GUIDANCE FOR PLENARY SESSIONS AND BREAKOUT MEETINGS

Session 1: Coordination at and between the global, (sub-) regional and national statistical systems, communication, and advocacy

Contributor: Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician General, Statistics South Africa
Facilitator: Mr. Yusuf Murangwa, Director General, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

Organisation:
- 30 min presentation from the contributor at the beginning of the session followed by 15 min discussions for clarifications;
- 45 min discussions in breakout meetings (about 5-6 groups);
- 60 min presentation of the outcome of the breakout meetings and plenary discussions under the conduct of the facilitator.

Orientation: Based on the outcome of the Global Conference¹ and the concept note for Regional Conferences² for a Transformative Agenda.

This session is cross-cutting and covers coordination, communication and advocacy across all thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda.

Proposed issues to be further discussed in breakout meetings:
- What are the main drivers for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? Compared to global drivers are some of these more specific to Africa?
- How could the institutional architecture at global, regional, sub-regional and national level support and promote the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems?
- Which mechanisms could be put in place to get gradually this institutional architecture implemented and function smoothly, in terms of improved coordination, efficiency and effectiveness?
- Which strategic guidance (i.e. NSDS and data compact, (sub-) regional strategic frameworks), statistical system reviews (i.e. global assessments, peer reviews, etc.), data quality assurance frameworks, incentives and other operational tools could be developed to support in a sustainable and coordinated way the renaissance of African Statistics for integrated, modernised and standardised statistical production processes at and between the different levels (i.e. regional, sub-regional and national)?
- Who are the stakeholders outside official statistical community that could promote and implement this institutional architecture and related mechanisms, including the synergies with the World Statistics Forum and the Global Partnership for Development Data? How to address them, at which level?
- How could such an institutional architecture sustain the coordinated demand driven delivery of technical cooperation vs donor (supply) driven cooperation?
- What are the key elements and themes to be advanced in the African communication and advocacy strategy for official statistics to promote the transformation and modernization of the national statistics systems?

Session 2: Innovation and modernisation through standard-based statistical business architecture

Contributor: Mr. António dos Reis Duarte, President of the National Statistical Institute of Cabo Verde
Facilitator: Mr. John Kalumbi, Director General, Central Statistical Office of Zambia

Organisation:
- 15 min presentation about Statistics Canada experience with the design and implementation of a standard-based statistical business architecture;
- 30 min presentation from the contributor at the beginning of the session followed by 15 min for discussions for clarifications;
- 45 min discussions in breakout meetings (about 5-6 groups);
- 60 min presentation of the outcome of the breakout meetings and plenary discussions under the conduct of the facilitator.

Orientation: Based on the outcome of the Global Conference³ and the concept note for Regional Conferences⁴ for a Transformative Agenda.

Proposed issues to be further discussed in breakout meetings:
- What are the challenges at regional, sub-regional and national level in Africa to take forward integration and modernisation of official statistics? What are the “low hanging fruits” and the challenges in introducing common statistical production architecture at different levels of maturity of the national statistical systems? To which extent the experience of advanced national statistical systems can be applied as good practice in the African context and what cannot apply?
- What are the pre-conditions in Africa to implement standard based tools and applications in national statistical systems, including IT technology? How could the development of these standard tools be taken up?
- What kind of coordination/cooperation mechanism would be needed to foster integration and modernisation and in particular to develop standard IT architecture and technologies across the continent?
- Are the access to the internet, web applications, cloud technology and mobile devices adequate instruments to facilitate investing in new online national data repository and innovative dissemination technology such social media or mobile applications?
- How can the transfer of technical and managerial skills on modern and innovative dissemination technology and tools be better coordinated at the sub-regional, regional and global level?
- What is the potential to further develop the use of administrative data for the production of official statistics? Are there some initiatives that could be taken at regional and sub-regional level to standardise, and harmonise administrative data and metadata, transmission protocols and nomenclatures across African countries (e.g. African metadata registers and catalogues)?
- When it comes to alternative data sources for official statistics what are the specific challenges in terms of the use of big data in Africa?

**Session 3: Securing foundation for modernization and integrated statistical systems**

Facilitator: Mr. Eric Rancourt, Director of the International Cooperation and Corporate Statistical Methods Division, Statistics Canada

Organisation:  
- 6 presentations of 15 minutes on the thematic of the session;  
- 15 min discussions for clarification;  
- 60 min plenary discussions under the conduct of the facilitator.

Orientation: Based on the outcomes of the International Statistical Fellowship Program (ISFP) and the concept note for Regional Conferences\(^5\) for a Transformative Agenda.

Proposed issues to be further discussed in plenary discussions:

- What are the governance and management challenges faced by National Statistics Systems (NSS) and National Statistics Office (NSO) in modernizing official statistics and how can they overcome them?

- How should NSS and NSO adapt to secure governance and management foundations to integrate statistical systems?

- What type of tools and road maps can be adopted or adapted to better achieve statistical integration and ensure that transformation can be managed?

- What are the key elements and themes that should be advanced in the African communication and advocacy strategy to promote the transformation and modernization of the NSS?

- How can international, regional and development partners assist the NSS and NSO in the various building blocks (governance, tools, road maps…) of statistical modernization?

**Session 4: Capacity building and training**

**Contributor:** Mr. Ibrahima Ba, Director General, Institut National de la Statistique de Côte d’Ivoire

**Facilitator:** Mr. She Etoundi J.G.B., Deputy Director General, National Statistical Institute of Cameroun

**Organisation:**
- 30 min presentation by the contributor followed by 15 min discussions for clarifications;
- 45 min discussions in breakout meetings (about 5-6 groups);
- 60 min presentation of the outcomes of the breakout meetings and plenary discussions under the conduct of the facilitator.

**Orientation:** Based on the outcome of the Global Conference and the concept note for Regional Conferences for a Transformative Agenda.

This session is cross-cutting and covers capacity building and training across all thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda.

**Proposed issues to be further discussed in breakout meetings:**

- In terms of capacity building what are the most pressing technical, organisation and management training needs in statistics in order to secure the transformation of national statistical systems in Africa?

- How should capacity building programmes and technical assistance projects take into account the different levels of maturity and development of national statistical systems in terms of modernisation and integration?

- Is it possible to identify statistical domains for which substantial progress has been achieved at the level of the African continent and why this was possible? Would it be possible to apply these successful “recipes” to other statistical domains? How could South-South cooperation promote and contribute to further progress?

- What could be the sound institutional architecture at global, regional, sub-regional and national level to ensure technical capacity building and cooperation to be demand driven and nationally owned and to some extent less donor oriented?

- What is the role of the African training institutions and South-South collaboration in the job training and peer review in advancing technical, organisation and management skills? How can we advance the use of e-learning and other technology driven programmes on the African continent?

- How could technical capacity building and cooperation support a stronger coordination role of the national statistical office within the national statistical system?

- Transformation is not only IT driven but mainly relies on human capital. What is the profile of the statistician needed in 10 years, is there a gap in present technical and managerial skills and how to close it (e.g. on the job training, university, professional training)?

- What culture shifts are required within national statistical offices’ human resources to modernize and how can they mobilize their employees to embrace the necessary cultural changes for this modernization?

- What are the employee benefits/incentives aside competitive market salaries that should be developed in order to retain competent staff within national statistical systems?

---
