Statistical Commission
Forty-ninth session
6 – 9 March 2018
Item 3a of the provisional agenda

"Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the "Report of the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Development of a financing/funding mechanism for statistical capacity building of national statistical systems to support evidence-based follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Prepared by the Joint Subgroup of the High-level group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Inter-agency and expert group on SDG indicators

1. **Background**

Data and statistics are essential to monitor the progress countries are making in realizing the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Data for Sustainable Development (CTGAP), the global statistical and data community have come together to define a strategic framework to address the statistical capacity developing needs of statistical systems, including key actions. Many of the key actions will require additional funding. Countries and their national statistical systems, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing states, will require additional commitments and technical support for statistical capacity building and development.

The HLG/IAEG joint subgroup was tasked with developing a plan to address the immediate priorities, including statistical capacity-building and a financial framework for the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The joint subgroup subsequently discussed issues related to exploring the idea of a funding or financing mechanism for implementation of the CTGAP, including undertaking the key actions listed under each strategic objective.

The development of a financial framework could include guidelines that statistical capacity development providers, including multilateral and bilateral donors and private philanthropies, would be encouraged to follow to ensure funds are spent appropriately and that activities are implemented in a way that ensure sustainability over time for countries. It could contain broad principles and procedures related to the implementation of statistical capacity development activities within the scope of the CTGAP. The draft principles will take note of and draw upon the previous work by the Statistical Commission on good practices for technical cooperation for statistics.[1]

The general approach of the Joint subgroup to the work on statistical capacity building was based on three elements: (a) identification of statistical capacity building needs in the countries; (b) recommendations for a financial mechanism to address the statistical capacity building needs identified under (a); and (c) in a dialogue with stakeholders on the implementation of capacity building initiatives that address the identified needs.

Item (a) was addressed by a survey undertaken jointly by Paris21 and the HLG-PCCB. For the results from the joint survey relating to the work of the Joint subgroup, see section 2 "Results of the joint survey on capacity building needs" and the Annex for more detailed tables.

This paper also provides considerations for further work on the identification of a financial mechanism for statistical capacity development needs (item b above).

---

[1] Please see E/CN.3/1999/19

This paper includes three main sections and an annex: one section describes the preliminary results of the joint survey on capacity building needs jointly undertaken by PARIS21 and the HLG-PCCB and presents the Joint subgroup's suggestions to the Statistical Commission on a possible way forward on capacity building activities. The other section contains a draft set of principles to guide in the establishment and organization of a financing mechanism for the SDGs and for the implementation of the CTGAP. The final section contains a set of next steps on the work for financing and identifying capacity development needs. The annex shows, in more detail, some of the findings of the joint survey that more closely relate to the work of the Joint subgroup.

2. <u>Results of the joint survey on capacity building needs</u>

In late 2017, a survey on statistical capacity needs was jointly undertaken by PARIS 21 and the HLG-PCCB. The aim of the survey was to obtain a better understanding of the current needs regarding capacity development in NSOs and the challenges, priorities and plans NSOs have in the short and medium term. UNSD sent the survey to all National Statistical Office Heads and Director Generals. As of 25 January 2018, a total of 75 responses were received (75/195[2]).

For the purpose of this paper, a brief analysis of the results related to the section 2 of this questionnaire, covering the immediate capacity building needs was prepared by the Joint subgroup. The preliminary analysis of the full survey results, prepared by PARIS21 is available at http://www.paris21.org/capacity-development-40.

With respect to immediate statistical capacity building needs within their own country, countries were asked to assess capacity building with respect to the following:
- Assessment of top priorities of NSOs by identifying the top Tier I and Tier II indicators for which countries assessed themselves as needing capacity strengthening.
- Determining the most important sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building efforts.
- Assessment of the types of data disaggregation that require the most immediate support
- Examination of the types of data sources that require immediate capacity building.

The Joint subgroup examined the results of these questions for countries and by region.

Determining immediate priorities with respect to specific Tier I and Tier II indicators, countries were asked to select the top 10 indicators requiring statistical capacity building. The most commonly chosen indicator was 2.1.2 – Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, where 18 countries noted this to be in their top 10 list. This was followed by indicators 1.2.1– Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line and 1.3.1- Proportion of the population covered by social protection floors/systems with 14

---

[2] The survey was sent to all Member States, British Virgin Islands and the State of Palestine.

countries noting these indicators were in their top 10 for statistical capacity building. Indicators 7.2.1 and 1.2.2 followed with 10 countries noting these indicators were in their top 10 priority for statistical capacity building (see Table Q10.1 in the Annex).

