Task Team 3: Country-Focused Data and Reporting Terms of Reference

The Task Team on Country-Focused Data and Reporting was created following the establishment of the Results Group on SDG Implementation of the new UNSDG in May 2018. The purpose of the group is to facilitate coherence support by UN Country Teams (resident and non-resident agencies) to the National Statistical System for localization, monitoring and reporting on SDG indicators, targets and goals. The breadth of Agenda 2030 demands a UN-System-wide coherent support in this very difficult SDG data monitoring task.

Objectives:

1. To ensure coherent support by the UN Development System to country data and statistical development for the full implementation of the 2030 agenda and the review of progress on the SDGs.
2. To promote evidence-based policy making and full integration of the important and challenging data aspects in policy and budgeting decisions.

The Team will entail close and continuous coordination with the three other SRG 1 Task Teams (Leave No One Behind, Transitions and Recovery and Integrated Policy Support) and in particular, Task Team 1 on Integrated Policy Support (second objective). This cross-task team coordination will be facilitated by DOCO.

Working Methods:

The Task Team has three co-chairs (UNICEF, UNSD/DESA & ECLAC) who lead the work of the Team, liaise with sister Teams as necessary, and report on results achieved to the Results Group on SDG Implementation. The group will meet face-to-face as required but meet remotely approximately every two months. During the start-up phase the group will meet more frequently. Members of the group may be tasked with leading and in particular, drafting or research items. However, the group will not have formal sub-groups. These individuals, and timelines, will be decided by plenary meetings of the Team.

The inaugural meeting of the Team took place on **Friday, 24 August 2018** where discussions and considerations from members have been considered with regard to the deliverables in this TOR**.** The UNSDG Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) will serve the Secretariat function of the Task Team and support the future Task Team meetings and communications. Future meetings will include field reference colleagues such as Resident Coordinators or other UNCT members whose input will prove useful to the Team's outputs.

Main Task:

UN Country Teams vary greatly in statistical capacity available in-country, and in knowledge on what statistical resources are produced in regional and HQ hubs. Most of that capacity is dedicated either to programmatic monitoring (and evaluation), or to sectoral system strengthening. At best, this allows opportunistic strengthening of the national statistical system in areas under the SDGs. It also does not however, position the UN System strongly in Government eyes as a partner for preparation of Voluntary National Reports (many of which are a 'data desert'), nor for localization, monitoring and reporting on SDG indicators, targets and goals, more specifically.

The proposed *Tool kit for UN Country Team support to National Statistical Systems on implementation, localization, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs* will take a stepwise approach to providing capacity and coherence to the support by UNCT to national governments. It will be based on the framework provided by the

Cape Town Global Action Plan for Data for the 2030 agenda[1] and detail at each step what resources (i.e., including but not limited to: data portals, links to databases, metadata, methodologies, custodian information, calendar of key data and reporting events at the country level, etc) that are available at regional and HQ levels. The tool kit will also delineate clearly the roles of the different elements of the UN Development System in support to SDG monitoring. It will also consider the *Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals* which are focused on support to the National Voluntary Review process, to give more specific and hands-on guidance and resource links to support the overall statistical support process. The *Guidelines* will be one of the many important resources underpinning the work of the *Tool kit.*

Outcomes:

- A web-based *UNCT Data and Reporting Tool kit* that articulates coherent support to the National Statistical System on SDG implementation, localization, monitoring and reporting, fully based on the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Data for the 2030 agenda and its implementation guidelines.

Deliverables:

- **Short-term (Nov 2018):** A short-term deliverable to be ready for the November meeting of the UNSDG is the first pages of the web-based data and reporting tool kit. It will include a page of a set of hyper-links to all relevant SDG data and statistical resources (i.e., including but not limited to: data sources, metadata, methodologies, standards, etc) with guidance on what the user might need to find (See Table A on following page).

- **Medium-term (June 2019):** A Best Practices analysis highlighting country-level examples of strengthening statistical systems.

- **Longer-term (August 2020):** The longer-term deliverable is due within the two years of the life of the Task Team. It will be a web-based toolkit and be continuously iterated as 'a living document' which will continue beyond that time. The toolkit will be designed to address the questions that a (resident or non-resident) UNCT member will likely pose, with immediate guidance and links to those who can provide more in-depth support.

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[1] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/cape-town-global-action-plan

INPUTS FOR THE SHORT-TERM DELIVERABLE AS A MILESTONE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM WEB BASED TOOL-KIT & "LIVING DOCUMENT"

Considering the audiences of the deliverables, UNCT's, Resident Coordinators and Member States, as a first milestone for the short-term deliverable, the practical and web-based tool-kit must aim to provide key information that includes:

1.   ***What is available --*** in terms of SDG indicators data, metadata, methodologies, etc.;
2.   ***What is going on*** -- in the statistical field at the global, regional and national level and;
3.   ***Who to ask what*** -- in the case that the tool-kit does not answer the inquiry.

As there are global, regional and national processes, actions, and products, written guidelines and the hyperlinks must be simple and useful for the users – to avoid 'reinventing the wheel and not lose time looking for the wheel'. Taking in mind the agreed objectives, and using what is already available online at the three geographic levels, the web-based tool kit tree structure could reflect the following proposed logic:

Table A: Proposed Tree Structure for Web-based Data and Reporting Tool Kit

STATISTICAL AREA	TOOLS	AGENCY (IES) FOCAL POINT (S)	TIME FRAME
Data Platforms/Portals and Metadata	▪ Global Database ▪ Custodian Agencies ▪ Regional Platforms/Regional Indicators ▪ Frameworks	UNSD …	Nov 2018
Working Processes, Methodologies, Working Papers	▪ Global StatComm, IAEG & HLG ▪ Regional Conferences/Commissions ▪ Custodian Agencies	TBD	Nov 2018
Data Sources, SDG-related Initiatives	▪ MICS Surveys ▪ DHS Surveys ▪ Other data sources and Initiatives	TBD	Nov 2018
National Statistical Capacities Diagnosis for SDG Indicators production	▪ By region and countries	TBD	Nov 2018
Other key information and materials	▪ Global policies, guidelines (IATI, SDMX, etc.) and tools ▪ UNCT calendar, regional calendars and global calendar of key SDG data-related events (training events, workshops, missions) ▪ VNRs	TBD	Nov 2018
Who to ask for what	▪ Focal points for groups of hyperlinks at the global, regional (for each region) and, the national level.	TBD	Nov 2018