

36th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)

Medellín, Colombia at the sidelines of the fifth UN World Data Forum
12 and 16 November 2024 (Part I & II), open meeting

Opening

1. Ms. Dhuli chaired the first part of the meeting prior to the fifth UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) being held in Medellín, Colombia and Mr. Annim (co-chairs) chaired the second part held after the Forum. This summary is a combined record of both meetings. Following the decision at the 29th meeting, both parts were open and included issue partners as well as members of the UNWDF Programme Committee.
2. Mr. Schweinfest (secretariat) gave some opening remarks and thanked members, issue partners and the Programme Committee for their hard work over the past 18 months planning the fifth United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) and the thought and effort the Government of the Republic of Colombia put into the preparation of the venue especially the exhibit pavilion and the various interactive exhibits. Special mention goes to the National Administrative Department of Statistics, the Medellín city government and the Antioquia region department for their dedicated support in this effort.

UN World Data Forum (UNWDF): Medellín 2024

a. Logistical arrangements

3. Director General B. Piedad Urdinola Contreras (Colombia) welcomed members to Medellín, Colombia. She looked forward to over 100 events planned across a four-day programme to mark the fifth UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) and mentioned some of the highlights from the preparations with the setting of the venue: the three exhibit pavilions including the UN house, the various interactive stands in the main building, simultaneous interpretation between English/Spanish in the plenary and all ten parallel rooms and the media corner for interviews and press briefings. The Director General (Colombia) in the second meeting reflected on the successful conclusion of the Forum and congratulated those at the meeting for assembling such a compelling programme. Finally, she reflected on three legacies of the Forum: the Statistical Offices strengthened relationship with the UN system in the country, within the Government and with the city of Medellín and other cities/departments.

4. Ms. Badiie and Ms. Awad (Programme Committee co-chairs) reported on the committee's help to the secretariat to organise the four thematic high-level plenary sessions and their selection of the almost 90 parallel sessions, including 60 panel discussions, 11 short-talk sessions, 12 learning labs, 5 demo sessions and 5 announcements. The [programme](#) and [media](#) pages on the UNWDF website contains links to the plenary recordings, press materials and social media.

b. Medellin Framework for action on data for sustainable development - outcome document

5. The secretariat shared the results from the public consultation on the [outcome document](#). The text was developed over several months through a collaborative process by a joint subgroup of the HLG-PCCB, issue partners and Programme Committee members. The document was officially launched during the closing session of the Forum.

c. Initial reflections and key lessons learned

6. Members and issue partners reflected on the fifth UNWDF and made the following suggestions for preparing the next Forum:
 - *Targeted participation by specific groups and networks:* participation from policy-makers still absent, need to keep a focus on youth, diversity and supporting lower career levels to attend, broader range of academics still missing; and bring in participants connected to networks like the Internet Governance Forum, World Economic Forum, the international conference on Financing for Development (FfD), and the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
 - *Broader range of subjects and topics covered:* more space for sessions on economic measures, productivity, debt and finance, methodology (more technical discussions), data production and less on data policy and themes.
 - *Changes to session formats, duration and delivery method:* less discussion panels and more interactive sessions, extend formats to allow more time for Q&A, discussion and learning, look again at the limits for hybrid delivery and availability of interpretation.
 - *Side events policy and regulation:* more clarity on those taking place and the appropriateness of being invitation only.
 - *Timing of the Forum:* coincided with two COP meetings, need to look at the calendar of international events happening at the same time.
 - *Space for networking:* keep the long breaks especially for lunch time (1 ½ hours)

Action: UN Secretariat take note and will use these points for discussion among the Programme Committee for the sixth UN World Data Forum when it is established next year.

UN World Data Forum evaluation

7. Mr. Rutherford (UN secretariat) introduced the idea previously raised by group members to conduct an evaluation of the Forum at this critical stage of its maturity. There was debate among members on scope and criteria to evaluate the Forum. Some members thought an evaluation should be longer-term and planned around the sixth Forum while others wanted results more quickly from a less ambitious and more focused exercise.

Action: UN Secretariat will produce a background paper to be published in January 2025 to accompany the group's report to the fifty-sixth UN Statistical Commission.

