

United Nations Statistics Division/DESA  
(UNSD)

National Bureau of Statistics of China  
(NBS)

**World Statistics: Sustainable Data for Sustainable Development**  
**International Seminar on the Occasion of World Statistics Day 2015**

*20-22 October 2015, Sofitel Xi'an Hotel on Renmin Square, Xi'an, China*

**Tentative Agenda**

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**Tuesday, 20 October**

**Morning (9:30 – 12:30)**

Observance of the Second World Statistics Day

**Afternoon (14:00 – 17:30)**

**Session 1: Transitioning from MDG to SDG monitoring: Lessons learned (14:00 – 15:00)**

This Session will focus on the experiences and lessons learned from the monitoring of the MDGs for the SDGs. The MDG monitoring framework has helped keep the focus on policy priorities; inform the global political debate; help advocacy and communication with the public; improve the consistency and harmonization of indicator production and utilization; and promote important efforts for statistical capacity building. Building on what we learned from the MDG monitoring is crucial for formulating a monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Some key discussion questions:

- What are the strengths and shortcomings of the MDG monitoring? What can we learn from the past experiences and where have we failed?
- What are the main differences between the MDG monitoring and the SDG monitoring?

**Coffee/Tea break (15:30 – 16:00)**

## **Session 2: Overview of the SDG indicator framework (16:00 – 17:30)**

The first key step in building an effective monitoring framework for the SDGs is to establish an indicator framework. This session will provide an overview of the work carried out on the development of an Indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at global, regional and national levels.

Some key discussion questions:

- What are the main challenges in formulating a global/regional/national indicator framework?
- How to meet the mandate of ensuring that indicators directly respond to all goals and targets agreed in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their level of ambition, while keeping the number of indicators limited?
- What are the key criteria to be considered in selecting an indicator?

## **Wednesday, 21 October**

### **Morning (9:30 – 12:30)**

#### **Session 3: Building sustainable data for the SDGs (9:30 – 12:30)**

The proposed SDGs are complex and cover a breadth of issues. The monitoring of the SDGs demands a data revolution to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels.

Currently, important data on development—such as the number of births and deaths, the number and quality of jobs, and data on agricultural productivity—are still missing in many countries. This session will focus on how to bring new information technologies and existing data infrastructure together to produce sustainable data for sustainable development.

Some key discussion questions:

- How to improve the exiting data infrastructure, such as the registration of births and deaths, health and education information systems, and survey systems?
- What is needed in order to establish a well-functioning system of administrative data and statistical registers?
- How to plan and coordinate the survey programmes in an integrated approach?
- How to explore new technologies in data collection resulting in time and resource saving?
- How to link statistical and geographic information systems to improve data collection and data utilization?

### **Lunch (12:30 – 14:00)**

### **Session 4: National implementation of the SDG monitoring (14:00-17:00)**

National ownership is key for the development and implementation of an effective monitoring framework for the SDGs. The monitoring process must be country-led, politically backed and resourced, and integrated into the overall national development frameworks. To meet the monitoring requirement, a paradigm shift in the statistical community is needed. The institutional structure of statistical systems should be transformed and revolutionized. This session will discuss how a country-owned indicator framework should be developed and implemented for the SDG monitoring.

Some key discussion questions:

- How to strengthen national statistical capacity to support the SDG monitoring?
- What institutional arrangement would most effectively support national monitoring and implementation of the SDGs?
- How to ensure an inclusive and participatory process with wide stakeholder engagement in the SDG monitoring?
- How to implement and monitoring the SDGs at sub-national and local level?

### **Closing (17:00 – 17:30 pm)**

UNSD, China NBS

### **Thursday, 22 October**

Cultural excursion organized by China NBS