

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

Muscat, 26 September 2017

10:00 – 1:00

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**Quality assurance, and brief update on the Working Group on SDMX**

**Note by UNSD**

1. The Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (EG-NQAF) which was re-activated at the 48 Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission has conducted two meeting so far, discussing and finalizing its workplan. The following organizations are participating in the work of the Expert Group: FAO, IMF, World Bank, OECD, UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC and UNESCAP. Please also see in the Annex the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group.
  
2. As part of its work programme, the EG-NQAF will update the repository of national practices. It will also reach out to the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations (CCS-UN) to update the repository of information on practices of international and supranational organizations on quality assurance that was compiled earlier by the Expert Group and is available at the UN website at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/QualityNQAF/nqaf.aspx>. An additional objective would be to provide this information in a better, more easily accessible format. UNSD will consult with the Chairs of the CCSA and CCS-UN on the best approach to update the repository of practices on quality assurance and requests their support in this task.
  
3. The Expert Group will, based on the mandate given by the Statistical Commission, develop concrete recommendations for quality assurance and guidance for their implementation based on the 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and related existing guidance and guidelines. However, in line with the sentiment when the existing NQAF template and guidelines were adopted, no attempt will be made to prescribe countries what specific quality assurance framework should be followed. The existing template and guidelines will be reviewed from the perspective of their implementation in

different situations, such as the evaluation of new data sources. However, the structure and elements of the existing NQAF template and guidelines are not expected to undergo major changes.

4. It is expected that additional recommendations will address the collaboration within the global statistical system on assuring data quality at the global level. It is expected that this part will largely consist of drawing together existing information and guidance, and to refer to existing or forthcoming work, such by the IAEG-SDGs and the CCSA on global reporting flows.

5. The Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators at its meeting on 8 September 2017 discussed the 2nd draft of the concept scheme (DSD) with initial code lists. At its forthcoming meeting on 6 October 2017 it is expected that the working group will tentatively agree on major aspects of a pilot concept scheme. The October meeting will also discuss the metadata structure definition (MSD). The involvement and participation of agencies and countries in the pilot phase will be crucial.

## **Annex I**

### **Updated terms of reference of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks**

1. The Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks will
  - (a) Assess the implementation of the Generic National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) Template and Guidelines in countries;
  - (b) Review the available guidelines and supporting materials for the implementation of the NQAF Template and Guidelines and examine how its implementation in countries can be further supported in light of the data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (c) Update the NQAF Template and Guidelines and amend the overall information package as required;
  - (d) Review the issue of quality assurance within the global statistical system, and consider what further guidance could be provided in support of the global reporting of the SDG indicators.
  
2. The Expert Group will consist of current members and observers that confirm their interest to actively participate in its work and a limited number of additional countries and organizations that wish to join, while ensuring a balanced regional representation. The Expert Group will consult and work closely with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System on the issue of quality assurance within the global statistical system, as required. Member States will elect two Co-Chairs. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will be acting as the secretariat of the Expert Group.
  
3. The Expert Group will conduct its work electronically but will meet face-to-face if the possibility and need arise. The participation in the Expert Group is self-funded. The Expert Group will report back to the UN Statistical Commission in 2019.