



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

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System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics

prepared by the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN System (CCS-UN)

I. Context

Since 2018, the Secretary-General has pursued an ambitious agenda to prepare the UN System for the challenges of the 21st century. In lockstep with other structural UN reforms, he has launched a portfolio of initiatives through the CEB to help transform system-wide approaches to new technologies, innovation and data. Driven by the urgency and ambition of the “Decade of Action”, these initiatives are designed to nurture cross-cutting capabilities the UN System will need to deliver better “for people and planet”. Unlocking data and harnessing the potential of statistics will be critical to the success of UN reform.

Recognizing that data are a strategic asset for the UN System, the UN Secretary-General's overarching Data Strategy sets out a vision for a “data ecosystem that maximizes the value of our data assets for our organizations and the stakeholders we serve”, including high-level objectives, principles, core workstreams¹ and concrete system-wide data initiatives. The strategy signals that improving how we collect, manage, use and share data should be a cross-cutting strategic concern: Across all pillars of the UN System, across programmes and operations, and across all level of our organizations.

The System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics contributes to the overall objectives of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General that constitutes a framework to support the Roadmap as a priority initiative. The two strategic plans converge around a vision that recognizes the power of data and stimulates the United Nations to embrace a more coherent and modern approach to data. The focus of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General is the internal functioning of the UN itself. It is a high-level plan, that identifies actions at UN entity level and for the UN as a whole, where improvements can be made with regard to UN data. The UN Data and Statistics Roadmap is a complementary strategic plan, which although is also high-level, is more operational in focus and it builds upon and connects existing UN professional networks. The UN Data and Statistics Roadmap also has two constituencies in mind, both the UN system itself (where it overlaps with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General) but also national

¹ The Data Strategy of the Secretary-General encourages action across 6 goals: Use-case centric approach; analytics; data management; people, organization and culture; governance; and technology environment.

statistical systems by offering a more coordinated statistical assistance. The Roadmap is also concerned with the improvement of UN statistics and not just UN data.²

Thus, the actions described in this roadmap aim to innovate UN data and statistical outputs in relation to the two roles played by UN entities in this arena: (i) support the development of national statistical systems, helping countries to produce fit-for-purpose data and statistics; and (ii) provide authoritative regional and global data and statistics to support the international community to respond in a timely fashion to regional and emerging policy needs. The roadmap also helps deliver on one of the initiatives from the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere: a better data.un.org statistics portal to strengthen the position of the UN system as a primary provider of global data and statistics and two data initiatives in the Secretary-General's regional reform recommendations: knowledge management hubs and collaboration on data and statistics.

² Annex I visualizes the links between the *System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics* and the *Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere: With Insight, Impact and Integrity*.

II. Introduction

In October 2019, the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN System (CCS-UN) presented a paper '*Innovating UN data - The contribution of UN data to the 2030 Agenda and UN Reform*' to the 38th session of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in Turin³. This paper set out some general proposals, that if adopted, would facilitate the UN Data and Statistics system to better support and contribute to: addressing the needs already identified by HLCP to improve the availability and timeliness of data and statistics; supporting the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the reformed UN Development System (UNDS); and to deliver on the challenges set out by the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development 2014 report '*A World That Counts*' and the 2018 UN World Data Forum *Dubai Declaration* which called for new solutions - new actors, new ideas and new partnerships.

HLCP, after considering the paper, requested the CCS-UN to prepare, in collaboration with interested HLCP members, a draft road map/system-wide approach for modernizing United Nations data and statistics to be considered at its 39th session⁴. In doing so, they stressed the need to take into consideration the usability and quality of new data sources and platforms, while underscoring the significance of strengthening the capacities of national institutions and statistics offices to improve the collection and analysis of official data and use new data sources to fill remaining SDG data gaps. The Committee further underlined the importance of strengthening the United Nations system's data innovation capacity by engaging and efficiently coordinating and pooling existing partnership networks with the private sector and research community, reducing fragmentation and silos, and strengthening the United Nations staff's capacity to effectively use and analyze data. They also noted the need for data privacy, data security, ethical guidelines for new data sources and safeguards against biases to be addressed.

