

**Side event at the occasion of the 49<sup>th</sup> UN Statistical Commission**

## **Partnerships as a way to enhance capacity for statistical SDG-follow up - within and outside of the statistical systems**

**New York, 7 March 201**

**Conference room 12, 6.15 - 7.30 p.m.**

### **Idea**

In order to address the global and national monitoring needs posed by the 2030 Agenda, countries are faced with the challenge of gathering, compiling and reporting a large amount of indicators that may not be part of the regular statistical production. Against the background of current national experiences in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, the side event will aim to identify some of the best approaches towards creating an enabling environment for the integration and use of new and traditional sources of data across different data communities. Furthermore, the event will show examples of and discuss collaboration between NSO's and non-traditional producers of data, such as civil society, business, and academia. While building on concrete examples faced in data gathering, compilation, and development, the session will address the challenges encountered by statistical offices in coordinating the statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda.

### **Co-sponsored by**

Statistics Denmark, Statistics Finland, Statistics Norway, and Statistics Sweden

### **Presenters and participants in the panel debate**

- Niels Ploug, Director of Social Statistics, Statistics Denmark.
- Marjo Bruun, Director General, Statistics Finland
- Live Margrethe Rognerud, Senior Adviser, Statistics Norway and Alexandra Wilde, Senior Research and Policy Advisor; UNDP Oslo Governance Centre
- Sara Frankl, Senior Advisor, Statistics Sweden (TBC)

### **Purpose**

Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda cannot be solved by NSOs alone and needs to be supported by data both from other official and non-official data producers. In this respect, our current experience shows that NSO are contacted by especially non-official data producers with the request of using their particular data to statistical follow-up on specific indicators. Ensuring that this data complies with quality standard can be a challenge. The session aims to investigate and describe some of the coordination and cooperation issues faced during the work on statistical follow-up on the SDGs.

Furthermore, the event will describe the organizers concrete experiences in coordination work and provide a forum for exchange of opinions for other participants.

## **Rationale**

Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda has been discussed since 2015 where the Agenda was adopted by the UN General Assembly. Besides NSOs, there are many stakeholders in this process such as UN Agencies, International Organizations, national data producers and civil society. This magnitude of stakeholders can sometimes blur the process of the statistical follow-up. Both the NSOs, line ministries and other authorities are faced with uncoordinated data requests from various international organizations/agencies, sometimes with questionnaires or aggregate figures that lay a heavy burden on the institutions involved. Compiling national figures also requires involvement from national stakeholders as different figures or indicator components can be produced by different authorities.

We believe that discussing the coordination/cooperation issues can contribute to sharing experiences and finding the best possibilities to address the challenges.

## **The Event**

The event will be conducted as an interactive session, where the floor will be open for participants to share their experiences. The event will also have four short presentations on the following topics:

- Statistics Finland: *'Coordination within centralized statistical system'*;
- Statistics Sweden: *'Unleashing the power of cooperation and innovation in a decentralized statistical system'*;
- Statistics Norway / UNDP Oslo Governance Center: The two institutions will share their experiences from cooperation and UNDP will inform about an on-going initiative on national-level monitoring of Goal 16;
- Statistics Denmark: *'Cooperation and coordination with non-official data producers such as civil society and business'*;

Under the overall theme of improving the data coverage for the follow-up on the Agenda, the session will reflect on the specific SDG-related perspectives and ongoing activities carried out by different stakeholders, reflections on the way forward and necessary frameworks, and visions for the future.

## **Suggestions for questions to be addressed**

- How does the role of the NSO's differ in coordinating tasks in centralized and decentralized statistical systems?
- What are current experiences in coordinating the statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda – do we coordinate differently with different stakeholders?
- What criteria can be considered when establishing a partnership for SDG data?
- What data are to be accepted in the statistical follow-up from non-official data producers and what not?
- How can we navigate in the strongly competitive world of the 2030 Agenda where an overall coordination is limited (many data portals, many data initiatives, and many strong stakeholders)?

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