

20th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

Virtual meeting

12 November 2020, Open/ closed meeting

Opening

1. Ms. Awad (co-chair) welcomed members and issue partners to the meeting.
2. Ms. Dhuli (Albania) was announced as the new co-chair for the group succeeding Mr. Ceita (Angola). The group expressed their appreciation for Mr. Ceita's work as chair of the group and congratulated Ms. Dhuli as the new co-chair.
3. Mr. Schweinfest and Ms. Perucci (secretariat) gave some opening remarks and shared with the group recent and ongoing work including the imminent release of the results from the third round of global COVID -19 survey of National Statistical Offices and advancing plans to conduct next year's UN Statistical Commission in a virtual format with the aid of written statements.

United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF)

a. virtual Forum

4. Ms. Vukovich (Chair of the programme committee) summarised the significant work done by the committee to make the virtual Forum a massive success as well as the benefits realised from holding the Forum in this format. Other committee members, attending the meeting as issue partners, reinforced these points in terms of: the high interest in the event with 10,000+ registrations received; the inclusivity of the format that led to a wide diversity among participants represented by different data communities, ages and locations from over 180 countries; and the high ratings given by those who attended on the quality of sessions, knowledge and expertise of speakers and organisation of the programme and other materials on the virtual event platform and the website. The Secretariat gave a short presentation on these key points and programme highlights. A key issue going forward was to sustain and expand the interest in the Forum until the next Forum in Bern will take place.

b. Preparations for Bern 2021

5. Mr. Rothen (Switzerland) and Ms. Perucci (secretariat) gave some preliminary remarks on the plans for Bern 2021 such as the renewal of the programme committee; the review and renewal of the programme taking into account the existing session proposals shortlisted and whether a new limited call for proposals could fill any identified gaps; the careful planning of the communication and logistical arrangements according to the evolving Covid-19 pandemic situation with a focus on mixing the benefits of the virtual and physical experience to form a hybrid event; and any other lessons learnt from the virtual Forum. Members would be approached again to assist in ensuring high-level representation at the Forum.

3. Data stewardship: draft background document

6. The secretariat shared the background document on data stewardship with the group informed by 9 case studies provided by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of Argentina, China, Colombia, Germany, Ireland, Mexico and New Zealand with support from UNESCAP and UNECLAC; and with case studies on Estonia and France supplied by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) TReNDS team. Key aspects of this draft background document are;
 - contents from the case studies are organised according to the slightly adapted version of the document outline agreed in a special meeting of the group in July
 - annexes present a new version of scoping document and the “theory of change” approach suggested updated following further feedback from NSOs of non-member countries Colombia and Singapore
 - an updated timeline of the process for the document is also included until the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), with the use of a more limited consultation.
 - and finally, a proposed skeleton Terms of Reference (ToR) is presented for creating a working group on this topic to continue the work following the agreement of the UNSC.
7. Members and issue partners made a number of suggestions in the meeting such as to develop different models for data stewardship and their different impacts on policy making and public confidence with data; not to have examples too closely tied to a NSO's role as coordinator of the National Statistical System since a data steward role could be made distinct from this; and to take note of other work, for example from the World Bank's World Development report team on “integrated national data systems”.

Action: Members are requested to provide comments on the document and the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) of a working group on this subject by Thursday, 19 November to be discussed and finalised at the next subgroup meeting scheduled for Monday, 23 November at 8am (EDT).

4. Virtual UN World Data Forum outcome statement “Data community’s response to Covid-19” and the way forward: draft background document

8. The secretariat shared the background document on the outcome statement from the virtual Forum, entitled [“Global data community’s response to COVID-19”](#) and plans for further developing the outcome document for Bern 2021. The document includes further details of the responses received from the open consultation held between 5 August and 10 September 2020.

Action: Members are requested to provide comments on the document by Thursday, 19 November to be discussed and finalised at the next subgroup meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 2 December at 8am (EDT).

5. Report of the group to the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC)

9. Various elements of the report of the group to the 52nd session of UNSC were discussed during this closed segment of the meeting. In particular, the members agreed:
 - the group’s work plan covering January to December 2021 consisting of three main work streams: preparations for the third UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) in Bern: establishment of a new working group on data stewardship to further the work on this area; and the merger of the subgroups and therefore work streams on financing and implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan.
 - to decide in early 2021 on the next host of the UNWDF to follow Switzerland. This will allow the chosen host the minimum two years to plan a fourth Forum to be held in early 2023.
 - for new members nominated as part of the planned membership rotation next year in June to overlap with members set to leave to ensure the stability and maintain the institutional knowledge of the group during 2021.