This strategic roadmap begins by setting out a vision, a mission statement and a set of values for the UN system. Section B sets out some general problem statements, both actual and perceived, that are categorized into cultural, technical and institutional. Section C details the roadmap, including actions to be taken, existing resources that can support these actions, identification of the most suitable actors and timelines for implementation.

The roadmap presents a set of ambitious and aspirational targets. Their achievement will require time, resources and the shift of priorities of current statistical and data programmes. It will require continued coordination with those driving the UN Data Strategy. Accelerating and achieving the innovation to which these targets aspire also requires, leadership from the CCS-UN and the strong political commitment of UN leaders and the durable engagement of those UN communities that can make them happen.

³ Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN System (2019). *Innovating UN data - The contribution of UN data to the 2030 Agenda and UN Reform*. Presented to the 38th session of HLCP. Turin, 10-11 October, 2019. CEB/2019/HLCP38/CRP.3

⁴ United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (2019). *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-eighth session*. Turin, 10-11 October, 2019. CEB/2019/6.

a. Vision, mission and values of the UN system

Our vision

Timely, trusted data and statistics for everyone, to contribute to a better world

Our mission

- To guide and advise member states, to lead and coordinate the UN statistical system, to convene to develop normative standards and international best practices, to support countries with capacity development.
- To open UN data to help peoples and communities access, use and understand data and statistics, to bring trust into public discourse, to empower and protect people by providing inclusive and impartial statistics.
- To improve statistical literacy, provide and communicate trusted UN data and statistics within and outside the UN in a way that it can be easily understood and used.
- To innovate, to grow and promulgate the UN data and statistics brand.

Our values

- A deep commitment to impartial, open UN data and statistics as a global public good.
- A culture of service, consultation and engagement, collaboration, responsiveness, accountability and efficiency.
- The highest standards of ethical professionalism, leadership, trust including adherence to the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, applying those principles beyond statistics to any publicly available UN data.

b. Challenges

Internal challenges

Implementing the vision of a modernized UN system that contributes to a better world with timely and trusted data and statistics requires overcoming some challenges within the UN itself. These challenges can be categorized into institutional, cultural, and technical:

Institutional: The UN's data and statistical systems are not sufficiently coordinated and interoperable to support the *2030 Agenda Decade for Action*, and constrained by a lack of data, limited resources, separated from policy and lack a coherent brand (both for data and capacity development).

Culture: UN system data and statistical functions are perceived as too slow, reactive, fragmented, risk averse, conservative with an inability to communicate, using too much statistical jargon.

Technical: UN system data and statistical specialists lack continuous professional development, may lack knowledge and skills, particularly with regard to new data sources and new statistical techniques, including those to safeguard confidentiality and privacy.

External challenges

Implementing that vision also requires overcoming some external challenges. These challenges can be categorized into country capacity, and resources:

Country capacity: Not all countries have sufficient capacity to produce accurate and timely statistics and to respond to new data demands. This limits the production of high-quality international statistics.

Resources: Many national statistical systems have limited resources, which limits their activities.

III. The Roadmap

The actions described in this roadmap aim to innovate UN data and statistical outputs in relation to the two roles played by UN entities in this arena:

- (i) support the development of national statistical systems, helping countries to produce fit-for-purpose data and statistics; and
- (ii) provide authoritative regional and global data and statistics to support the international community to respond in a timely fashion to regional and emerging policy needs.

The roadmap covers data and statistics related to all three pillars of the UN: peace and security; human rights; and development, and also includes humanitarian assistance. It builds on the Secretary-General's vision of a "data ecosystem that maximizes the values of our data assets for our organization and the stakeholders we serve" and recommendations for regional and global collaboration on data and statistics.

The roadmap also aspires to innovate UN data and statistical coordination and communication by:

- (i) incorporating the 3 goals identified by the United Nations Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development in their report 'A World That Counts'⁵;
- (ii) supporting the 4 initiatives agreed by the CEB for a UN approach to the data revolution⁶; and
- (iii) championing the 4 data initiatives identified by the Secretary-General in his Executive Committee Decision 2019/64 regarding the need for a 'UN Data Strategy'⁷.