UN World Data Forum 2026 preliminary planning and expectations

8. Mr. Aldossari (Saudi Arabia) gave some preliminary details of the preparations and how they had mobilised their government for the sixth UN World Data Forum to take place tentatively in 9 –12 November 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. They promised to learn from the previous hosts experience and consult with this group, issue partners and the Programme Committee once established to organise and prepare for the programme they select. They will look at appropriate venues to host this edition and balance the hybrid and in-person elements of the programme.
9. Mr. Rutherford (UN secretariat) outlined the timetable for the sixth Forum and highlighted their mention in the group's workplan (Annex III) of the draft official report of the group to the fifty-sixth UN Statistical Commission. The establishment of a new Programme Committee for the sixth Forum by this group is the next most pressing action. The secretariat will prepare a concept note to introduce a transparent and more democratised approach to selecting these individuals noting the group's desire to include a wider range of voices from different communities not known to official statistics community, the predominate background of this group.

Action:

- (1) **Members to comment by Monday, 25 November on the work plan in Annex III of the draft official report of the group to the fifty-sixth UN Statistical Commission.**
- (2) **The secretariat has also provided an indicative timeline workplan (in excel) covering the entire anticipated preparation period for the sixth Forum.**
- (3) **The secretariat will prepare a concept note on the selection of the next Programme Committee for the sixth Forum for discussion at the next meeting.**

Reporting on financing initiatives and preparations for FfD4

10. Mr. Annim (co-chair) and Ms. Nielsen (UN secretariat) briefed the group on the preparations taking place ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in June 2025 in Spain. During the Forum, they managed to hold bilaterals with six countries and different issue partners. There was strong interest in the group to take forward a coordinated response to strengthening the language on data and statistics in the outcome document of the FfD4 conference. There was varying knowledge on how to engage in the process for FfD4. The secretariat with the co-chairs would develop a 2-page document on why there is a need to strengthen data and statistics in the FfD4 outcome document using language familiar to the FfD4 audience. They would also prepare materials on how to engage and they aim to organize webinar in the next 2-3 weeks to facilitate experience exchange.

11. An elements paper, which will serve as the starting point for negotiations around the FfD4 outcome documents is imminent. How the various submissions made have influenced the elements paper will help us adjust how to further influence the process. On the way forward, there is a preparatory committee meeting already in December, with two more following in February and April 2025, these are key opportunities to influence the negotiations around the FfD4 outcome document. In the process, it is important for national statistical offices to also engage with other key stakeholders in the National Statistical System including central banks, revenue authorities, to capture the wider agenda of the FfD process. It will also be valuable to identify champions and engage with national representatives in the negotiations, identify specific negotiation groups, civil society and other parts of data ecosystem.

Action: UN Secretariat will continue to engage members of this group to develop a strong message and representation at FfD4 on data and statistics.

Working arrangements for 2025 meetings and report to UN Statistical Commission

12. Mr. Rutherford (UN secretariat) outlined proposed changes to group's Terms of Reference (ToR) including clearer language on role and objectives of the group aligned now to the Medellin Framework and thematic areas of the Forum; and clearer language on the attendance expectations of members. See the proposed ToR (Annex II) of the draft official report of the group to the fifty-sixth UN Statistical Commission. He also reminded members of the up-coming rotation policy for the group in conjunction with that of the [IAEG-SDGs](#), where members within their regional commission will decide the future membership composition of the group for the next two years. This process is usually concluded over the spring 2025 so that the new membership is effective starting in the summer 2025.

Action: Members to comment by Monday, 25 November on the new Terms Of Reference in Annex II of the draft official report of the group to the fifty-sixth UN Statistical Commission.

Annex 1: Agenda

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

Date/ time: Tuesday, 12 November 2024, 10:30am – 12:30pm (local time, GMT-5)

Location: Forum Room 7, Plaza Mayor Medellín Convenciones y Exposiciones (Medellín, Colombia) **[In-person only]**

| Time (Medellín) | Agenda | Item type |
|------------------------|---|------------------|
| 10:30 – 10:45am | 1. Opening | |
| 10:45 – 11:30am | 2. Pre-briefing on UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) | |
| | a. Logistical arrangements | For information |
| | b. Outcome document | For information |
| 11:30 – 12:15pm | 3. Reporting on financing initiatives related to HLG-PCCB agenda (FfD4) | For discussion |
| 12:15 – 12:25pm | 4. Administrative arrangements for 2025 meetings | |
| | a. Terms of Reference review (Evaluation) | For discussion |
| | b. Membership rotation | For information |
| | c. Work plan and meetings 2025/26 | For discussion |
| [12:25 – 12:30pm | 5. AOB / Summary | |

Date/ time: Saturday, 16 November 2024, 9:30am – 12:30pm (local time, GMT-5)

