

17th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

Virtual meeting
07 May 2020, Open meeting

Opening

1. Ms. Ayush (co-chair) welcomed members and issue partners to the meeting.
2. Mr. Schweinfest and Ms. Perucci (secretariat) gave some opening remarks on the effects of COVID-19 on the work programme of the UN Statistics Division. This included a partnership with the Open Data Watch (ODW) and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) on [a COVID-19 response website](#) – a resource for official statisticians; and a partnership with Esri on [UN COVID-19 data hub](#). In partnership with the World Bank, a COVID-19 Survey of National Statistical Offices would also be distributed among National Statistical Offices to collect related information and inform future activities.

Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum 2020

a. Logistical updates and COVID-19 contingency plans

3. The secretariat (UNSD) and Switzerland explained the measures being taken to prepare the next Forum around the uncertainties produced by the COVID-19 disaster. No decision has been taken on whether to postpone or cancel the Forum, or adapt it to a virtual format. The HLG-PCCB will be keep informed of any further developments as they happen.

b. Review of the provisional programme

4. Ms. Vukovich (chair of the Programme Committee) introduced the item. The provisional programme was shared with the HLG-PCCB in advance of the meeting. The current version of the programme was developed with successive rounds of review by the Programme Committee and decisions on which proposals to take forward had been communicated to all 521 original proposers. Further details of the final 80 sessions (+

waitlist/ reserve) recommended for the programme will be shared with the HLG-PCCB on **11 May 2020** as proposers have until this time to re-submit their proposals.

5. Switzerland informed about the need to include more the private sector. Entrepreneurs Organisation and Facebook are candidates for parallel sessions – and at the same time potential sponsors. The host country informed the members that the cultural part (Meet’n’Jazz and Gala evening) may be reduced or cancelled due the lack of financial support (sponsors). Additionally, Switzerland proposed another high plenary session for TA2 (based on an input by 8 international organisations based in Geneva) to guarantee having high-level speakers.
6. Members expressed their appreciation to the Programme Committee who sifted through over 500 sessions to shortlist less than 100. Members stressed the need to maintain gender balance within each session and data community and regional balance across the programme; in this aspect more participation of the private sector and from Western Asia was requested. Otherwise members were interested to see the Forum contain sessions that explored data responses to the COVID-19 disaster and put a focus on users.

Action: HLG-PCCB to provide comments on the provisional programme by Monday, 18 May 2020

c. Draft text of the outcome document for public consultation

7. The secretariat, on behalf of the sub-group on the outcome document, presented the first draft text of the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action (A World With Data We Trust). Members provided a number of specific comments during the meeting on the text including: making a closer link and more reference to the Agenda 2030, Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) and the theme “A World With Data We Trust” especially in the introduction and conclusions; the need to stress data innovation and support other countries capacity especially for small island developing states and other regional perspectives; use of the term “inclusive data” rather than disaggregation; more to combat “fake news” in the text, influence policy makers and maintain it as a “living document”.
8. The next steps will be for the secretariat to work with the subgroup to incorporate these comments and views. A second draft will be prepared for the next meeting of the HLG-PCCB.

Action: HLG-PCCB to provide comments on the draft text by Monday, 18 May 2020

3. Update on the scoping paper on data stewardship

9. The secretariat presented a scoping paper on data stewardship and role of National Statistical Offices, a new area of work for the HLG-PCCB. The UN Statistical Commission requested the HLG-PCCB to produce a stock-taking exercise and specific recommendations on the way forward for its fifty-second session (March 2021). The scoping paper contained an initial plan of how this work could be organised; the elements to explore, the questions to ask and the networks, groups and sources to engage and communicate on this work.
10. Members appreciated the commencement of this work and the following volunteered to meet as part of a sub-group going forward; Argentina, Finland, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, United Kingdom and UNESCAP. The initial comments received were to appreciate that countries would come from different starting points on this subject and would also be constrained by their own institutional, legal and other contexts; and that a “one size fits all” approach would not work. Additions to the elements suggested were metadata framework (oversight), data science (collaboration), data labs and artificial intelligence (innovation) and data science (literacy). Additional networks to include were the UNECE modernisation expert group, similar ECLAC-IADB groups, Friends of the Chair group on the Future of Economic Statistics and the data integration community.

Action: The secretariat will convene the first meeting of the Data stewardship subgroup before the next HLG-PCCB meeting

4. Financing for the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) - status update

11. PARIS21, the World Bank, the UK’s DFID and Sweden’s Sida gave an overview of recent developments in the area of financing for data and statistics. PARIS21 gave an update on work towards creating a “clearing house” for matching development partners with recipient countries. There was a plan to create a prototype by the time of the next UN Statistical Commission and to be announced through the [Bern Network](#). The World Bank gave an update on the 19th round of the International Development Association (IDA) and the Global Trust Fund; and suggested COVID-19 could create the impetus to the modernisation of statistical systems. DFID spoke of the changing budget environment following the current COVID-19 disaster and Sida spoke of the importance they placed on supporting the poorest and most fragile nations to ensure non one left behind.
12. HLG-PCCB members were appreciative of the work being advanced by these four organisations and looked forward to hearing updates in future meetings.

5. Updates on other events

a & b High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and World Statistics Day on 20 October 2020

13. The secretariat gave updates on important upcoming events. No decision had been made on the format for this year's High-Level Political Forum considering the restrictions around the COVID-19 situation. Information would be shared on this at the next meeting.
14. Plans for the next World Statistics Day were advancing and a new website and outreach efforts to collect events and information being organised to celebrate the day across the World

6. Administrative and logistical arrangements for further meetings

15. The provisional agenda was agreed to include: updates on preparations for the next UNWDF preparations, the draft text of the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action (A World With Data We Trust), scoping exercise for the data stewardship, financing for data and statistics, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July and World Statistics Day.

