24th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

Hybrid meeting
3 and 7 October 2021, Closed/ open meeting

Opening

1. Ms. Awad chaired the closed meeting prior to the third United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) and welcomed members attending in-person and remotely; the first time the meeting had an in-person component since March 2020. Ms. Dhuli chaired the open meeting following the UNWDF which included issue partners.

2. Mr. Schweinfest (secretariat) gave some opening remarks and thanked members for their support and flexibility over the past two years in planning for the third United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF); in particular the determination and perseverance of the Swiss Government and the Federal Statistical Office to hold the UNWDF during a global pandemic and take the necessary steps to ensure the health and safety of everyone who attended in-person as well as cater through a hybrid format for a large virtual audience to follow and engage with the programme in real-time.

United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) 2021

a. Logistical arrangements

3. Mr. Ulrich (Switzerland) welcomed members to Bern, Switzerland. He looked forward to a full 4-day programme and mentioned some of the innovations which were introduced during this Forum such as a sustainability concept for the Forum to follow, a pre-programme of events entitled Road to Bern and other competitions, publicity campaigns and promotion focused on the SDG and indicators.

4. Ms. Vukovich (Chair of the programme committee) reported on the committee's work to select the final programme of 7 plenary sessions and 68 parallel sessions, including 6 ted-style talks[1]. The media page on the UNWDF website contains links to the session recordings, press materials and social media.

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[1] 2 parallel sessions and 2 ted-talks cancelled shortly before the Forum.

b. Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals - outcome paper

5. Ms. Awad (on behalf of the outcome document subgroup) introduced the final text of the outcome document. As a result of the public consultation between 9th August and 13th September, some small changes to the text were made. The document was officially launched during the closing session.

c. Initial reflections and key lessons learned

6. Members and issue partners reflected on the third UNWDF and made the following suggestions for preparing the next Forum:

- Maintain the hybrid model but strengthen links with local statistics and data communities (i.e., local meet-ups concept); review future distribution between virtual/ hybrid sessions and schedule to cater for different time zones
- Focus on better engagement with the private sector, civil society and foundations, through the development of a partnership framework
- Define a Terms of Reference for the programme committee to make clear the obligation required by members in terms of time and responsibilities but also the incentives to join
- Review and revise the thematic areas with focus on; strengthening the area of privacy, confidentiality, and cyber security; the evolving role of National Statistical Offices with importance on infrastructure; and sustainability
- Look at the moderation style for the high-level plenaries and appropriate use of professional moderation

UN World Data Forum 2023 and 2024 preliminary planning and expectations

7. Mr. Rutherford (secretariat) gave a presentation on the criteria for hosting the Forum.

8. Mr. Li Xiaochao (China) requested further information and clarification on the host criteria and the secretariat promised to follow-up with them with this information.

Cape Town Global Action Plan implementation review

a. Questionnaire: preliminary results

9. Mr. Gonzalez (secretariat) gave a presentation on the preliminary results from the Cape Town Global Action Plan Implementation Review: global survey of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Between the 6 August and 15 September 2021, over 100 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) completed the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP)

implementation review questionnaire developed by PARIS21, Statistics Division of the UN DESA and the World Bank to understand the demand from official statistics for capacity development and financial resources based on the six strategic areas defined by the CTGAP for sustainable development data. Building on past rounds of the Survey of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) during Covid-19 and other surveys conducted during this period, this global survey of NSOs will inform the action of policy makers and international partners to better support official statistics in the implementation and financing of the current CTGAP and to help develop future global action plans.

10. The questionnaire contained two pillars: the first pillar on capacity development covering questions on coordination, innovation, basic statistical activities and programmes, dissemination, and partnerships; and the second pillar on financing needs. Only countries associated with the International Development Association (IDA) were asked to complete the second pillar. Data from the first pillar confirmed resource bottlenecks, priority areas for capacity development, opportunities to improve coordination, and the importance of improving infrastructure and training. Data from the second pillar formed a key input to the Bern Network's Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data; in particular in four pilot countries, Malawi, Niger, Gambia and Rwanda, where a detailed study was undertaken to understand the decision-making processes behind financing to statistics and data. A background document with more details on the questionnaire will be issued as part the group's work to the 53rd Statistical Commission.

b. World Bank's Global Data Facility and the Bern Network's Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data

11. The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, a new, free online platform providing access to data on over 15,000 projects, allows aid recipients, donors and the public at large to understand data financing flows, identify funding gaps, and connect to new communities of experts. The Clearinghouse aims to close the stark data financing gap that is preventing progress on the SDGs. It was developed by the secretariat of the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, a multi-stakeholder alliance created in 2019 by the Swiss Government to promote more and better funding for development data.

