



Effective National Statistical System Assessments: Heading Towards Open Frameworks?

48th Session of the UNSC - Side Event -

*Monday, 6 March 2017, 13:15 – 14:30
Conference Room: Conf. Room A*

Responding to national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Statistical Systems (NSS) across the developing world are gearing up to improve and modernise their statistical capacity. In this process, the establishment of clear benchmarks have provided countries a way to prioritise and support activities. National Statistical Offices (NSOs), as primary co-ordinators of the NSS, are in a unique position to provide the strategic context in which the various assessment frameworks are applied.

Following the 46th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2015, PARIS21 was tasked with reviewing the various aspects of existing statistical capacity assessment frameworks. After looking at tools such as the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI), the U.S. Census Bureau's Technical Assessment of Statistical Capacity (TASC) and Eurostat's Snapshot, PARIS21 developed the Statistical Evaluation and Progress (STEP). This self-administered process provides countries with a quick and easy way to evaluate their statistical systems and is not only aimed at integrating elements from existing frameworks but also acts as a pillar in the national strategic planning (NSDS) process. Following this review and adding to the knowledge gained from the STEP, PARIS21 has produced a working paper on statistical assessments which looks at the overlapping nature of these various assessments and the viability of an open assessment framework.

Although assessment questions and responses may be sensitive and confidential, an open approach to sharing information will provide greater clarity and enhance country ownership of the assessment process. Furthermore, by sharing methodologies, NSOs can create synergies that will reduce the reporting burden and allow for harmonised and streamlined assessments. Development partners may look at the resulting process of open assessments as a means to comprehensively evaluate the ability of countries to produce the necessary data to monitor the SDGs. Some of these assessment results, including the World Bank's SCI, are already publicly available.

To coincide with the 48th United Nations Statistical Commission, PARIS21 is organising this side event which will explore the usefulness and feasibility of open frameworks as an integral part of NSS assessments. The event hopes to catalyse a collaborative effort that will help shape the open framework discussion and ultimately improve measurement and

monitoring of statistical development while looking at the specific capacity needs and challenges of developing countries.

Objectives

The objective of this event is to review the practice of deploying NSS assessment frameworks in developing countries and to propose concrete actions that ultimately increase efficiency between partners and sustain co-operation for measuring statistical capacity. Presenters and discussants will attempt to answer the following questions:

- How can NSS assessments be characterised? What are the current practices in NSS assessments? What are the obstacles to sharing assessment methodologies?
- What are the reasons for the emergence of multiple assessment frameworks? How could an optimal situation be described? Advantages and disadvantage of an open framework?
- What are some of the areas that still need more attention? How will capacity assessments need to adapt to the new requirements of the SDGs?
- How can assessment questions be shared and used in an open framework? What is the advantage of an Open Assessment Repository? What are the risks?
- What concrete steps, responsibilities and timelines are needed in moving the agenda of open assessment frameworks forward?

Agenda

Time	Title	Speaker
13:15 – 13:20	Welcome	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21
13:20 – 13:35	Setting the scene: NSS assessments	Mary Strode, PARIS21 Consultant
13:35 – 13:40	Creating an Open Assessment Repository	Geoffrey Greenwell, Technical Programme Co-ordinator, PARIS21
13:40 – 14:10	Roundtable Discussion	<p>Moderator: El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy-Manager, PARIS21</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboubacar Beye, Director, Agence Nationale de Statistique et de la Démographie, Senegal (TBC) • David Vera, Executive Director, INEC Ecuador • Pieter Everaers, Director, International Cooperation, EUROSTAT • Grant Cameron, Manager, International Statistical Programs, World Bank • José Antonio Mejia-Guerra, Inter-American Development Bank • Oliver Chinganya, Director of the African Centre for Statistics at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
14:10 – 14:25	Audience Participation	
14:25 – 14:30	Closing	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21