



Pre-launch: Statistical Capacity Monitor

50th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Monday, 4 March 2019, 1:15-2:30pm
Conference Room C

Rationale

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda has brought attention to the new skills and practices that national statistical systems (NSS) will need to develop to meet the unprecedented demand for data and statistics. While the SDG momentum has prompted opportunities to improve and invest in their processes and capacities to deliver, many NSSs in developing countries face an uphill struggle to produce basic quality data for policy making and programme implementation.

Statistical capacity development has emerged as a recognised priority for most actors in the development and data community, as enshrined in the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. In 2017, PARIS21 explored at UNSC the practice of deploying NSS assessment frameworks in developing countries to propose concrete actions to increase efficiency for measuring statistical capacity. Since then, a new initiative, Capacity Development 4.0, was launched with the ambition to revisit the notion of capacity in statistics and to respond to the emerging challenges for NSSs. A Task Team gathering representatives from NSOs, international agencies, civil society, think tanks, academia and the private sector has worked since then towards the definition of a broader framework for capacity, the proposal of new metrics for assessing progress and the implementation of capacity development programmes under a new perspective.

While existing tools provide separate information on countries' statistical capacity, their compliance to standards or financial support, there is no overarching instrument to explore the broad range of drivers and indicators that contribute to explain statistical capacity. In this context, understanding the needs and progress in statistical capacity through accessible information on statistical assessments, provision of programmes or innovative approaches to measurement is pending.

Objectives

This side event will present a beta version of the *PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor*, an online platform featuring existing and innovative indicators on statistical capacity and capacity development.

Based on implementation experience and at the request of several members, PARIS21 identified the need to create a global knowledge platform on statistical capacity development to help countries, donors and service providers how to tailor capacity development programmes in statistics. The *Statistical Capacity Monitor* aims at supporting these actors assess the statistical capacity performance of countries and better tailor capacity development programmes accordingly.

The *Monitor* provides access to an extensive, and evolving, battery of indicators on statistical capacity that will offer a clearer landscape of where countries stand in different areas of capacity. It will facilitate country and regional comparisons across different dimensions of statistical capacity, present

trends in key drivers of statistical capacity (including funding and legislation) and periodically propose new indicators that can inform our understanding of capacity.

Under these principles, the *Monitor* aims to contribute to better match the supply and demand of programmes, enhance donors' coordination in the provision of capacity development and build on our collective knowledge of what capacity means. The *Monitor* will also present regular assessments of the state of play of capacity needs, outline programme results and showcase new initiatives and innovations.

The portal will support the publication of PARIS21 *Statistical Capacity Development Outlook* (forthcoming) and serve as a dissemination tool to present trends and new developments in areas of statistical capacity development.

Following the presentation of the tool, a panel discussion will address some questions around statistical capacity development:

1. Why do we need a Statistical Capacity Monitor? How can it expand our understanding of statistical capacity?
2. Does the *beta* version of the platform respond to the expressed needs of NSOs, policy makers, development partners, civil society and other actors?
3. What are the most critical knowledge gaps for supporting statistical capacity? How can we better measure them?
4. Could the Statistical Capacity Monitor contribute to improve the provision of CD programmes?

Agenda

Time	Title	Speaker
13:15 – 13:25	Welcome and setting the scene	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21
13.25 – 13.40	Presentation of the <i>Statistical Capacity Monitor</i>	Rolando Avendano, Economist, PARIS21
13:40 – 14:10	Panel Discussion	<p>Moderator: Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21</p> <p>Speakers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marina Gandolfo, Head of International Affairs, ISTAT • Grant Cameron, Manager, World Bank Development Data Group • Gemma van Halderen, Director Statistics Division, UNESCAP • Neil Jackson, Chief Statistician, Department for International Development (DfID), UK • Ayush Ariunzaya, Director, National Statistical Office, Mongolia
14:10 – 14:25	Audience Participation	All
14:25 – 14:30	Closing	El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy Manager, PARIS21