6. Administrative and logistical arrangements for further meetings

10. The frequency of the group’s meetings were set to four during 2021; and dates of the meeting in October 2021 at the side lines of the UNWDF in Bern set to 3 and 7 October.

Action: The other three meetings (including the next meeting at the side lines of the UN Statistical Commission) will be scheduled according to members' preferences from a Doodle poll.

7. Any other business & closing

11. Mr. Schweinfest gave some brief updates on the UN data strategy and resolution adopted at last year’s UN Statistical Commission to facilitate greater coordination of the UN statistical system.

Annex 1: Agenda

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

Thursday 12 November 2020, 7:00am – 9:30am

Virtual meeting: Open/ Closed meeting

Agenda (all times EDT)

OPEN MEETING	
07:00 – 07:05am	1. Opening
07:05 – 07:35am	2. United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) a. Virtual Forum b. Preparations for Bern 2021
07:35 – 08:20am	3. Data stewardship: draft background document
08:20 – 08:45am	4. Virtual UN World Data Forum outcome statement “Data community’s response to Covid-19” and the way forward: draft background document
CLOSED MEETING	
08:45 – 08:50am	1. Opening
08:50 – 09:20am	2. Report of the group to the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission a. Draft work plan for 2021 b. UNWDF future host c. Draft report
09:20 – 09:25am	3. Administrative and logistical arrangements for further meetings
09:25 – 09:30am	4. Any other business

Annex 2: List of participants

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

HLG-PCCB member countries

1.	Albania (HLG-PCCB co-chair)	Ms. Elsa Dhuli
2.	Albania	Ms. Vjollca Simoni
3.	Argentina	Mr. Mariano Poledo
4.	Argentina	Mr. Martin Chojo
5.	Argentina	Mr. Nicolás Petresky
6.	Burundi	Ms. Jeanine Niyukuri
7.	China	Mr. Xian Zude
8.	Ecuador	Mr. Diego Andrade Ortiz
9.	Ecuador	Mr. David Munoz
10.	Ecuador	Ms. Monica Torres
11.	Ecuador	Mr. Francisco Chiriboga
12.	Ecuador	Ms. Tania Romero
13.	Finland	Ms. Marika Pohjola
14.	Finland	Mr. Ville Vertanen
15.	Hungary	Ms. Gabriella Vukovich
16.	Mexico	Mr. Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell
17.	Mexico	Ms. Pilar García Velázquez
18.	Mexico	Mr. Eduardo Gracida
19.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Mr. Carlton Phipps
20.	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Naif Alblawi
21.	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Daham Nasser Aldaham
22.	Senegal	Mr. Babacar Ndir
23.	State of Palestine (HLG-PCCB co-chair)	Ms. Ola Awad
24.	State of Palestine	Ms. Haleema Saeed

25.	State of Palestine	Mr. Aisar Tuma
26.	State of Palestine	Ms. Dima Masad
27.	Switzerland	Mr. Benjamin Rothen
28.	Switzerland	Ms. Bibiane Chammartin
29.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Oliver Mahoney
30.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Nicola Shearman
31.	Japan (exofficio member)	Mr. Akira Tsumura
32.	Japan (exofficio member)	Ms. Azusa Yamada

IAEG-SDGs

33.	Sweden	Ms. Sara Frankl
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Issue partners

34.	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)	Mr. Johannes Jütting
35.	Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data	Ms. Claire Melamed
36.	Open Data Watch (ODW)	Ms. Shaida Badiie
37.	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Ms. Magda Berhe
38.	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) TReNDS	Ms. Jessica Espey
39.	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen
40.	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)	Mr. Rolando Ocampo
41.	UNECLAC	Mr. Daniel Taccari
42.	UNECLAC	Ms. Pauline Stockins

43.	UNECLAC	Ms. Alynn Sanchez
44.	World Bank (WB)	Ms. Haishan Fu

Secretariat

45.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest
46.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Francesca Perucci
47.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford
48.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Faryal Ahmed
49.	United Nations Statistics Division/DESA	Ms. Linda Hooper