The Roadmap is presented in 3 Goals:

Goal 1: New and timely data solutions

Goal 2: Address emerging policy needs

Goal 3: Coordinated and innovative support to Member States

The roadmap also dovetails other strategic plans that aim to improve the integration and flow of information to address policy goals and crisis response⁸. Each of the roadmap's goals

⁵ (1) Technology, innovation and analysis; (2) Capacity and resources; and (3) Governance and leadership.

⁶ CEB-2015-1: Notably, (1) expand capacity to drive data innovation through the development of a United Nations system data innovation laboratory; (2) strengthen data exchange and communication capabilities across the United Nations system by seeking to create the foundation for data visualization and dashboard capability across the system; (3) create and strengthen partnerships for coordination and capacity - building in data-driven sustainable development through a world forum on sustainable development data; and (4) promote the greater use of existing data assets within the United Nations system and by the public through the creation of a United Nations system data catalogue.

⁷ (1) Transparency, incl. a new open.un.org portal; (2) Accessibility, incl. a stronger data.un.org portal; (3) Interoperability, incl. a stronger api.un.org service; and (4) Literacy, incl. new job profiles for data analysts, specialists and scientists.

⁸ For example: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1); Data For Now: Accelerating progress through timely information; Geospatial strategy for the United Nations; UN Secretary-Generals Strategy on New Technologies; Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy; Data Standards for United Nations System-Wide Reporting of Financial Data; UN CCA (Common Country Analysis) Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework; and the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General.

includes a number of sub-headings or targets that detail the actions envisaged to achieve implementation. The roadmap also identifies who can ‘make it happen’ and by when. Existing resources that can support each action are suggested. Associated risks and opportunities are also identified.

While the accountability of the SG’s overall UN Data Strategy rests with the Secretary General’s Executive Committee, the accountability of this roadmap remains with the UN system-wide CEB/HLCP, with the CCS-UN as the main body to monitor it and report on its progress.

Goal 1. New and timely data solutions

The UN system creates new data solutions using multiple data sources that address emerging policy issues and describe “what matters, when it matters”

Target 1.1 To improve existing data sources and increase use of new data sources to expand coverage, relevance and timeliness of data and statistics produced and disseminated by the UN System

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Establish a UN Data collaborative:</p> <p>1.1.1 Share information, methodologies and good practices for adopting new data sources</p> <p>1.1.2 Establish a GWG working group for UN system entities⁹</p> <p>1.1.3 Establish and manage UN-level agreements with external providers to ensure sustainable access to secondary data, particularly big data ¹⁰</p> <p>1.1.4 Strengthen the link between UN statistics and geospatial systems, including establishing a network of UN staff using geospatial information to produce and disseminate UN data and statistics and provide training to UN staff¹¹</p> <p>1.1.5 Strengthen the link between UN statistical system and citizen science data communities</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>UN Global Platform/GWG</p> <p>Big Data for Migration Alliance</p> <p>Global Pulse</p> <p>Data4Now</p> <p>Federated Information System for the SDGs</p> <p>UN Statistical Commission Digital Transformation Network (work on IT standards for new data)</p> <p>Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)</p> <p>UNDS Regional Reform Recommendations</p> <p>UNOOSA</p> <p>UN Geospatial Network</p> <p>Resources needed:</p>	<p>UNSD and Global Pulse (lead) on 1.1.1</p> <p>GWG and UNSD on 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, all UN entities data and statistical programmes to participate in the working group</p> <p>CCS-UN and UN-GGIM on 1.1.4 to establish UN statistics-geospatial network building on existing work of UN System Network on Geospatial Information and initiatives on integrating statistical, geospatial and other data sources by UNSD, UNECE, UN-ECLAC, UNESCAP and others that have already started to embed geospatial information system in their data and statistics</p>	<p><u>June 2020</u>: establishment of GWG working group (1.1.1)</p> <p><u>December 2020</u>: some agreements signed (1.1.3)</p> <p><u>Dec 2020</u>: first new data/statistics released by some UN entities using new data sources (Goal 1)</p> <p><u>2020-2021</u>: increased number of UN entities releasing data and statistics based on new data sources (Goal 1)</p> <p><u>June 2020</u>: first meeting/workshop of statistics-geospatial network (1.1.4)</p> <p><u>December 2020</u>: technical network of UN staff using geospatial information system established (1.1.4)</p>

⁹ The existing GWG is a forum for countries to adopt new data sources; the new GWG for UN agencies will support the use of new sources within UN agencies.

