

## **Concept Note of High Level Forum on Official Statistics**

Data and statistics are at the center of the full implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the fulfillment of the global ambition to leave no one behind. Through the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data<sup>[1]</sup> (CTGAP), the global statistical and data communities have come together to define a strategic framework to strengthen statistical capacity necessary to achieve the full scope and intent of the 2030 Agenda. The CTGAP provides a roadmap for countries to modernize their statistical systems and strengthen the impact of data for development. Improving national statistical systems requires adequate resources and strong political commitment.

Meeting the data challenges of the SDGs will require increased investments in international and national data and statistical systems. Development data are critical for policy making, planning and monitoring. Statistical systems need to be bolstered to fully support the assessment of national and global progress toward the 2030 agenda. Implementation of the CTGAP will require that national statistical offices, together with national governments, stand behind the plan of action enabling their countries to take charge of promoting the mobilization of the required resources. But, the strengthening of the statistical systems does not happen in a vacuum, and it is essential that all key donors, data communities and international agencies work closely together with the NSOs and related systems to secure board support for statistical capacity development.

The recent costing exercise carried out by Rachael Calleja and Andrew Rogerson for PARIS21 calls the doubling of ODA towards statistics and development data, from the current 0.33% share of ODA to about 0.7% - a gap of roughly \$600 million. While significant, filling this gap might be possible through increased and coordinated efforts. The Statistical Commission's High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building has been working together with partners from other groups such as PARIS21 and the GPSDD to transform the CTGAP and its established priorities into a reality to meet the gap in funds.

To meet these data challenges, the Dubai Declaration, announced at the UN World Data Forum in October 2018, calls for "The establishment of an innovative funding mechanism, open to all stakeholders under UN membership oversight, that is able to respond in a fast and efficient manner to the priorities of national data and statistical systems, with a goal to mobilize both domestic and international funds and activate partnerships and funding opportunities to strengthen the capacity of national data and statistical systems. The funding mechanism, entirely demand-driven, will be created under the mandate of the UN Statistical Commission and operate under the guidance of representatives of national statistical systems and different data and donor communities who will support the decision making on the operational modalities and on raising resources to address the data needs for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and will be serviced by a Secretariat located at an international institution with global membership."

Bridging the financing for development community with the statistical world is essential to continue the dialogue started in Dubai to address priorities of national data and statistical systems in a timely and efficient manner. In this Forum, the keynote address will outline the plans for the establishment of a financing facility hosted at the World Bank. Experts from the donor community will discuss together with statisticians, how the mobilization of resources to support data and statistics and the necessary mechanisms to improve the delivery and coordination of aid, under the scope of the CTGAP and the Statistical Commission, will become a reality.