Action: The next meeting by teleconference was agreed as Thursday, 11 June tentatively scheduled for 7am (EDT) and suggested a two- hour time slot for the meeting

7. Any other business & closing

16. The secretariat gave an update on the "UN data strategy, which was adopted by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (<https://www.unsystem.org/content/ceb>) last month. Related to this work, the chair of the Chief Statisticians of the UN system (CCS-UN), informed the Group that the CCS-UN had submitted to the CEB a "System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics", which would be considered by the Board the following week.
17. In addition, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which consists of the members of CCS-UN and the chief statisticians of international and supranational organizations that are not part of the UN System, were preparing a document entitled "[How Covid-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective](#)", which will be released on 13 May.

Annex 1: Agenda

**Seventeenth meeting of the High-level Group
for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Thursday 7 May 2020, 7:00am – 9:00am
Virtual meeting
Open meeting

Final agenda (All times EDT)

Time (AM)	Agenda item	For
7:00 – 7:05	1. Opening	
	2. Preparatory work for the UN World Data Forum 2020	
7:05 – 7:15	a. Logistical updates and COVID-19 contingency plans	Information
7:15 – 7:45	b. Review of the provisional programme [link to document]	Discussion
7:45 – 7:55	c. Draft text of the outcome document for public consultation [link to document]	Discussion
7:55 – 8:00	d. Update on the bidding process for the next host in 2022	Information
8:00 – 8:30	3. Update on the scoping paper on data stewardship [link to document]	Discussion
8:30 – 8:50	4. Financing for the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) - status update	Information
8:50 – 8:55	5. Updates on other events: a. High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) b. World Statistics Day on 20 October 2020	Information
8:55 – 9:00	6. Administrative and logistical arrangements for further meetings	Information
	7. Any other business & close	

Annex 2: List of participants

17th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

HLG member countries

1.	Albania	Ms. Elsa Dhuli Deputy Chair of Steering Body Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
2.	Angola	Mr. Camilo S. F. de Ceita Director General Instituto Nacional de Estatística
3.	Argentina	Mr. Martin Chojo
4.	Argentina	Mr. Nicolás Petresky
5.	Argentina	Mr. Mariano Poledo National Director of International Relations INDEC
6.	Argentina	Mr. Marco Lavagna
7.	China	Mr. Xian Zude Deputy Commissioner National Bureau of Statistics
8.	Ecuador	Ms. Monica Torres Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
9.	Ecuador	Mr. David Munoz NSS Planning Director Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
10.	Ecuador	Mr. Victor Bucheli León Deputy Director General Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
11.	Finland	Ms. Marika Pohjola Statistics Finland
12.	Finland	Ms. Marjo Bruun Director General Statistics Finland
13.	Hungary	Ms. Gabriella Vukovich President Hungarian Central Statistical Office
14.	Japan	Mr. Tsumura Akira Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards Statistics Bureau
15.	Mexico	Mr. Julio Alfonso Santaella President Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
16.	Mexico	Mr. Eduardo Garcida General Director Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)

17.	Mexico	Ms. Pilar García Velázquez Director of International Affairs Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
18.	Mongolia	Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush Chair National Statistical Office of Mongolia
19.	Morocco	Mr. Oussama Marseli Director Direction de la Statistique
20.	Phillipines	Mr. Benjamin Navarro Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
21.	Phillipines	Ms. Gerlie Espartinaz Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
22.	Senegal	Mr. Babacar Ndir Directeur Général Agence Nationale de la Statistique
23.	South Africa	Mr. Risenga Butler Maluleke Statistician General Statistics South Africa
24.	South Africa	Mr. Nthabiseng Makhatha Deputy Director General Statistics South Africa
25.	State of Palestine	Ms. Ola Awad President Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
26.	State of Palestine	Ms. Haleema Saeed Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
27.	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Naif Alblawi Director of Partnerships and Statistical Coordination General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)
28.	Saudi Arabia	Anwar Hammad General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)
29.	Saudi Arabia	Wejdan Alhedyani General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)
30.	Switzerland	Mr. Benjamin Rothen Deputy Head (International Affairs) Swiss Federal Statistical Office
31.	United Kingdom	Nicola Shearman International Policy Advisor Office for National Statistics (ONS)
32.	United Kingdom	Oliver Mahoney International Policy Advisor Office for National Statistics (ONS)

IAEG-SDG

33.	Statistics Sweden	Ms. Sara Frankl Senior Advisor
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Issue partners

34.	Department for International Development (DFID)	Ms. Rachael Beaven Data Revolution Lead
35.	PARIS21	Mr. Johannes Jutting Executive Head
36.	The World Bank	Ms. Haishan Fu Director, Development Data Group
37.	CCSA-UN	Angela Me Chief, Chief Research and Trend Analysis Branch
38.	SIDA	Sofie Habram Statistics Advisor
39.	ESCAP	Gemma Van Halderen Director, Statistics Division

Secretariat

40.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest Director Statistics Division
41.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Francesca Perucci Chief Development Data and Outreach Branch
42.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford Statistician Development Data and Outreach Branch
43.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Sabine Warschburger Office of the Director
44.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Linda Hooper Statistician Office of the Director
45.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Faryal Ahmed Associate Expert Development Data and Outreach Branch
46.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Paul Pacheco Senior Statistics Assistant Development Data and Outreach Branch