12. The Global Data Facility is the new, World Bank-hosted fund to support data and statistics priorities at the global, regional, national, and community levels. It was designed in collaboration with UN DESA Statistics Division, the UN Statistical Commission's High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG PCCB) and country counterparts and centers of excellence around the world. The Global Data Facility will support investments in both the fundamentals and the frontiers of data and statistics, including support to modernize data systems and tap into a range of new data sources for better decision-making, improved efficiency, and strengthened data integrity at scale. The Facility is designed to

leverage significant additional financing to enable long-term support and durable data and statistics transformations. It will additionally leverage the Bern Network Clearinghouse to serve as a global coordination mechanism for a spectrum of partners, practitioners, and country clients to join forces in support of the global data revolution.

c. Review timeline for updated Global Action Plan

13. Ms. Perucci (secretariat) gave a [presentation](#) on the timeline to update the global action plan during 2023 and 2024 to launch the plan to coincide with the next two UN World Data Forums. The update will begin with the proposal of a new framework for the global action plan to be reviewed at the 54th Statistical Commission and launched at the fourth Forum; and this will be followed by the new global action plan reviewed at the 55th Statistical Commission and launched at the fifth Forum.

Administrative arrangements for 2022/23 meetings

14. Ms. Awad proposed a new Terms of Reference for the HLG-PCCB, to define the level of representation expected at meetings, a commitment to attend at least 3 meetings per year and the introduction of an issue partner roster for invitations to the open meetings of the group.

15. Further details of the work plan for 2022-23 will be shared as part of the group's report to the 53rd session of the UN Statistical Commission.

16. The dates for the next meetings are:
    - Sunday, 27 February 2022
    - June, September, and December 2022 (time tbc)

Annex 1: Agenda

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

Sunday, 3 October 2021, 12:00pm – 14:30pm (local Bern time, CET)

Agenda

Time (CET)	CLOSED MEETING ITEMS	Item type
12:00 – 12:10pm	1. Opening	
12:10 – 12:30pm	2. Update on the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) 2021	
	a. Logistical arrangements	For information
	b. Bern Data Compact - outcome paper	For information
12:30 – 13:15pm	3. Cape Town Global Action Plan implementation review	
	a. Questionnaire: preliminary results	For information
	b. Clearing house/ Global data facility	For information
	c. Review timeline for updated Global Action Plan	For discussion
13:15 – 13:45pm	4. UN World Data Forum 2023 and 2024 preliminary planning and expectations	For discussion
13:45 – 14:25pm	5. Administrative arrangements for 2022/23 meetings	
	a. Review of Terms of Reference and Issue partner concept note	For discussion
	b. Report to the 53rd UN Statistical Commission and agenda for 25th meeting	For discussion
	c. Work plan and meetings 2022/23	For discussion
14:25 – 14:30pm	6. AOB / Summary	

Thursday, 7 October 2021, 12:00pm – 14:30pm (local Bern time, CET)

Time (CET)	OPEN MEETING ITEMS	Item type
12:00 – 12:15pm	1. Opening	
12:15 – 13:00pm	2. UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) Bern 2021	
	a. Initial reflections	For discussion
	b. Key lessons learned	For discussion

13:00 – 13:30pm	3. Expectations of UN World Data Forum 2023 and 2024	
13:30 – 14:10pm	4. Discussion/next steps on UNWDF initiatives	
	a. Bern Data Compact - outcome paper	For discussion
	b. Bern Network Clearing house and World Bank Global data facility	For discussion
14:10 – 14:20pm	5. Any other business	
14:20 – 14:30pm	6. Summary and next steps	

