

**Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs**

21 – 22 April 2020, Budapest, Hungary

**Workshop on Statistics for SDGs**

23 – 24 April 2020, Budapest, Hungary

INF.2

16 January 2020

## Call for papers

### I. Purpose of the meetings and submission instructions

1. This call for papers complements the **invitation letter** and **information note** for the 2020 Expert Meeting and Workshop on Statistics for SDGs.

2. The Expert Meeting and workshop will serve as a platform for experts from national statistical offices, international organisations and other stakeholders involved in the production, dissemination and communication of statistics for SDGs to share experience, good practices and lessons learned; to showcase innovative solutions to the challenges faced; and to identify priorities for future methodological and capacity-development work in this area. While the Expert Meeting focuses on more strategic issues, the workshop deals with practical and technical aspects of provision of SDG data and indicators. Both meetings will provide input to the second edition of the *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs*, currently under development. The target audience of the meetings are the SDG focal points in the national statistical offices and international organizations, and other professionals working with statistics for SDGs.

3. The events are organized by the UNECE Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs, co-chaired by Poland and Sweden, comprising a number of countries, Eurostat, OECD, CIS-Stat and UNECE.

4. **Countries and organizations are invited to contribute papers to the Expert Meeting and/or the Workshop.** The contributions are expected to describe a national/international experience, practice, challenge or solution related to one of the session topics listed below. **Please inform the UNECE Secretariat ([stela.derivolcov@un.org](mailto:stela.derivolcov@un.org), copy to [tiina.luige@un.org](mailto:tiina.luige@un.org)) about your planned contribution by 17 February 2020**, explaining in a few sentences what the paper will be about and indicating the relevant session. The session organizers will follow-up with you and may ask for a short presentation at the meetings. The session organizers may also approach some countries and international organizations directly asking to prepare papers/presentations on specific issues.

5. **The papers should be maximum 4 pages long, submitted in Word format.** Contributions should be submitted **in English or Russian** (simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the meetings).

6. The following deadlines apply:

- Informing the Secretariat about contributions to the Expert Meeting and/or Workshop - **17 February 2020;**
- Deadline for papers – **23 March 2020;**
- Online registration for the meetings ([Expert Meeting](#), [Workshop](#)) – **23 March 2020.**

**7. To be able to translate materials for the Expert Meeting and Workshop in advance and give an opportunity for the session organizers to study the papers, please adhere to these deadlines.**

## **II. Explanatory notes on the Expert Meeting sessions**

### **Session 1: Use of statistics for SDGs – beyond the indicators**

8. Agenda 2030 for sustainable development stresses the importance of statistics and data for monitoring progress towards the achievement of its goals. Producing statistics for all SDG indicators requires an enormous mobilisation of resources both at national and international level. To take the maximum advantage of the resources and efforts invested in data production, statisticians should understand what the users need, and make sure that we produce, analyse, disseminate and communicate the data in a way that meets those user needs. This session will look at the country experiences and practices in going beyond data production for SDG indicators to ensure that the data and indicators are used.

9. Submissions to this session could focus on:
- Examples of strategies and tools to identify the needs of SDG statistics users (policymakers, relevant communities, media, general public) and their specific analysis and communication needs;
  - Understanding the impact of different communication techniques – are you reaching the target audience and how have they responded to your data and analysis?
  - Going beyond communicating indicators – what other approaches can help to ensure that the data are used? How statisticians can foster a better use of statistics?
  - What analysis has been done on SDG statistics to help answer policy questions?
  - Examples of effective collaboration with data users.

### **Session 2: Leaving no one behind**

10. Leaving no one behind is the imperative principle of Agenda 2030. Ensuring the equal and equitable policy interventions means, first of all, visibility and data availability on various groups. From statistical perspective, this requires producing data disaggregated by the categories specified in the global metadata, but also according to national priorities and needs. This may require producing national data and analyses that are not covered by the global SDG indicator framework, or liaising with partners outside the official statistical system to make use of their data and knowledge. The scope of this session is broader than just data disaggregation including the use of various data sources and data sets (both traditional and new), small-area estimation, special studies, geospatial data, open source and technology sharing, and non-official statistics.

