



Concept note for the “Praia Group on Governance Statistics: 2020-2025” Meeting

52nd United Nations Statistics Commission
Thursday, 23 February 2021, 9.00am – 10.30am

Background

The Praia Group on Governance Statistics (the Praia Group) was created in 2015 at the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in response to the growing recognition of the importance of methodologically sound governance statistics. The mandate of the Group is to “contribute to establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics on the major dimensions of governance” and its work since then has included the production and publication of a [Handbook on Governance Statistics](#) for national statistical offices and a [Guidance Note on Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era](#), to help data producers meet governance data requirements during the pandemic (and other multidimensional crises that may arise in the future).

When the UNSC expressed its support for the continuation of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics for a second term (2020-25), in March 2020, it also requested the Group to “further develop the conceptualization of governance statistics, further improve methodology and standardization, [and] add practical experiences.” (UNSC 51/117/c, 51st Session, March 2020).

In October 2020, the Praia Group Secretariat launched an extensive consultation of its members and other relevant actors in the field of governance statistics to collect views and recommendations on potential ‘key deliverables’ that the Group could produce over the next four years to address this request by the UNSC. One key message emerging from these discussions is that there has never been a more opportune time for the Praia Group to translate the recommendations made in its Handbook into action on the ground. COVID-19 and the responses to it have underlined urgent human rights and governance concerns, making the need for reliable and timely data on governance and the mandate of the Praia Group ever more relevant. Members have expressed the need for readily available methodologies for specific thematic areas, and operational guidance on how to apply these methodologies.

Objectives of the Meeting

This side-event has two main objectives:

- **Firstly, to share experiences and recommendations around governance data collection efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.** This will include a presentation on the Praia Group’s [Guidance Note on Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era](#), which examines the same eight dimensions of governance covered by the Handbook – namely non-discrimination and equality, participation, openness, access to and quality of justice, responsiveness, absence of corruption, trust, and safety and security – this time from the perspective of COVID-19, and

keeping in mind the operational and financial constraints that have been placed on traditional field-based operations. The meeting will also hear from NSOs about the challenges they face in collecting governance data at this point in time and how they have responded to the situation.

- **Secondly, to present the Praia Group's plan of work for its new term** (2020-25), which was developed further to a broad-based consultation of Praia Group members and other governance data producers. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for NSOs and other interested stakeholders to express interest in leading and/or becoming a member of topic-specific Task Teams of interest, as proposed in the plan of work.

Outcomes from the meeting will include:

- An assessment of emerging issues and challenges in governance data collection in a crisis context such as the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Preliminary expressions of interest from National Statistical Offices and other stakeholders in leading or becoming members of Task Teams to be established in this new term.

Participants:

The meeting will bring together current Praia Group members (including Steering Committee members) and any other stakeholders interested in governance statistics.

Language:

English

Registration link:

<https://undp.zoom.us/join/tZwrcuqgqT8qG9ea5SBKa0OMZyy4K5Ct2LIL>