¹⁰ This action operationalizes some of the activities in the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General, action pillar ‘Data environment and infrastructure’ and Goal 6 (technology environment) of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General. It will include any infrastructural requirements necessary to operationalize the sharing of data.

¹¹ For example, dedicated workshops for UN system staff to exchange experiences and learn from each other the benefits of combining statistical, geospatial and other data sources.

	<p>Global Pulse to support UN agencies to experiment and adopt new data sources at a sub-national, national, regional and global scale UNSD to lead the establishment of a GWG working group for UN agencies</p> <p>Lead agency to devote time to establish the technical network and making it productive for all UN entities</p>	<p>CCS-UN to form a working group on citizen science data with academic community working on citizen science data</p> <p>UNOOSA to support 1.1.4 to deliver capacity-building and planning of dedicated workshops</p>	<p><u>2020-2021</u>: more UN entities integrating statistical, geospatial and other data sources to provide better knowledge and insights (1.1.4)</p> <p><u>December 2020</u>: establishment of joint group CCS-UN-Citizen science community, 1.1.5</p>
<p>Risks: Member States oppose the use of alternative sources not based on their official data, or lack of capacity to access and benefit from existing new data solutions or implement/use tools for data interoperability, or lack of skills to establish partnerships. UN entities lack of resources prohibit implementation.</p> <p>Opportunities: Engagement of the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as fora to discuss with Member States the use of new sources by the UN system</p>			

Target 1.2 To ensure that UN staff have adequate skills to embrace the opportunities that new data sources, methodology, technology, and communication channels offer in the field of data and statistics

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Promote continuous professional development of UN staff in data and statistics¹²:</p> <p>1.2.1 Develop on-line and face-to-face technical statistical training programmes for UN staff on: data communication, new data sources, methodological development, and analytical techniques for policy making (see action 1.4.2)</p> <p>1.2.2 Develop new UN job profiles for data scientists, data analysts, and data/statistics communicators¹³</p> <p>1.2.3 Improve efficiency and connectivity of UN database systems</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>Digital Technology Network UN HR- Professional Training Programmes UNDP and UN Global Pulse HLCM Secretariat (common identifiers) UN Staff College IFAD UNDS Regional Reform Recommendations</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>Financial resources to develop new UN training curricula</p>	<p>UNHR-Professional Training Programme (to lead) with CCS-UN, Digital Technology Network to develop new training curricula for UN personnel and develop strategy to retain experts (1.2.1)</p> <p>HR network (to lead) together with CCS-UN and Digital Technology Network to create new job profiles and create UN roster of experts to use to enhance data science within the UN Joint group CCS-UN with Digital Technology Network to enhance digitalization of data and information for statistical purposes (1.2.2)</p> <p>UNSD (to lead), CCS-UN with support from HLCM Secretariat to adopt common identifiers (1.2.3)</p>	<p><u>March 2021</u>: new training embedded in UN training curricula (1.2.1)</p> <p><u>Sept 2020</u>: new job profiles established (1.2.2)</p> <p><u>January 2021</u>: UN roster of new job profiles (1.2.2)</p> <p><u>2021-2022</u>: roll out of training in UN entities (1.2.1)</p> <p><u>December 2020</u>: establishment of joint group CCS-UN-Digital Technology Network (1.2.3)</p> <p><u>December 2020</u>: all UN entities have adopted common identifiers (1.2.3)</p>
<p>Risks: Resources are not available to develop and roll out training, administrative rules prevent the establishment of a common UN roster of experts</p> <p>Opportunities: Improve data and statistical literacy within the UN. Modernise image of UN career as a data scientist/statistician</p>			

¹² This action operationalizes some of the activities under the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General, action pillar ‘People and Culture’.