11. Contributions to this session are expected to address the following questions:
- How do you follow the “leave no one behind” principle in statistics for SDGs in your country?
  - Do you face specific issues concerning vulnerable groups and a need of targeted monitoring?
  - How do you take up the disaggregation challenge at a non-prohibitive cost and with limited production capacities?
  - How do you produce the global and national disaggregations and why they are needed?
  - Which are the confidentiality/disclosure issues and solutions when disseminating disaggregated data?
  - Which partners are you working with for providing disaggregated data?

- Are there practical examples of how NSOs cooperate with special groups of interest in countries (e.g. local or city governments, private sector)?

### Session 3: National indicators and Voluntary National Reviews

12. The national practices for measuring SDGs reflect a diversity of situations and multitude of solutions that can be adopted – whether based on global indicator framework, national indicator framework or both combined. A number of countries have established national indicators and can reflect on successes, challenges and lessons learned until now.

13. The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the High-level Political Forum are one of the opportunities to bring statistical information to the attention of national and international stakeholders. The quality of VNRs depends on the success of coordination among various institutions in the country, including official statistics, and the organisation of the VNR development process itself. The papers discussing any of the following questions would be of particular interest during this session:

- How did you identify national indicators? Which are the links between the national and global SDG indicators? Which indicators are used for statistical reporting on SDGs and for a VNR?
- How do you define national and proxy indicators? Who uses proxies?
- Which partnerships and processes were established during the selection of national indicators? Have these been maintained for the VNR preparation or other ways of statistical reporting on SDGs? Did the nationalisation of SDG indicators help in the VNR preparation process?
- How were the members of the national statistical system involved in the VNR drafting? What are the conditions for a successful cooperation?
- Main challenges and lessons learned for the next VNR.

## III. EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### Session 1: Statistical capacity development

14. Producing statistics for SDGs puts an additional burden on resources of official statistics in countries. At the same time, it can be an opportunity to attract funds to develop statistical capacity more widely than just focusing on SDG indicators. The available resources and capacities are never enough to face all arising needs for statistics. Therefore, priorities should be established. How do we know which parts of the process or institutions need more attention and investments? How do we know which needs to prioritise and where the capacity development would give a maximum effect? A task team of the UNECE Steering Group on statistics for SDGs produced a matrix to assist national statistical offices in identifying, analysing and prioritising the capacity development needs. The results of piloting the matrix in several countries with different capacity development needs and situations will be discussed.

15. Contributions on approaches to identifying capacity development needs and priorities, and on coordinating capacity development at national and international level are welcome.

### Session 2: Open source national reporting platforms

16. Dissemination of statistics for SDGs may be implemented through different solutions, one of which are the national reporting platforms (NRPs). Several countries have used open source solutions which can be replicated and adjusted to the needs of other countries. The session will share knowledge and experience, so that countries can make an informed decision on whether

implementation of an open source platform is appropriate for their needs. The session will discuss the technical specifications and requirements for open source NRPs, planning and organising the work, and partners involved. The participants will be also informed what the open data and open SDGs mean from technical and statistical perspectives.

17. Contributions presenting countries' experiences in implementing and applying open source, non-proprietary solutions to NRPs, or assisting other statistical offices to set up such a platform, and the challenges faced are welcome for this session.

### Session 3: Regional reporting and data flows

18. The session on regional reporting and data flows will focus on potential and challenges in automating the data reporting for SDGs. How can technical solutions and tools enable data reporting to custodian agencies responsible for SDG indicators, and to regional organizations? How can the machines and databases "talk" to one another to facilitate this process? A possible basis for developing automatization tools based on NRPs or thematic databases can be the so-called 'user stories' that outline the stakeholders' needs for obtaining the data on SDG indicators. A lot of international work has been done to develop the required data standards and tools (such as SDMX). However, the standards and methods are not always visible or not properly understood for specific needs or situations. How can we strengthen the data exchange with SDMX data flows or API tools? Which are the current challenges and future needs and how we can all face them with joint resources and efforts?

19. Examples of how countries and organizations have implemented data reporting on SDG indicators, especially in an automated way, and the related challenges and solutions are welcome as contributions to this session.

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