technologies, mobile phones and social media generate many new data sources, such as big data. As the sustainable development agenda involves all stakeholders, it is crucial to bridge the gap between these types of data and information with official statistics and address technical issues in the production and stewardship of the SDG indicators. The panel will address these issues, as well as the latest information innovations, including issues of privacy and data protection, participation, data disaggregation and inclusive data collection, transparency and accountability.

Some key discussion questions:

- *What are the latest data and information innovations and how are they affecting and/or interacting with official statistics?*
- *What are ways to enhance engagement between data users and producers at all levels?*
- *How can we harness big data for measuring the sustainable development Goals and targets?*

Chair: Ms. Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division/DESA

Panelists:

- Mr. Giorgio Alleva, President, Istat (Italy)
- Mr. Niels Ploug, Director of Social Statistics, Statistics Denmark
- Mr. Chen Qin, Chief Economist, Business Big Data
- Ms. Audrey Bong, Solution Engineer (National Government), Asia Pacific, ESRI
- Ms. Margarita Guerrero, Director, Statistics Division,

ESCAP

- Ms. Derval Usher, Head of Office, Pulse Lab Jakarta, Global Pulse

Discussion

Thursday, 8 September 2016

09:00 – 10:15

Panel 4: Household surveys in the 21st century: challenges and opportunities in an evolving environment

Household surveys are one of the main innovations in social science research in the last century. However, over the years, a number of concerns have been raised against household surveys as a viable instrument for collecting microdata. These include increasing non-response rates, undercounting of certain population groups, slow data production process, restricted access and high costs, inter alia. The advent of new technologies and alternative data sources like Big Data are seen by many as potentially replacing household surveys as more cost-effective and efficient ways to collect data to monitor the SDGs. On the other hand, these innovations are deemed by many others as playing a crucial role in enhancing the quality, timeliness, policy relevance and cost-effectiveness of household surveys. The objective of this session is to gather views and direct experiences from countries and development partners in support of a renewed household survey agenda.

Some key discussion questions:

- *What are the key challenges and opportunities for enhancing the role of household surveys for monitoring the SDGs?*
- *In a time of limited resources, increasing demands and conflicting agendas, how do we successfully advocate for household surveys as part of the broader data agenda?*
- *What are the most notable improvements and groundbreaking innovations which can help making household surveys more relevant and cost-effective?*

Chair: Mr. Gero Carletto, Manager, Surveys and Methods Unit (DECSM) and Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) Development Data Group, World Bank

Panelists:

- Ms. Wah Wah Maung, Director General, Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance (Myanmar)
- Ms. Daphne Yandiswa Mpetsheni, Acting Deputy

Director General, Statistics South Africa

- Dr. Albina Chuwa, Director General, Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics
- Mr. Ajin Jirachiefpattana, Deputy-Director General, National Statistical Office of Thailand
- Ms. Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division
- Mr. Claes Johansson, Chief, Data Dissemination, Data & Analytics Section, UNICEF

Discussion

10:15 – 10:45

Tea Break

10:45 – 12:00

Panel 5: Making data usable: data literacy, communication, and visualization

Making data available is not enough, especially since data and information inundate society on a daily basis. How to make sense of the big volume of data, simply the complexities of data, and make data easily understandable for decision makers and a wide range of stakeholders is critical for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The panel will discuss data communication and visualization tools, techniques and priorities that work best for making use of the available data for the SDGs.

Some key discussion questions:

- *What types of experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt are recommended to improve data literacy for understanding and making decisions on sustainable development issues?*
- *What new tools and methods are most helpful to convey the data that you work with?*
- *What is the best way to engage with data users for your products or offices?*

Chair: Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician General, Statistics South Africa

Panelists:

- Ms. Alexandra Silfverstolpe, Founder and Managing Director, Data Act Lab
- Ms. Annette Pfeiffer, Head of Section Supraoffice and International Coordination, Federal Statistical Office Germany
- Mr. Sun Xueguang, Deputy Director-General, Research Institute of Statistical Sciences, National Bureau of Statistics of China

- Ms. Wu Chunxian, Deputy Director-General of Survey Office of the National Bureau of Statistics of China in Beijing
- Mr. Manuel Cuellar Rio, Acting Deputy Director General of Compilation of Statistics, INEGI (Mexico)
- Mr. Charles Brigham, Account Executive, Nonprofit & Global Organizations, ESRI

Discussion

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Panel 6: National capacity: ensuring that all countries can produce the necessary data

The monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development poses a significant challenge to all countries, both developed and developing. Therefore, capacity building efforts to strengthen national statistical systems will have to be significantly increased. Countries should build their own relevant national information systems/architectures, so that they can monitor and plan effectively at the national level and contribute information to the regional and global measurement of progress towards the SDGs. The panel will share experiences, identify gaps and challenges, and discuss strategies for strengthening national statistical capacity for meeting the data demands for monitoring the SDGs.

Some key discussion questions:

- *What are some successful experiences and lessons learnt in monitoring development progress in your country or when working with countries?*
- *What are the main challenges and constraints that your country or countries you work with face in monitoring the progress towards the SDGs?*
- *What plans are in place for tackling these challenges and what actions will be taken to strengthen national statistical capacity?*

Chair: Ms. Margarita Guerrero, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP

Panelists:

- Mr. Markus Karl Nabernegg, Coordinator, National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) (Ecuador)
- Mr. Candido Jr. Astrologo, Assistant National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority
- Ms. Min Yongyi, Chief, Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring Unit, UN Statistics Division
- Mr. Christophe Tatsinkou, Chief of Coordination and

Normalization Statistics, National Institute of Statistics of Cameroon

- Mr. Dedi Walujadi, Principal Secretary, Statistics of Indonesia

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 **Tea Break**

16:00 – 17:00 **Closing Ceremony**

Chair: Mr. Xia Rongpo, Director General, China International Statistical Training Centre in collaboration with UN Statistics, National Bureau of Statistics of China

Speaker: Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division

Friday, 9 September 2016

Whole Day

Field visit