¹³ This action operationalizes some of the activities under the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General.

Target 1.4 To maintain the integrity, trust and transparency of UN data and statistics so that the UN system can fully embrace new data sources and methodology without undermining the authority of its data and statistics

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Strengthen internal UN system policies, norms and standards that promote integrity of data and statistics¹⁴:</p> <p>1.4.1 All UN system entities to achieve full responsible open data by 2021</p> <p>1.4.2 Define, responsible, ethical and quality standards for the UN to use secondary data, particularly big data (including data confidentiality, data privacy, data protection, and data security)</p> <p>1.4.2 bis define standards to detect and fight bias that algorithms and automatized system may introduce.</p> <p>1.4.3 Review the <i>Principles Governing International Statistical Activities</i> in light of new technologies and methodologies and update if needed</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>UN- Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF)</p> <p>UN Global Platform -GWG</p> <p>Global Pulse</p> <p>Principles relating to remote sensing of Earth from outer space</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>UN entities to devote time to develop the ethical guidelines</p>	<p>CCSA to lead on 1.4.1</p> <p>CCS-UN (lead) with Digital Transformation Network (HLCCM), UN-GGM and UN Innovation Network to develop new standards (1.4.2).</p> <p>CCSA and UNSD to lead on 1.4.3</p>	<p><u>Dec 2021</u>: all UN entities meet the criteria for open data (1.4.1)</p> <p><u>March 2021</u>: Principles Governing International Statistical Activities reviewed and updated if needed (1.4.3)</p> <p><u>March 2021</u>: Ethical and quality standards developed (1.4.2)</p>
<p>Risks: Internal resistance in UN entities prevent all UN data and statistics to fulfil the criteria of open data; no sufficient time and resources are devoted to developing responsible and ethical standards.</p> <p>Opportunities: To approach donors to provide financial resources to develop ethical guidelines.</p>			

¹⁴ This action operationalizes some of the activities under the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General, action pillars on “Data assets and use”, as well as “Data privacy and protection”.

Goal 2. Address emerging policy needs

Data and statistics produced and disseminated by the UN system are used to address emerging policy needs

Target 2.1 As core UN system-wide initiative, transform the data.un.org portal as a single point of reference for UN system data to strengthen the position of the UN system as a primary provider of global data and statistics

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Update UN data portal so that data from UN system entities can be linked and presented under a unique UN data brand:</p> <p>2.1.1 Explore technology to establish a ‘virtual’ UN data portal where data identified by UN system entities as ‘UN data’ can be automatically linked and presented</p> <p>2.1.2 Re-brand ‘UN data’</p> <p>2.1.3 Update the UN data portal with new scope</p> <p>2.1.4 Define common data and metadata standards</p> <p>2.1.5 Finalize automatic upload of data</p> <p>2.1.6 Adopt a common open data license for all resources available through data.un.org</p> <p>2.1.7 Develop interactive data exploration and visualization tools</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>UN Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL)</p> <p>UNSD UN Data portal</p> <p>Regional Commission Data portals and SDG Gateways</p> <p>UN System Data Catalog</p> <p>IFAD</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>UNOOSA’s Space4Water, SPIDER Knowledge Portal</p> <p>and country assessment and space solutions compendium</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>UN entities to agree to brand their data as UN data</p> <p>UN entities to have resources to build the portal and customize their procedures to meet UN Data portal standards</p>	<p>UNSD to lead on the design, development and maintenance of the portal and coordination with UN system entities (2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5)</p> <p>UNTIL to launch a “challenge” to explore technology that can build an automated “virtual” UN Data portal (2.1.1)</p> <p>UNSD to lead on promoting the brand of UN data (2.3.2)</p>	<p><u>June 2020</u>: launch of the challenge (2.1.1)</p> <p><u>2020-2022</u>: finalization of the portal (2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5)</p> <p><u>June 2020</u>: interim solution with UN data portal listing website of statistics of UN system entities</p>
<p>Risks: Technology cannot provide a cost-effective solution for a cost-effective solution to the common UN system-wide data portal. Lack of resources prohibit implementation.</p> <p>Opportunities: A single ‘shop window’ for UN Data to reinforce ‘One UN’ brand; make it easier for users to locate UN data and statistics.</p>			

