



**United Nations** | DESA  
Statistics Division



## Continued efforts to provide evidence on SDG achievement in the COVID era

A Side Event at the United Nations Statistical Commission,  
16 February 2021, 07:00 – 8:30 am (EST)

### Concept note and tentative agenda

(as of 5 February 2021)

#### Registration:

Please use this link to register for the event: <https://forms.gle/WdVS18sTLCCYidf17>

The event is open to all, and a link to the platform will be shared with you a couple of days before the event.

#### Background and objectives:

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there were concerns that SDG monitoring efforts would be substantially curtailed, particularly in low and lower-middle income countries, with NOS's capacity limited due to a combination of budgetary restrictions, office closures and other public health measures. The 20 countries from across Africa and Asia involved in the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring have proven otherwise, showing a strong, continued commitment to provide data and metadata on the SDGs in their countries. They have been working closely with UNSD and other partners to achieve the project outcomes, reflecting the importance of the SDGs in both targeting immediate policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis and guiding the longer-term recovery.

This event will showcase some of the work of the countries, highlighting how they've continued to implement national SDG monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the development of data platforms, the compilation of metadata, and user engagement. It will also share country experiences in monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs. In addition, it will highlight how the UNSD-FCDO project has tailored the technical assistance activities it provides to ensure they remain accessible and relevant in light of the current situation.

## Preliminary agenda

### **Welcome and introductory remarks**

- *Ms. Francesca Perucci, UN Statistics Division*

### *Part 1:*

#### **The UNSD-FCDO project and COVID-19**

- *Ms. Vibeke Oestreich Nielsen, UN Statistics Division*

#### **Country Experience: Myanmar**

- *Dr. Nyi Nyi Maung, Central Statistical Organization, Myanmar*

#### **Country Experience: Zimbabwe**

- *Mr. Godfrey Matsinde, Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency*

#### **Country Experience: Rwanda**

- *Mr. Jean Luc Kabera, National Institute of Statistics Rwanda*

### *Part 2:*

**Panel Discussion:** *A panel of representatives from UNSD-FCDO project countries will discuss topics including the importance of maintaining a focus on SDG monitoring during the pandemic, the challenges in doing so, and the lessons and new ways of working that can be taken forward to the ‘new normal’.*

- Moderated by Mr. Ian Coady, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- *Dr. Ola Awad, Palestine;*
- *Ms. Aberash Tariku, Ethiopia;*
- *Mr. Robert Toweh, Liberia;*
- *Mr. Rajan Silwal, Nepal*

### **Closing**

- *Ms. Francesca Perucci, UN Statistics Division*