International Workshop on the Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

12-13 January 2022

Concept Note

I. Introduction

The International Workshop on the Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is organized jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS), from 12–13 January 2022. The workshop will be held as a virtual event. Simultaneous translation of English-Chinese / Chinese-English will be provided for the workshop.

The workshop is aimed at national statistical offices (NSOs) in the Asia and Pacific region and the statisticians engaging in work on the SDGs monitoring in the Chinese national statistical system.

II. Objective and Target Audience

The effective follow-up and review of the progress made towards the SDGs (SDGs) is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The unprecedented demand of timely, high-quality, open and disaggregated data for monitoring the 2030 Agenda calls for substantially strengthening statistical capacities of NSOs and national statistical systems. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a wide-ranging of disruptions in statistical operations to national statistical systems. At the meantime, there is also a spike in demand for data to use in monitoring and mitigating the effects of the pandemic. Many national statistical offices have adapted quickly to the challenges and found solutions through data and statistics to build back better and drive sustainable development. New partnerships, data innovations and novel measures have been introduced that have profoundly changed the statistical production process in many countries.

The objective of the workshop is to strengthen the understanding of national statistical systems on various aspects of the SDG monitoring, including data collection and coordination for SDGs, monitoring SDGs in different domains, data innovations and initiatives, data disaggregation, and capacity building. The workshop will also provide a space to share knowledge on international, regional and national approaches to monitoring the SDGs and good practices in strengthening statistical capacity and improve data availability for SDGs.

The target audience of the workshop includes experts from national statistical offices (NSOs) in the Asia and Pacific region, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as statisticians engaging in the SDGs monitoring at the National Bureau of Statistics of China and other line ministries in the Chinese national statistical system.

Resource persons and experts will be available from international and regional organizations that focus on SDG monitoring and tools.

III. Workshop Topics and Agenda

The workshop will be organized around the following broad themes:

a) **SDG global indicator framework and monitoring the SDGs at global, regional and thematic levels**
This session will focus on the background and development process of the SDG global indicator framework, including the interlinkages within Goals, targets and indicators. Contents of the framework, including tier classification, and the process for evaluation and improvement of the framework will also be highlighted.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the role of a robust and resilient data collection system. It is more important than ever to strengthen the capacity of countries to produce high-quality, timely and disaggregated data for better policymaking. Therefore, this session will also focus on best practices from international agencies on SDG monitoring and how to address the challenges they are facing on data collection, including for thematic monitoring.

b) **Data innovations and initiatives**
To respond to the high demand for data and the operational challenges in data collection during the pandemic, many NSOs have introduced data innovations and novel measures, and have established new partnerships with different stakeholders on the use of non-traditional data sources. This session will focus on best practices and experiences with using new and non-traditional data sources as well as processes for incorporating alternative data sources into SDG monitoring.

c) **Leaving no one behind and data disaggregation**
The guiding principle to 'leave no one behind' of the 2030 Agenda comes with opportunities and challenges for countries to better incorporate disaggregated data in monitoring SDG implementation and address the situations of vulnerable populations. This session will focus on practical tools and guidance for countries to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data to ensure no one is left behind.

d) **National SDG monitoring: sharing experiences**
National data reporting for the SDGs also varies greatly among countries, where each country has specific national coordination mechanisms, newly developed national platforms for the SDGs, distinct data flows with traditional and non-traditional data sources as well as coordination with the global system. This session will focus on sharing of national experiences on data collection and coordination for SDGs, national SDG data platforms, and statistical capacity needs and challenges for SDGs.

Tentative Agenda

Start Time: Beijing time 9:00 a.m., New York time 08:00 p.m., Geneva time 2:00 a.m.

Morning session (9-12 Beijing time)

09:00-09:15   Opening Session

09:15-09:20   Introduction and objective of the workshop (UNSD)

09:30-10:20   **1. Global SDG monitoring**

Short break (10 mins)

10:30-12:00   **2. Thematic and regional SDG reporting**

Afternoon session (14-17 Beijing time)

14:00-17:00   3. Thematic and national SDG monitoring

Thursday, 13 January

Morning session

09:00-10:20   4. Leaving no one behand and data disaggregation

Short break (10 mins)

10:30-12:00   **5. Data innovations and initiatives for SDGs**

Afternoon session

14:00-16:45   **6. SDG monitoring in China**

16:45-17:00   **7. Closing session**