Target 2.2 To promote within and outside the UN system a culture of data literacy¹⁵ and provide evidence to support UN policies and programmes

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Strengthen the understanding of data and statistics, their ethics, values and role to provide the evidence for action:</p> <p>2.2.1 Promote UN system data and statistics innovation and the use of UN system data inside and outside the organization</p> <p>2.2.2 Develop on-line and face-to-face ‘data savvy’ training for non-technical UN staff on using UN data and statistics for policies and programmes</p> <p>2.2.3 Establish a forum where UN system policy-makers, statisticians and others can discuss developments in statistics, making sure UN data and statistics meet users’ needs¹⁶</p> <p>2.2.4. Implement the principle of leave-no-one-behind in each UN entity statistical system</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>UN Data Forum UN HR- Professional Training Programmes UN Staff College United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) UNOOSA’s Space4Water, UN-Programme on Space Application and UN-Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response IFAD</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>Financial resources to develop new training curricula</p>	<p>UNSD to lead on promoting the brand of UN data as innovative resource of evidence at the UN Data Forum (2.2.1)</p> <p>2.2.2 building on work by UNICEF (to lead), OCHA, UNHCR and possible others</p> <p>CCS-UN to lead on 2.2.3</p>	<p><u>Oct 2020</u>: 1-2 panels on UN data organized at the UN Data Forum (2.2.1)</p> <p><u>March 2021</u>: new training embedded in UN training curricula (2.2.2)</p> <p><u>2021-2022</u>: roll out of training in UN entities (2.2.2)</p> <p>December 2020: forum established (2.2.3)</p> <p><u>June 2022</u>: each entity to put in place the leave-no-one-behind principle in statistics (2.2.4)</p>
<p>Risks: existing training programmes/colleges don’t have resources to engage or do not prioritise these programmes</p> <p>Opportunities: Help UN staff to understand the value of data; take the fear out of data and statistics; empower UN staff to use data and statistics correctly.</p>			

¹⁵ This action operationalizes some of the activities under the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General, action pillars “People and culture”.

¹⁶ This action operationalizes some of the activities under the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General.

Target 2.3 To embed predictive analytics, including nowcasting and forecasting in UN system data/statistical programmes to ensure the provision of timely information to address emerging policy issues

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Make UN system data and statistics more accessible and timely:</p> <p>2.3.1 Establish a UN Nowcasting network, building on existing experiences and define common UN approaches</p> <p>2.3.2 Train UN staff on nowcasting techniques</p> <p>2.3.3 Explore establishing a UN forecasting network (as a stand-alone network or as part of the nowcasting network)</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>Data4Now SDSN Network on predictive analytics (HLCP)</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>Lead agency to devote time to establish the network and making it productive for all UN entities</p>	<p>UNCTAD, UNIDO and IFAD(lead) on the network on nowcasting and explore network on forecasting (2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3)</p>	<p><u>Feb 2020</u>: first meeting of the network (2.3.1)</p> <p><u>Dec 2020</u>: first training for UN staff (2.3.2)</p> <p><u>2020-2021</u>: UN entities to systematically nowcast major data/statistical series (where relevant and feasible) (target 2.3)</p>
<p>Risks: UN entities do not allocate time and resources to nowcasting and forecasting.</p> <p>Opportunities: To make UN data and statistics more timely and modern in the eyes of the public.</p>			

Goal 3. Coordinated and innovative support to Member States

To provide coordinated and innovative UN support to countries in the area of data and statistics to overcome fragmentation, overlaps, gaps and donor-driven priorities

Target 3.1 UN Country Teams to design and deliver a ONE UN National Statistical Capacity Development Programme

