



First Meeting of the Steering Group for the
Regional Programme on Economic Statistics

Overview of the Regional Programme

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Overview

- Background
- Core set
- Regional programme
- Regional programme components
- Next steps

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Steering Group

- Direct the development of the implementation plan for the RP
- In consultation with the secretariat, identify the short-term and long-term priorities and establish milestones for the implementation
- Provide strategic and technical advice (day-to-day management, monitor progress in its implementation and propose adjustments)
- Provide guidance, as relevant, to the Subgroup on Agricultural Statistics (establish to support the integration of a regional implementation plan for the global strategy for the improvement of the agricultural and rural statistics into the RP)

Background – CST1 decision

- ESCAP Committee on Statistics (CST):
 - Regional forum for leaders of national statistical systems
 - Decision on “Action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific Region” at the 1st session, in February 2009. The Committee:
 - Adopted a coordinating governance structure to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan (Regional Programme) for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region
 - Established a technical advisory group to provide guidance to the Bureau and the ESCAP secretariat on the development and periodic revision of a regional programme for the development of economic statistics

Follow up to the decision of CST1

- Technical advisory group (established in August 2009)
 - 6 countries, 7 organizations / agencies
 - Co-chairs: Jeff Cope (NZL) and Kim Zieschang (IMF)
- Consultative meetings
 - Expert Group Meeting, Sept 2009
 - Workshop, December 2009
 - Meetings of TAG back-to-back with above meetings
- Region-wide assessment of the capacity of NSSs to produce basic economic statistics (May to December 2009)
- **Core Set** submitted to all CST members (ESCAP members and associate members) for their consideration and comments (Aug/Sept 2010)
- **Regional Programme** finalized in Oct 2010

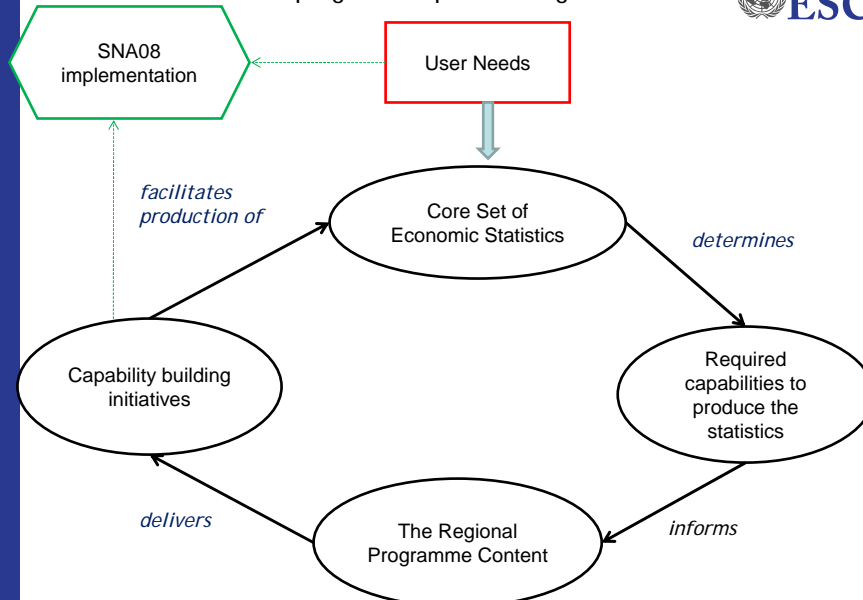
Core set of economic statistics

Sets a clear and achievable target for the region by identifying the minimum set of economic statistics that all countries in Asia and the Pacific should have the **capacity** to produce by 2020 after taking into account their varying needs.

Relationship of the Core Set to the Regional Programme

- The purpose of the programme is to develop the **capacity** to produce a range of economic statistics, ie remove the constraints preventing their production.
- The core set fulfils two roles:
 - Determines the scope of the programme.
 - Provides guidance on the minimum set of economic statistics to be produced.

Framework for developing and implementing the RP



Regional Programme

- **Goal** - to improve the soundness of economic analysis and decision-making by governments, the private sector, the research community and the public through increased availability and effective use of timely, reliable and comparable economic statistics.
- **Expected outcome** - by 2020, the NSSs of ESCAP member States have the capacity to produce and disseminate, in accordance with internationally agreed statistical standards and good practices, the Core Set required for short- and long-term economic analysis and decision-making by both government and non-government sectors

Regional Programme (cont.)

