

5 April 2017

**Meeting of the Committee of the  
Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN)**

**New York, 5 March 2017**

**UNHQ Headquarters, Room DC2-1684**

**15:00 – 18:00**

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**Meeting Notes**

**A. Opening, adoption of agenda and participation**

1. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Pietro Gennari (FAO), chair of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN). The Meeting adopted the agenda without amendments.
2. The agenda, the list of documents presented and the list of participants are presented as annexes I, II and III, respectively.

**B. TOR/Working methods**

3. The chair informed the Committee that the Committee's website (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/default.htm>) now had a publicly accessible page containing the membership and TOR of the Committee. In addition, the Committee had submitted its first report to the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission.

**Conclusions**

4. The Committee thanked ILO for finalizing the TOR and welcomed the new publicly available web pages of the Committee.

**C. Data reporting/sharing for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

5. UNSD briefed the Committee on the latest developments regarding the global indicator framework for monitoring the SDGs as well as on the draft resolution the Commission will consider at its 48<sup>th</sup> Session. This draft resolution, to be adopted by ECOSOC, proposes the endorsement of the fine-tuned global indicator framework together with the relevant metadata documentation and draws attention to the need for International Organizations to build countries' statistical capacity. In addition, the Commission will also consider the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which is presented to the Commission in the background document

entitled “Update on the work of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

6. The Committee also discussed the document entitled “Principles and practices of global data reporting and data sharing for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda” (UNSYSTEM/2017/2 and SA/2017/2) prepared by FAO and the CSS-UN/CCSA task team. The document proposes a set of principles and practices to guide and give structure to the data flows between national statistical systems and international organizations regarding the global SDG indicators.

## **Conclusions**

7. The Committee agreed that - while still a draft - the document reflects common ground and thus forms a suitable basis of the CCSA co-chairs’ (FAO and OECD) and members’ (UIS, UNICEF and ECA) participation in the High Level Forum<sup>1</sup> on 6 March 2017. The Committee agreed to present an improved version of the document to the IAEG-SDG Meeting to be held in Ottawa (Canada) at the end of March.

8. In order to facilitate better communication between Committee members and national statistical offices, UNSD agreed to regularly share its contact list with Committee members. Committee members agree to inform UNSD of updates, as they become aware of any.

## **D. UN Statistics Quality Assurance Framework**

9. UNCTAD introduced document UNSYSTEM/2017/3, “United Nations Statistics Quality Assurance Framework (UN-SQAF)” welcoming feedback in particular regarding the following issues: (a) the distinction between national and international statistics; (b) possible cross-references to the document “Principles and practices of global data reporting and data sharing for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda” (UNSYSTEM/2017/2 and SA/2017/2; see also chapter B above); and (c) the question of how and to what extent existing QAFs within the UN system could converge to this new UN-SQAF.

10. UNSD also informed the Committee that the Statistical Commission is expected to re-establish its Expert Group on Quality Assurance (see E/CN.3/2017/8 and <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-8-NQAF-E.pdf>). This Expert Group could also be involved in maintaining UN-SQAF in the future.

## **Conclusions:**

11. Members are invited to send their final comments, in particular with reference to the issues brought up by UNCTAD (see para 9), by mid-May. UNCTAD will finalize the

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/side-events/20170306-3A-high-level-forum-on-official-statistics/> and <http://webtv.un.org/search/-high-level-forum-on-official-statistics-working-together-to-measure-progress-towards-the-sdgs-high-level-forum-on-the-forthcoming-48th-session-of-the-un-statistical-commission-7-10-march-2017/5350684244001?term=statistical%20commission>.

document in close cooperation with the chair and UNSD and publish it on the Committee’s public website.

12. Committee members are urged to participate in the Expert Group on Quality Assurance (see para 10).

**E. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities**

13. UNSD briefed the Committee on the status of the letter from the Under-Secretary-General of DESA, Mr. WU Hongbo, to the heads of agencies. The letter is expected to be sent shortly after the Statistical Commission session.

**Conclusions:**

14. Committee members will follow up with their head of agencies and ensure that responses (letters of commitment from their respective agencies) are sent to USG Wu.

**F. Other business**

15. No other business was discussed.

**G. Actions to be taken**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Output</b>
B. TOR/Working methods	---	---	---	---
C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	FAO UNSD	All All	mid-March continuous	Final “Principles”-document presented to the IAEG-SDG Sharing of (updated) NSO contacts between members
D. Quality assurance frameworks	UNCTAD	FAO, UNSD + all	15 May 2017	Comments by all members; Final UN-SQAF available online
E. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities	UNSD	All	March – May 2017	“Commitment-letter” from USG Wu to agencies and replies by head of agencies available online

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening and adoption of agenda
2. Terms of reference and working methods
3. Data reporting/sharing for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
4. UN Statistics Quality Assurance Framework
5. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities
6. Other business

## **Annex II**

### **List of documents**

- UNSYSTEM/2017/1 Agenda
- UNSYSTEM/2017/2 Principles and practices of global data reporting and data sharing for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (FAO and Task Team)
- UNSYSTEM/2017/3 United Nations statistics quality assurance framework (UN-SQAF) (UNCTAD)

## Annex III

### List of Participants

*(In alphabetical order of the organization)*

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