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Ensure that each UN country team develops one coordinated, innovative and effective data and statistics programme to support the country (national):</p> <p>3.1.1 Establish UN Country Team working groups on data and statistics, in line with an overall data governance approach</p> <p>3.1.2 UN Country Teams ensure that there are plans to support the monitoring of SDG and the implementation of the Cape Town Action Plan</p> <p>3.1.3 Coordinate UN Country Team action on data/statistics with the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident Coordinator's Data officers UN DESA Network of Data Officers SRG1 Task Team 3 Regional Commission capacity building programmes Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building UNDP “Accelerator Labs” <p>Resources needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and commitment of UN country representatives to deliver ONE UN National Statistical Programme 	<p>UNCTs to lead on 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3</p>	<p><u>Dec 2020</u>: UNCT national plans established (target 3.1)</p>
<p>Risks: National institutions approach UN entities in an uncoordinated fashion, outside of UNCTs framework; non-UN donors (and/or single UN entities) provide support outside of the coordinated UN approach. Insufficient resources to implement actions.</p> <p>Opportunities: To train UN country representatives to lead on the ONE UN National Statistical Capacity Development Programme bringing on board all relevant UN entities and other donors.</p>			

Target 3.2 To support the design and implementation of a ONE UN National Statistical Capacity Development Programme through Regional Coordination

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Ensure that each UN country team develops one coordinated, innovative and effective data and statistics programme to support the country (regional):</p> <p>3.2.1 Coordinate support provided by UN agencies from headquarters-regional hubs to national level establishing CCS-UN-type mechanisms</p> <p>3.2.2 Maintain regional calendars for data and statistics Capacity Development Activities supported by UN and non-UN actors</p> <p>3.2.3 Maintain a list of data and statistical Capacity Development Programmes and Services available from all UN entities</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>Regional Commissions coordinating mechanisms Resident Coordinator's Data officers UN DESA Network of Data Officers SRG1 Task Team 3</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>UN agencies to devote time to participate in regional CCS-UN coordinating mechanisms and to contribute to the development of guidelines and training curricula</p>	<p>Regional Commissions to lead on 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 CCS-UN to lead on 3.2.3</p>	<p><u>June 2020</u>: establishment of regional coordinating mechanisms to support coordinated statistical assistance delivered by UNCTs (target 3.2)</p>
<p>Risks: Regional commissions and agencies do not have adequate resources to lead on effective regional coordination</p> <p>Opportunities: To engage regional statistical inter-governmental bodies (regional statistical commissions) to support regional commissions in their coordination function (similarly to ECE Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians)</p>			

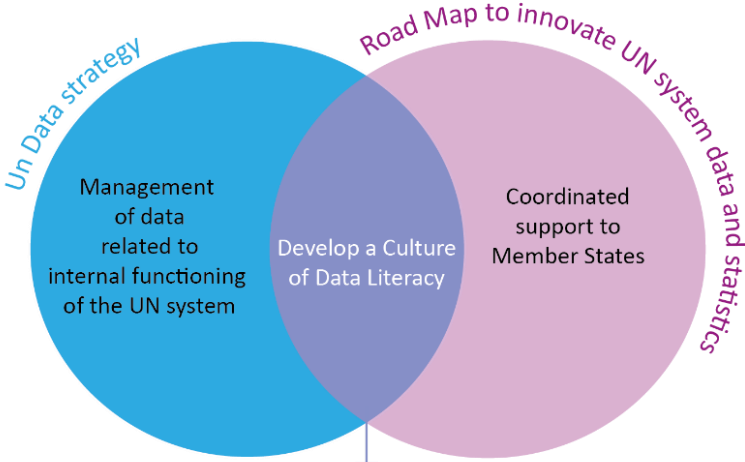
Target 3.3 To support the design and implementation of a ONE UN National Statistical Capacity Development Programme through Global Coordination