Among the 'top' indicators chosen, the large majority were under goals 1 and 2. In the group of indicators related to goal one and two, four indicators are related to goal 1 and five to goal 2. With few exceptions, it was mainly developing countries prioritizing indicators related to goal 1 and 2.

Countries were also asked to prioritize sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building efforts.[3] Not surprisingly, countries were most likely to choose environment statistics as this is a relatively new domain in most countries. Income and poverty were the second most frequently chosen domain for capacity building, which is in line given indicators related to Goal 1 (no poverty) were the most frequently chosen as the one requiring the most capacity development efforts. Agriculture statistics and national accounts followed. Regionally, there were some differences in priority areas, for instance all regions except Latin America and the Caribbean noted environmental statistics as a top priority, where countries in this region noted agriculture statistics most frequently as a priority.

Disaggregation is a key component of the 2030 Agenda in order to leave no one behind. Given this, countries were asked to determine which types of disaggregation required the most immediate support. All countries noted that disaggregation by disability status was the highest priority. Geographic location was also identified as a highest priority. For secondary priorities, migrant status and disaggregation by sex/gender were also noted as priority areas for disaggregation.

Regionally, there were slight differences in disaggregation priorities. Geographic disaggregation was noted as a priority for the African group of countries as well as the Latin American and Caribbean region, however, disaggregation by disability status was noted as the top priority for the majority of countries in the Eastern European region. In the Asia-Pacific region, the top priorities for disaggregation were equally split between disability, geographic location and sex/gender disaggregation dimensions.
In terms of second priorities, migrant status was a top second priority for disaggregation for countries in the Asia-Pacific region, while disaggregation by sex and disability dimensions was noted by the African group of countries.

Countries were asked to consider data sources used within the NSO that require immediate capacity building. All countries noted that the immediate capacity building requirement was administrative sources. Household surveys as a data source were also mentioned as a top capacity building priority by many countries. Among other priorities Big Data and civil registration and administrative data sources were also mentioned.

---

[3] Countries were asked to restrict priority areas to statistical domains related to Tier I and Tier II indicators.

Regionally, there was very little difference in capacity building priorities of data types for developing countries. Capacity building for administrative data sources was the top priority for virtually all regions, and in the African region and Latin American and Caribbean region, Household surveys were also noted as a high priority area for capacity building. Big data and civil registration were cited most often as second priorities in the African and the Asia-Pacific regions whereas this was not a priority area for developing countries in the Eastern European region.

Suggestions for possible capacity building activities

Against the background of the findings from the survey, the Joint Subgroup initially proposes the following suggestions for statistical capacity building initiatives:

1. Organizing regional training seminars on statistics relating to income and poverty statistics.
2. Organizing regional training seminars on statistical disaggregation relating to disability status.
3. Organizing a conference with concrete workshops on use of administrative data in production of statistics.
4. Organizing a conference on statistical law.
5. Drafting a road map for capacity building on environmental statistics.
6. Inviting some of the major players in the statistical capacity building to HLG meetings, hereby trying to increase coordination among the stakeholders to the greatest extent possible.

3. Guiding principles for a financing/funding mechanism

Developing a financing or funding mechanism will require broader consultation to fully understand the level of the funds currently available against statistical capacity building needed. Additionally, the group noted the importance of engaging potential stakeholders. As a preliminary step toward the establishment of a mechanism, the Joint subgroup agreed to begin drafting some guiding principles that statistical capacity building providers and other potential donors may follow to ensure funds are spent appropriately and that statistical capacity building activities are sustainable. The objective is to ensure that the implementation of statistical capacity building activities within the scope of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are carried out in a manner that benefits all countries, and fully empowers the national statistical offices.

In order to fully address the immediate capacity building needs identified in the survey, the idea of establishing a global financing or funding mechanism or instrument is being explored. This instrument would draw together resources for financing from different sources and will require some guiding principles. The Joint subgroup has agreed to work on the guiding principles and has prepared the following to initiate discussions on the topic. In the development of the financing or funding mechanism, it is essential that representatives from national statistical offices are involved in the process.