- Based on four pillars of capacity development:
 - human resource skills development
 - a limited number of key statistical infrastructure elements
 - methodological transparency
 - statistical advocacy
- Support capacity development in these areas through a flexible mix of complementary activities, addressing both common needs among countries and country-specific requirements

Ownership

- The Regional Programme responds directly to the expressed country need for support in improving national capacity to produce economic statistics.
- For the programme to remain relevant and contribute to sustainable change, countries in the region through the Committee on Statistics must take ownership of the programme and closely guide its development and implementation, with supplementary support from global, regional and sub-regional development partners.

Supporting blocks/initiatives

- Partners for statistics development in Asia-Pacific – improving the combined impact of capacity building activities through enhanced coordination, synergy and complementarity among partners
- Working group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training – strategy for the coordination of statistical training programmes in Asia-Pacific
- Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics - developing regional implementation plan for the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*.
- Pacific 10 year strategy

Key Components of the Regional Programme

- Endorsement of the Core Set as regional guideline [1]
- Strengthening of statistical advocacy [2]
- Development of human resource skills [3]
- Improvement of statistical infrastructure [4]
- Improvement in coordination [5]
- Progress monitoring and programme review [6]
- Knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation [7]

Component 1 Endorsement of the Core Set as regional guideline

- **Objective:** To secure government commitment to the Core Set as a common regional guideline so that NSSs in the ESCAP region will have the necessary political and financial support for developing the required national capacity to produce the Core Set.

Component 2 Strengthening of statistical advocacy

- **Objective** : To increase the understanding among member States in the ESCAP region of the importance of investing in the improvement of national capacity to produce the Core Set.
- **Proposed activities**
 - 2-a Develop a small number of advocacy tools, for use by NSSs and development partners
 - 2-b Support national and sub-regional statistical advocacy activities, to raise the awareness among policymakers of the importance of investing in capacity
 - 2-c Conduct regular assessments and disseminate relevant reports on the capacity of countries in the ESCAP region to produce the Core Set.

Component 3 Development of human resource skills

- **Objective** : To improve the human resource skills of NSSs staff in a small number of areas that are essential for the collection of economic data and for the compilation, analysis and dissemination of the Core Set.
- **Proposed activities**
 - 3-a, Define a set of standard skills required for producing the Core Set
 - 3-b Identify priority training needs in the region
 - 3-c Develop and deliver targeted regional, sub-regional and national training courses
 - 3-c Develop a training programme on the Core Set for training of trainers

Component 3 Development of human resource skills - continued

- **Proposed activities – continued**
- 3-d Provide advisory services to enhance the capacity of NSSs to develop and deliver relevant in-country training.
- 3-e Develop an on-line database of interactive training modules and other training materials
- 3-f Establish a mechanism to facilitate staff exchange (between NSSs and between NSSs and international organizations) and cooperation between NSSs to promote application of good practices in producing the Core Set..
- 3-g Establish a regional training coordination mechanism among relevant training institutions in the region to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of statistical training

Component 4 Improvement of statistical infrastructure

- **Objective:** To improve the capacity of NSSs to develop, implement and maintain key elements of national statistical infrastructures, including quality assessment frameworks, metadata repositories, and business registers, for the production and dissemination of the Core Set.
- ***Subcomponent 4.1 Adoption of internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks***
- ***Subcomponent 4.2 Establishment of metadata repositories***
- ***Subcomponent 4.3 Development of business registers***
- ***Subcomponent 4.4 Adoption of modern statistical data editing techniques***

Subcomponent 4.1 Adoption of internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks

- **Objective:** All NSSs in the ESCAP region should by 2020, use an internationally recognized quality assessment framework, such as the IMF's DQAF, to systematically and periodically assess the quality of the economic statistics.
- **Proposed activities**
- 4.1-a Encourage countries that do not yet subscribe to either the SDDS or GDDS or similar standards/recommendations, to adopt the DQAF or other assurance frameworks for the systematic assessment of economic statistics.
- 4.1-b Develop and deliver training modules on internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks
- 4.1-c Develop and implement a support mechanism, including a regional network of experts and e-learning programmes, to implement and sustain adherence to the quality assessment framework.

Subcomponent 4.2 Establishment of metadata repositories

- **Objective:** All NSSs in ESCAP regional should, by 2020, have appropriate metadata repositories in which methodological information (metadata) for the core set of economic statistics being compiled can be stored and made readily available on their website, to the users.

