

Annex I

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

(Amended version as at 11 November 2021)

I. Objectives

1. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will establish a global action plan for sustainable development data and in this function will:

(a) Provide guidance on the content and organization of the United Nations World Data Forum and lead the efforts of the global statistical community to reach out to and cooperate with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector;

(b) Provide strategic leadership for the Sustainable Development Goal implementation process as it concerns statistical monitoring and reporting within the framework of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(c) Promote national ownership of, and foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination for, the follow-up and review system of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including to ensure consistency between national and global monitoring and reporting;

(d) Recommend priority areas to target funding for statistical capacity-building and advocate for resource mobilization, management and monitoring;

(e) Review and make recommendations as appropriate and in cooperation with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to facilitate the modernization and harmonization of data infrastructures and identify ways to leverage the resources and creativity of the private sector;

(f) Advise on how to harness the opportunities provided by the data revolution to support the Sustainable Development Goal implementation process, following up on the recommendations in the report entitled “A world that counts: mobilizing the data revolution for sustainable development” of the Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, and taking into account the levels of development of the countries;

(g) Promote engagement between the statistical community and other stakeholders working on the implementation and monitoring of the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

II. Membership

2. The High-level Group will comprise 22 member representatives of national statistical offices. Members will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms¹ for an initial period of two years, after which some are expected to be rotated on the

¹ Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

basis of the following criteria: two members will be replaced from each region where there are four or five members, and one will be replaced where there are three or fewer members from the regions.² It is preferable that members of the High-level Group not serve concurrently as members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. The members of the High-level Group will elect two Co-Chairs. One or both of the Co-Chairs are also expected to rotate every two years. However, when they step down they are invited to serve for an additional term of two years as members.

3. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will act as the secretariat.

III. Organization and conduct of work

4. In undertaking its work, the High-level Group will consult closely with the Co-Chairs of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in relation to statistical capacity-building for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. It will also engage with existing joint initiatives for statistical capacity-building and technical assistance, such as those undertaken by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the memorandum of understanding of the development banks with the United Nations on cooperation on statistical activities and other coordination and cooperation agreements in order to avoid any duplication of work and to extend efficiencies as they are identified.

5. A standing list of issue partners, as non-member and observer participants are known, will be maintained as the invitation list for the open segment of the Group's meetings. The High-level Group will also seek inputs from non-member countries through their respective regional mechanisms.

6. Regular meetings will take place four times per year, twice in a hybrid format and twice in a fully virtual format:

(a) All regular meetings will have a closed segment for members only and an open segment to include issue partners;

(b) The two hybrid meetings will take place at the sidelines of the session of the Statistical Commission, each year in March, and the United Nations World Data Forum, in the years when it takes place. In years when the Forum does not take place, the format of the second hybrid meeting shall be decided by the preference of members and needs of the agenda;

(c) Special meetings may be convened to discuss special issues and will usually be conducted in a closed session.

7. The strategic nature of the Group requires the leadership level for each member country to be at the Chief Statistician (or equivalent) of the national statistical office, with the following conditions:

(a) The Chief Statistician can designate other high-level colleagues having appropriate capacities from the national statistical office to attend meetings on the Chief Statistician's behalf in the event of a temporary absence or on a permanent basis as appropriate. However, strategic decisions defined in advance in the meeting agenda will require the physical or written representation of the Chief Statistician;

(b) Regular attendance at meetings is encouraged, and non-participation by a member country in three or more meetings a year will indicate that the member is no

² Currently, there are five members from Africa, two from Western Asia, four from Asia, one from the Pacific, two from the Caribbean, three from Latin America, one from Eastern Europe and four from Europe and North America.

longer active and will be changed at the end of the annual meeting cycle through its regional mechanism.

IV. Expected duration

8. The High-level Group will operate under the auspices of the Statistical Commission and will report to it annually, seeking its guidance.

9. The mandate and functioning of the High-level Group will be reviewed by the Statistical Commission as needed.

V. Annual workplan

10. In line with the mandate and further guidance given by the Statistical Commission, the High-level Group will plan its activities and deliverables according to an annual workplan presented for approval each year to the Commission.