Another aspect of capacity development that the Joint subgroup has considered is the establishment of criteria for capacity building or development in countries. These criteria are suggestions that should be taken into consideration when funding and implementing statistical capacity development activities in countries. The development of these criteria are directly linked previous work of the Statistical Commission on developing some practical guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation in statistics.[4] More recently, the Commission had before it the report[5] of Friends of Chair on broader measures of progress, which called for the principles to be reiterated and reviewed in the light of the post-2015 development agenda. The Joint subgroup suggests that the review and alignment of the guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation in statistics with the 2030 Agenda be undertaken by the HLG.

Guiding principles

1. The High-Level Group of the Statistical Commission should have an oversight/coordinating role in the funding mechanism, with regular reporting to the Statistical Commission. This role could take the form of an advisory role, with participation in a high-level steering committee, informing the managers of the funding mechanism of national and regional capacity building needs, of areas that are underfunded, and also areas where there are currently multiple ongoing initiatives.

2. With due attention to minimizing bureaucratic layers, the financing mechanism should be centrally managed in order to allow an efficient disbursement of funds and to ensure that there do not exist duplication of activities.

3. NSOs should be consulted during the establishment of the financing mechanism.

4. Capacity building activities delivered through this financing mechanism should be demand driven and build on each country's self-defined needs. NSOs should play a key role in determining national priorities for capacity building.

---

[4] At the thirtieth Session of the Statistical Commission in 1999, the Commission had before them a set of guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation for statistics (see E/CN.3/1999/19).
[5] E/CN.3/2015/2

5. Capacity building activities delivered through this financing mechanism should, as a principal component, strengthen the NSO/NSI, as the national coordinator of the National Statistical System.

6. When engaging with a country and across its national statistical system, it is essential that the national statistical office be fully made aware of any activities on statistical capacity development being carried out in the country.

4. **Next steps and recommendations**

The joint subgroup will continue its work in the following areas:

   a. Further exploration of a funding mechanism and further analysis of the survey results to more fully understand the capacity development/building needs and develop a set of recommendations
   b. Finalization of the guiding principles on financing/funding by April 2018 and further request that the Bureau approve these principles
   c. Review of the guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation in statistics, aligning/updating them in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
   d. Elaborate on the suggestions for capacity building activities

Annex: Tables summarizing the findings in the Joint survey relating to immediate priorities for capacity building (Q10-Q15)

Q10 Considering your national priorities, what are the top 10 Sustainable Development Goal indicators (please select only Tier I and II) that require the most immediate capacity building in your NSO?