Subcomponent 4.3 Development of business registers



- **Objective:** All NSSs in the ESCAP region should have, by 2020, developed and be able to maintain appropriate business registers that address their needs and requirements.
- **Proposed activities**
- 4.3-a Develop a common regional framework for the content, coverage and quality of business registers.
- 4.3-b Establish a regional forum for business register experts to meet regularly and exchange their experiences and share good practices
- 4.3-c Produce a regional manual on business registers, including documented good practices.
- 4.3-d Produce periodic assessments of the quality of existing business registers among countries in the ESCAP region
- 4.3-e Identify and develop a set of skills needed for staff of NSSs to build and maintain business registers that meets the requirements of the NSSs.

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Subcomponent 4.4 Adoption of modern statistical data editing



- **Objective:** All NSSs in the ESCAP region should, by 2020, use modern statistical data editing (SDE) techniques for the processing of the raw economic census and survey data, required for production of the Core Set.
- **Proposed activities**
- 4.4-a Conduct an assessment of existing SDE practices used in the processing of raw economic census and survey data and the resulting quality of the edited data.
- 4.4-b Develop training courses aimed at introducing modern SDE concepts, techniques and good practices to economic survey statisticians of NSSs.
- 4.4-c Promote the improvement of the quality, in particular the accuracy and timeliness, of survey data in national work programmes.
- 4.4-d Provide technical assistance to NSSs in improved SDE techniques for processing the data of a number of selected economic surveys.

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Component 5 Improvement in coordination

- **Objective:** To increase the consistency and coherence of national statistical capacity building programmes and maximize the effectiveness of the available resources, through improved coordination of statistical development activities, both within NSSs and among development partners.

Component 6 Progress monitoring and programme review

- **Objective:** To effectively support the implementation of the Regional Programme through effective monitoring and reporting.
 - ***Subcomponent 6.1 Monitoring the progress of national capacity development***
 - ***Subcomponent 6.2 Monitoring the implementation of the Regional Programme***

Component 7 Knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation



- **Objective:** To promote the effective sharing of knowledge, experience and technical know how and to facilitate South-South Cooperation for improving national capacity to produce the Core Set among NSSs in the ESCAP region.
- **Proposed activities**
- 7-a Establish a regional skills network of experienced national and international economic statisticians to promote exchange of knowledge and good practices, support skills development and facilitate South-South cooperation
- 7-b Establish a dedicated on-line knowledge network, including a database that contains good practices among NSSs in producing and disseminating the Core Set, relevant training materials and training
- 7-c Establish a database of experts that could be drawn on by NSSs and development partners when planning and organizing activities related to the Core Set in the region or requiring technical assistance.
- 7-d Establish a facility to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation.

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Regional Programme and 2008 SNA



- The regional programme supports the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Asia and the Pacific, however its focus is on the development of national capacities, within an agreed timeframe, on a number of related elements, which can be seen as necessary preconditions for the production of economic statistics

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CST2 decisions

Decisions on **Regional programme** at 2nd session in December 2010:

- Endorsed the RP as a formal strategy for the improvement of economic statistics in the region, including:
 - principles and strategy
 - key components and main activities;
 - management arrangements;
 - transformation of TAG into a steering group to directly oversee the implementation of the regional programme.
 - role of the secretariat in the implementation
- Encouraged member States and development partners to actively support the implementation of the RP by, among other things, providing the necessary funding and other resources on a voluntary basis and through active coordination of efforts

CST2 recommendation and ESCAP resolution

CST Recommendation on Core Set (Dec 2010):

- Recommended the use of the core set of economic statistics as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building.

ESCAP Commission resolution 67/10

- *Endorsed* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of economic statistics as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building;
- *Recommended* that members and associate members use, as appropriate, the core set of economic statistics as a framework and guide in the development of their national statistical systems.

Next steps

- Develop the implementation plan (including budget and detail work plan)
- Secure partner commitment
- Secure country commitments
- Secure necessary resources
- Begin implementation sometimes in **2012**

Steering Group

- Direct the development of the implementation plan for the RP
- In consultation with the secretariat, identify the short-term and long-term priorities and establish milestones for the implementation
- Provide strategic and technical advice (day-to-day management, monitor progress in its implementation and propose adjustments)
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Steering Group – way forward

- How will the group guide the finalization of the Implementation Plan
 - How will the group work
 - Work plan
 - Possibility of subgroups
- How will the group reach to development partners and countries
- How will the group guide implementation (later on)

Key documents

- Core set of economic statistics
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-4E.pdf>
- Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-5E.pdf>

Questions?

Thank you