Annex 2: List of participants

Twenty-fourth 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 (co-chair)	Ms. Elsa Dhuli, Institute of Statistics (INSTAT-Albania)
2.	Albania	Ms. Vjollca Simoni, INSTAT-Albania
3.	State of Palestine (co-chair)	Ms. Ola Awad, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
4.	State of Palestine	Mr. Mustafa Khawaja, PCBS
5.	Angola	Ms. Chaney Rosa John, Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE-Angola)
6.	Angola	Ms. Teresa Augusto, INE-Angola
7.	Argentina	Mr. Marco Lavagna, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC-Argentina)
8.	Argentina	Mr. Mariano Poledo, INDEC-Argentina
9.	Argentina	Mr. Martin Chojo, INDEC-Argentina
10.	Argentina	Mr. Nicolás Petresky, INDEC-Argentina
11.	Cameroon	Mr. Barnabe Okouda, Institut national de la statistique (INS-Cameroun)
12.	China	Mr. Li Xiaochao, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS-China)
13.	China	Mr. Ba Yunhong, NBS-China
14.	China	Ms. Zha Ruixian, NBS-China
15.	China	Ms. Wang Juan, NBS-China
16.	Ecuador	Mr. Roberto Castillo Añazco, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC-Ecuador)
17.	Ecuador	Ms. Carina Santos, INEC-Ecuador
18.	Ecuador	Ms. Alicia Abad, INEC-Ecuador
19.	Ecuador	Ms. Tania Romero, INEC-Ecuador
20.	Ghana	Mr. Samuel Annim, Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
21.	Hungary	Ms. Gabriella Vukovich, Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO)

22.	Mexico	Mr. Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI-México)
23.	Mongolia	Mr. Batdavaa Batmunkh, National Statistics Office (NSO-Mongolia)
24.	Morocco	Mr. Oussama Marseli, Haut-Commissariat au Plan (HCP-Maroc)
25.	Norway	Mr. Lasse Sandberg, Statistics Norway
26.	Norway	Ms. Live Rognerud, Statistics Norway
27.	Pakistan	Mr. Amjad Javaid, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)
28.	Philippines	Mr. Benjamin Navarro, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
29.	Poland	Mr. Dominik Rozkrut, Statistics Poland
30.	Poland	Ms. Olga Świerkot-Strużewska, Statistics Poland
31.	Samoa	Ms. Malaefono Taua-Faasalaina, Samoa Bureau of Statistics
32.	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Naif Alblawi, General Authority for Statistics (GAStat-Saudi Arabia)
33.	South Africa	Mr. Risenga Butler Maluleke, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
34.	Spain	Mr. Juan Manuel Rodríguez, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE-España)
35.	Spain	Mr. Antonio Salcedo Galiano, INE-España
36.	Spain	Ms. Ana Carmen Saura, INE-España
37.	Switzerland	Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO)
38.	Switzerland	Mr. Benjamin Rothen, SFSO
39.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Nicola Shearman , Office for National Statistics (ONS-UK)
40.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Oliver Mahoney, ONS-UK
41.	Japan	Ms. Orie Hirano, Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)
42.	Japan	Ms. Azusa Yamada, Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Policy, MIC

<u>Issue partners</u>

43.	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)	Mr. Johannes Jütting
44.	Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepei)	Mr. Philip Schonröck
45.	Development Initiatives (DI)	Ms. Claudia Wells
46.	UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)	Ms. Rachael Beaven
47.	Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)	Ms. Claire Melamed
48.	International Statistical Institute (ISI)	Mr. Steve Penneck
49.	Open Data Watch (ODW)	Ms. Shaida Badiee
50.	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC / CEPAL)	Mr. Daniel Taccari
51.	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)	Mr. Juraj Riecan
52.	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	Mr. Papa Seck
53.	World Bank (WB)	Ms. Haishan Fu
54.	World Bank (WB)	Mr. Craig Hammer
55.	World Wide Web Foundation	Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma

Secretariat

56.	United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD-DESA)	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest
57.	UNSD-DESA	Ms. Francesca Perucci
58.	UNSD-DESA	Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford
59.	UNSD-DESA	Ms. Faryal Ahmed
60.	UNSD-DESA	Mr. Paul Pacheco
1	UNSD-DESA	Mr. Luis Gerardo Gonzalez Morales