Table Q10.1: Indicators requiring most immediate capacity building,

Total		African group		Eastern European Group		Western European and Others Group (WEOG)		Asia-Pacific Group		Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	
Indicator	Number	Indicator	Number	Indicator	Number	Indicator	Number	Indicator	Number	Indicator	Number
2.1.2	18	1.2.1	6	2.1.2	4	1.3.1	2	1.2.2	6	2.1.2	6
1.3.1	15	2.1.2	4	8.1.1	4	2.2.2	2	1.3.1	5	3.7.1	3
1.2.1	14	6.5.1	4	1.3.1	3	3.9.1	2	2.1.2	4	5.5.2	3
1.2.2	10	3.9.2	4	1.2.2	3	5.4.1	2	1.2.1	4	1.2.1	2
7.2.1	10	14.5.1	4	7.2.1	3	11.3.1	2	1.1.1	4	1.3.1	2
1.1.1	8	2.5.1	4	11.6.1	3	5.2.2	2	3.9.1	3	2.1.1	2
2.1.1	8	1.3.1	3	2.c.1	3	7.2.1	1	5.4.1	3	2.2.1	2
11.6.1	8	7.2.1	3	11.3.1	3	2.2.1	1	8.4.2	3	3.1.1	2
2.2.1	8	11.6.1	3	10.1.1	3	6.5.1	1	8.9.1	3	5.a.1	2
2.2.2	8	2.2.2	3	8.3.1	3	8.4.2	1	11.1.1	3	4.2.2	2
2.c.1	8	2.c.1	3	1.2.1	2	15.4.2	1	4.3.1	3	1.1.1	1
3.9.1	8	1.1.1	2	2.1.1	2	1.5.1	1	7.3.1	3	7.2.1	1
5.4.1	8	2.1.1	2	5.4.1	2	1.5.2	1	3.6.1	3	2.c.1	1
6.5.1	8	2.2.1	2	8.4.2	2	4.3.1	1	7.2.1	2	3.9.1	1
3.9.2	7	8.9.1	2	8.9.1	2	6.4.2	1	2.1.1	2	5.4.1	1
8.4.2	7	1.5.2	2	11.1.1	2	7.3.1	1	11.6.1	2	3.9.2	1
8.9.1	7	6.4.2	2	15.4.2	2	14.4.1	1	2.2.1	2	11.1.1	1
11.1.1	7	7.3.1	2	3.6.1	2	14.5.1	1	2.2.2	2	1.5.2	1
11.3.1	7	14.4.1	2	5.2.1	2	4.2.2	1	6.5.1	2	4.3.1	1
15.4.2	6	6.2.1	2	5.2.2	2	4.b.1	1	11.3.1	2	14.4.1	1
1.5.2	6	1.2.2	1	6.2.1	2	5.2.1	1	15.4.2	2	4.b.1	1
3.7.1	6	3.9.1	1	7.1.2	2	5.5.2	1	1.5.2	2	5.2.1	1
4.3.1	6	8.4.2	1	11.2.1	2	11.2.1	1	3.1.1	2	8.3.1	1
5.a.1	6	11.1.1	1	16.1.3	2	16.1.4	1	5.a.1	2	1.2.2	0
6.4.2	6	15.4.2	1	16.1.4	2	2.1.2	0	6.4.2	2	11.6.1	0
7.3.1	6	1.5.1	1	1.1.1	1	1.2.1	0	10.1.1	2	2.2.2	0
10.1.1	6	3.1.1	1	2.2.1	1	1.1.1	0	11.2.1	2	6.5.1	0
14.4.1	6	3.7.1	1	2.2.2	1	1.2.2	0	2.c.1	1	8.4.2	0
14.5.1	6	5.a.1	1	3.9.1	1	2.1.1	0	3.9.2	1	8.9.1	0

Q11. From the list below, please select the three most important sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building efforts? (Population statistics / CRVS; Gender statistics; Health statistics; Government finance statistics; Income and poverty statistics; Education statistics; Agricultural statistics; Environmental statistics; National accounts (GDP); Business data collection; Crime statistics; Human rights, rule of low, peace and security)

Table Q11.1: Sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building – all regions

All regions	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Environmental statistics	**35**	14	12	9
Income and poverty statistics	**23**	9	9	5
Agricultural statistics	**21**	7	7	7
National accounts (GDP)	**20**	10	4	6
Education statistics	**17**	3	9	5
Gender statistics	**16**	6	4	6
Health statistics	**15**	5	6	4
Business data collection	**15**	3	9	3
Population statistics / CRVS	**12**	8	1	3
Crime statistics	**10**	1	2	7
Government finance statistics	**8**	2	4	2

Table Q11.2: Sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building – African Group

African Group	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Environmental statistics	**10**	4	4	2
Agricultural statistics	**7**	2	3	2
Health statistics	**6**	3	1	2
Government finance statistics	**5**	2	2	1
Income and poverty statistics	**4**	2	1	1
Education statistics	**4**	1	3	0

	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
National accounts (GDP)	**3**	1	1	1
Gender statistics	**2**	1	0	1
Business data collection	**2**	0	1	1
Crime statistics	**2**	0	1	1
Population statistics / CRVS	**1**	1	0	0

Table Q11.3: Sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building – Asia Pacific Group

Asia Pacific Group	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Environmental statistics	**10**	4	2	4
Business data collection	**10**	2	6	2
National accounts (GDP)	**9**	5	2	2
Income and poverty statistics	**6**	2	3	1
Population statistics / CRVS	**5**	4	0	1
Gender statistics	**4**	1	0	3
Health statistics	**4**	0	3	1
Agricultural statistics	**2**	1	1	0
Education statistics	**2**	0	1	1
Crime statistics	**2**	0	0	2
Government finance statistics	**2**	0	1	1

Table Q11.4: Sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building - Eastern European Group

