Building partnership for better data for SDGs:
Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians

A Side Event at the United Nations Statistics Commission,
18 February 2020, 7:00 – 8:30 am (ETC)

Concept Note

Overview

To fully implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is a great demand for quality, open, timely and disaggregated data and statistics. During the COVID-19 crisis, such data are particularly vital in understanding, managing and mitigating the human, social and economic effects of the pandemic. They effectively guide decision-making at each step of the pandemic responses.

Same as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) itself, strong global partnerships and cooperation are needed to meet the data demand for achieving the SDGs and for building back better from the pandemic. In recent years, the global statistical community is accelerating its efforts on strengthening statistical capacity in order to fulfill the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and to reach those that are left furthest behind first. In the context of the evolving data ecosystem, the rapid development of new information technologies also offers unprecedented opportunities for the implementation of innovative approaches for data collection, integration and analysis across sectors of society.

To facilitate collaboration, knowledge-sharing, networking, and technical support, a Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians (https://www.yammer.com/unstats/) was launched on 20 October 2020—the World Statistics Day. The Global Network is a global professional network for statisticians, data officers, data scientists and geospatial information experts from National Statistical Systems, the UN system (including Resident Coordinator Offices and the UN country teams), and other international and regional organizations. It is a facilitated professional online social community – hosted on the Yammer platform – which aims to support Resident Coordinator Offices and UN country teams in their work with national governments to build resilient and sustainable national data and information systems for the full implementation of the SDGs.

The main objectives of the Global Network are to improve coordination and collaboration among peers and organizations, to connect existing but not necessarily well-connected networks and initiatives, and to provide and share information on capacity building efforts globally. Since its launch, the Global Network has grown to a strong global community of over 1,000 members and has facilitated information and knowledge sharing, the creation of thematic groups, the organization of webinars on building strong data ecosystems for SDGs and much more. Moving
forward, continually improving collaboration and coordination among data stakeholders is still needed.

Objectives

This side event organized by the United Nations Statistics Division aims to bring together national statisticians, United Nations Resident Coordination Offices (UNRCOs) and other UN organizations to discuss on how to build partnerships for fulfill data demand for SDGs and how to leverage the Global Network to improve collaboration and coordination. The event will

- Introduce the roles of UNRCOs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how UNRCOs can work with the national statistical system
- Introduce and promote the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians
- Share experiences of collaboration among national statistical systems, UN country teams, and other partners
- Collect feedback and suggestions from national statistical system, UNRCOs and other UN agencies on how to build strong partnership on data for SDGs

Agenda

- **Welcome:**
  - Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief of SDG Monitoring Section, UNDESA Statistics Division
- **Introductory Remarks:**
  - Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNDESA Statistics Division
- **The UN Resident Coordinator Offices support to countries on data for SDGs**
  - Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Development Coordination Office
- **The Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians**
  - Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief of SDG Monitoring Section, UNDESA Statistics Division
- **Experiences on how to build partnership for better data for SDGs**
  - Mr. Rashad Hasanov and Ms. Gular Fatali, UN Resident Coordinator Office in Azerbaijan
  - Mr. Alamgir Hossen, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Ms. Halima Neyamat, UN Resident Coordinator Office in Bangladesh
  - Ms. Nazira Kerimalieva, Head of Sustainable Development and Environment Statistics Department, National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyz Republic
  - Mr. Mark Hereward, Associate Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring, UNICEF
- **Q&A**