ACTION	RESOURCES THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ACTION	WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN	TIMELINE
<p>Ensure that each UN country team develops one coordinated, innovative and effective data and statistics programme to support the country (global):</p> <p>3.3.1 Establish UN brand supporting national data/statistics</p> <p>3.3.2 Develop guidelines on how to provide UN support to strengthen national statistical systems (covering for example: i) involvement of actors that can provide quality national data/statistics; ii) innovation of national statistical system to use new data sources and geospatial information systems; iii) adopt nowcasting, forecasting and other analytical techniques to better meet policy needs; iv) data literacy)</p> <p>3.3.2 bis Develop Principles governing the storage, protection and utilization of personal data by non-governmental organizations and corporations</p> <p>3.3.3 Provide training to UN Country Teams on UN supports available on data and statistics at national level (organize ad-hoc training and develop modules to include in the programme of existing training institutions)</p>	<p>Existing resources:</p> <p>Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Regional Commission Statistical Divisions</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <p>UNSD to support the Special Rapporteur through secretariat functions</p> <p>Collaboration of universities and training institutes to establish a curriculum for managers of national statistical offices</p> <p>Collaborative on data stewardship</p>	<p>UNSDG Outcome Area 1, Task Team 3 on Country Level Monitoring and Reporting of SDGs (with the inclusion of non-UNSDG agencies) to lead on 3.3.1 and 3.3.2, (define standards and training curricula)</p> <p>GIST and UNITAR to lead on 3.3.3 (implementation of training)</p> <p>UNSD to lead on 3.3.4 and 3.3.6</p> <p>UNSD-UNCTAD to lead on 3.3.5 using existing networks of universities and possibly UNITAR and UNU</p>	<p><u>June 2020</u>: definition of a brand (3.3.1)</p> <p><u>Dec 2020</u>: guidelines finalized (3.3.2)</p> <p><u>June 2021</u>: training curricula finalized (3.3.3)</p> <p><u>Dec 2021</u>: some training implemented (3.3.3)</p> <p><u>March 2021</u>: discuss with countries interest in the Special Rapporteur (3.3.4)</p> <p><u>Dec 2020</u>: opportunities to embed a curriculum for managers of national statistical offices in existing networks of universities and training institutes explored (3.3.5)</p>

<p>3.3.4 Establish a Special Rapporteur on Statistics¹⁷ appointed by the UN Statistical Commission to report on statistical capacity building delivered by the UN and other donors and suggest priority areas for assistance</p> <p>3.3.5 Establish a management and leadership programme for managers of national statistical offices</p> <p>3.3.6 Support countries to update their data and statistics infrastructures, including through the revision of the UN Handbook on Statistical Organization</p>			
<p>Risks: UN entities with major statistical programmes do not engage in the Task Team 3; Not enough resources are available to develop the guidelines; Member States may not see value of a special Rapporteur or they politicize the role.</p> <p>Opportunities: Approach donors to invest in the work of Task Team 3; An independent and respected spokesperson (special Rapporteur) for data and statistics could be very beneficial.</p>			

¹⁷ Similarly, to Special Rapporteurs appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on Statistics will be an honorary expert in the field of statistics appointed by the UN Statistical Commission. S/he will be independent from the United Nations and will report to the UN Statistical Commission. His/her functions will be defined by the UN Statistical Commission. UNSD would serve as the secretariat.

Annex I - Link between the System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics and the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General (EC decision)



	PEOPLE AND CULTURE	ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE	DATA ASSETS AND USE	DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY
Target 1.1 New data sources			Use of new data sources UN agreements with private data providers	
Target 1.2 Staff have adequate skills to embrace new methodology and technology and communication	Training on new methodology, technology and communication	Improve efficiency and connectivity of UN data systems		
	New job profiles			
Target 1.3 UN data portal		Develop technology/identifiers to link data across UN agencies	Upgrade of the UN data portal	
			Common data and metadata standards	
Target 1.4 Ethical standards		Open data standards	Meet open data standards	Ethical standards (covering privacy, protection, security and bias)
			Meet quality standards	
Target 2.1 Culture of data literacy	Training for non-technical staff to become "data savvy"			
	Promoting use of UN data			
Target 2.2. Predictive analytics, nowcasting and forecasting			Now casting, forecasting	