Eastern European Group	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Environmental statistics	**8**	3	3	2
Income and poverty statistics	**8**	3	5	0
Gender statistics	**5**	3	2	0
Health statistics	**5**	2	2	1
Agricultural statistics	**5**	1	1	3
Education statistics	**5**	1	1	3
National accounts (GDP)	**4**	1	0	3

	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Population statistics / CRVS	**3**	2	1	0
Crime statistics	**2**	0	0	2
Business data collection	**1**	0	1	0
Government finance statistics	**0**	0	0	0

Table Q11.5: Sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building - Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Agricultural statistics	**6**	2	2	2
Education statistics	**5**	1	3	1
Crime statistics	**3**	1	1	1
National accounts (GDP)	**2**	2	0	0
Gender statistics	**2**	1	1	0
Business data collection	**2**	1	1	0
Population statistics / CRVS	**2**	0	0	2
Environmental statistics	**1**	0	0	1
Income and poverty statistics	**1**	0	0	1
Health statistics	**0**	0	0	0
Government finance statistics	**0**	0	0	0

Table Q11.6: Sectoral statistics that require immediate capacity building - Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	Total	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority
Environmental statistics	**6**	3	3	0
Income and poverty statistics	**4**	2	0	2
Gender statistics	**3**	0	1	2
National accounts (GDP)	**2**	1	1	0

Agricultural statistics	**1**	1	0	0
Population statistics / CRVS	**1**	1	0	0
Education statistics	**1**	0	1	0
Crime statistics	**1**	0	0	1
Government finance statistics	**1**	0	1	0
Health statistics	**0**	0	0	0
Business data collection	**0**	0	0	0

Q12. Please indicate what types of data disaggregation require the most immediate support.

Table Q12.1: Types of data disaggregation requiring the most immediate support

	Total	**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
By disability status	**32**	19	8	5
By geographical location	**31**	12	11	8
By migrant status	**24**	5	11	8
By income	**22**	4	7	11
By sex/gender	**22**	8	9	5
By age	**7**	4	1	2
By ethnicity and indigenous status	**16**	3	6	7

Table Q12.2: Types of data disaggregation requiring the most immediate support by region* (top 3 priorities combined)

	Total	African Group	Asia Pacific	Eastern European	Latin America & Caribbean	Western Europe
By disability status	34	6	4	12	4	8
By geographical location	31	7	9	10	1	4
By migrant status	24	5	7	5	1	6
By income	22	7	7	5	0	3
By sex/gender	21	6	6	4	2	3
By age	8	1	4	0	0	3
By ethnicity and indigenous status	20	2	4	4	3	7

Q13. Considering the data sources used in your NSO, please indicate which ones require immediate (within 2 years' time) capacity building in your country.

Table Q13.1: Data sources requiring immediate capacity building in the country (total)

	Total	1st	2nd	3rd
Administrative sources	50	28	14	8
Big data	29	7	15	7
Geospatial data	28	4	7	17
Household surveys	15	7	4	4
Business registers	18	2	4	12
Civil registration	15	5	9	1
Population census	7	4	3	0
Data from nonprivate dwellings	1	0	0	1

3rd

Table Q13.2: Data sources requiring immediate capacity building in the country by region* (top 3 priorities combined)

	African Group	Asia Pacific	Eastern European	Latin America & Caribbean	Western Europe	Total
Administrative sources	13	12	15	4	6	50
Big data	6	9	5	3	7	30
Geospatial data	3	4	13	2	6	28
Household surveys	4	4	6	1		15
Business registers	4	9	2	1	2	18
Civil registration	8	5	1	1	0	15
Population census	1	5	3	1	1	11
Data from nonprivate dwelling					1	1

Q14. What are the major obstacles in using the required data sources mentioned in the previous question? (Select up to 3)

Most cited major obstacles	African Group N=17	Asia Pacific N=19	Eastern European N=17	Latin America & Caribbean N=8	Western Europe N=14	Total N= 75
Communication challenges and coordination with data providers (for examples ministries; businesses)	13	16	12	7	4	52
IT challenges	9	11	13	5	4	42
Lacking knowledge on how to use big data in the production of statistics	12	12	7	3	4	38
Lack of legal basis for data collection	5	8	4	1	5	23
Low response rate of surveys	2	5	7	4	1	19
Lack of machine readable data	2		1	3	1	7

Q15. What actions do you consider relevant in order to improve the data sources and sectoral statistics mentioned in the previous questions?

Requires further analysis