Location: Forum Room 7, Plaza Mayor Medellín Convenciones y Exposiciones (Medellín, Colombia) **[In-person only]**

| Time (Medellín) | Agenda | Item type |
|------------------------|---|------------------|
| 09:30 – 09:45am | 1. Opening | |
| 09:45 – 11:45am | 2. Post-briefing on UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) | |
| | a. Initial reflections | For discussion |
| | b. Key lessons learned | For discussion |
| | c. Evaluation scoping exercise | For discussion |
| 11:45 – 12:15pm | 3. UN World Data Forum 2026 preliminary planning and expectations | |
| 12:15 – 12:20pm | 4. Any other business | |
| 12:20 – 12:30pm | 5. Summary and next steps | |

Annex 2: List of participants

Thirty-sixth 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, Institute of Statistics (INSTAT-Albania) |
| 3. | Ghana (co-chair) | Mr. Samuel Annim, Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) |
| 4. | Botswana | Mr. Lucky Mokgatlhe, Statistics Botswana |
| 5. | Bulgaria | Mr. Atanas Atanasov, National statistical Institute (NSI-Bulgaria) |
| 6. | Cameroon | Mr. Barnabe Okouda, Institut national de la statistique (INS-Cameroun) |
| 7. | Colombia | Mrs. Piedad Urdinola, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE-Colombia) |
| 8. | Colombia | Mr. Camilo Andres Mendez Coronado , Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE-Colombia) |
| 9. | Colombia | Ms. Andrea Camila Pereira, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE-Colombia) |
| 10. | Colombia | Mr. Camilo Gómez Ramos , Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE-Colombia) |
| 11. | Colombia | Mr. Juan Felipe Cruz, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE-Colombia) |
| 12. | Dominican Republic | Mrs. Miosotis Rivas Peña, Oficina Nacional de Estadística (ONE-República Dominicana) |
| 13. | Dominican Republic | Ms. Victoria Tapia Pérez, Oficina Nacional de Estadística (ONE-República Dominicana) |
| 14. | Mongolia | Mr. Norov Sodnomdorj, National Statistics Office (NSO-Mongolia) |
| 15. | Pakistan | Mr. Naeem Uz Zafar, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) |
| 16. | Poland | Mr. Dominik Rozkrut, Statistics Poland |
| 17. | Poland | Ms. Olga Świerkot-Strużewska, Statistics Poland |
| 18. | Poland | Ms. Renata Bielak, Statistics Poland |
| 19. | Spain | Mr. Antonio Salcedo Galiano, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE-España) |
| 20. | State of Palestine | Ms. Ola Awad, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) |
| 21. | Switzerland | Mr. Benjamin Rothen, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) |
| 22. | Switzerland | Mr. Pascal Blicke, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) |

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| 23. | Uruguay | Mr. Diego Aboal, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE-Uruguay) |
| 24. | Uruguay | Ms. Lorena Lewis, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE-Uruguay) |
| 25. | Switzerland (ex-officio member) | Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) |
| 26. | Saudi Arabia (sixth UNWDF host) | Mr. Fahad bin Abdullah Aldossari, General Authority for Statistics (GASat-Saudi Arabia) |
| 27. | Saudi Arabia (sixth UNWDF host) | Mr. Ibrahim Alali, General Authority for Statistics (GASat-Saudi Arabia) |
| 28. | Saudi Arabia (sixth UNWDF host) | Mr. Jihad Alafnan, General Authority for Statistics (GASat-Saudi Arabia) |

Issue partners and UNWDF Programme Committee (PC)

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| 29. | United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC / CEPAL) | Mr. Rolando Ocampo |
| 30. | UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) | Ms. Sian Rasdale |
| 31. | UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) | Ms. Paula McLeod |
| 32. | Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) | Ms. Claire Melamed |
| 33. | Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) | Mr. José Antonio Mejía |
| 34. | Open Data Watch (ODW) | Ms. Shaida Badiee |
| 35. | Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) | Mr. Johannes Jütting |
| 36. | Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) | Ms. Maryam Rabiee |
| 37. | World Bank (WB) | Ms. Haishan Fu |
| 38. | World Bank (WB) | Mr. Craig Hammer |
| 39. | PC member: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) | Ms. Dilek Fraisl |
| 40. | PC member: Makaia | Ms. Catalina Restrepo |
| 41. | PC member: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Mr. Babatunde Abidoye |
| 42. | PC member: Universidad Nacional de Rosario (UNR) | Mr. Javier Bussi |
| 43. | PC member: Vital Strategies | Ms. Claudia Wells |

Secretariat

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| 44. | United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD-DESA) | Mr. Stefan Schweinfest |
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| 45. | UNSD-DESA | Mr. Ian Mark Rutherford |
| 46. | UNSD-DESA | Ms. Linda Hooper |