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Item 3(k) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: Statistical capacity development

Background document
Available in English only

Statistical capacity development activities

of the United Nations Statistics Division in 2021 and 2022

Prepared by UNSD

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Introduction

This background document provides a detailed list of capacity development-related activities carried out by UNSD in 2021 and 2022. The list of activities is based on weekly reporting done by UNSD.

It includes information about workshops, missions and similar activities. Although usually not consider capacity development events, the list also includes information about expert group meetings and similar events, as they usually provide the foundation for capacity development work.

Activities, for which no additional information had been provided, have been omitted from this document. Activities to which UNSD contributed, but which were primarily organized by other agencies, have also been omitted.

Major categories in this listing follow the Classification of Statistical Activities.

Demographic and Social Statistics

Migration statistics

Workshops, Missions

Study to benchmark Georgia's international migration statistics against recently endorsed conceptual framework on international migration and mobility statistics, 20 May 2021

Under the Development Account project on international migration statistics, the NSO of Georgia, GeoStat, is partnering with UNSD to assess the capacity of the national statistical system to collect data and produce statistics according to the recently endorsed conceptual framework and accompanying definitions. GeoStat will coordinate the collection of information and documentation among the various line ministries and agencies, chiefly the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI).

UNSD and GeoStat met to discuss the overall strategy going forward and to review the assessment tool to be used in the collection of information. This study will reap benefits at the national and global levels. At country level, gaps will be identified between the Georgian statistical system and the conceptual framework and will tease out practical recommendations in order to bring them closer. At the same time, results and lessons from the study will inform the development of the set of core and additional topics and indicators on international migration and mobility, being developed at global level. Ultimately, knowledge generated from the study on the operationalization of the conceptual framework will be input for the upcoming revision of the UN Recommendations for Statistics on International Migration.

Expert Group on Migration Statistics: Technical Meeting on Indicators and Operationalization of the Conceptual Framework of International Migration Statistics, Rabat (Morocco), 20 – 22 June 2022

UNSD, in cooperation with the *Haut Commissariat au Plan of Morocco*, convened the 4th meeting of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics to continue work on the revision of the *1998 UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*.

Following the endorsement by the Statistical Commission in 2021 of the conceptual framework and accompanying definitions for statistics on international migration, the Expert Group reviewed in-depth the outputs of its task forces, including the proposed indicators for key policy areas to monitor international migration and migrant's well- being, documented challenges experienced by countries with the implementation of the revised conceptual framework, and a technical report on data integration for disaggregation of international migration statistics.

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, and participants included representatives from 19 countries, 11 international organizations, 4 regional commissions and 7 independent experts, resulting in almost 40 people participating in-person and 30 following discussions remotely.

Experts discussed a proposed list of indicators for key policy areas, arriving at agreement on core indicators and primary topics for disaggregation to be recommended for all countries to produce and report regularly. Broad agreement was also reached regarding additional indicators and secondary topics for disaggregation; that is, optional information that countries might consider collecting and disseminating according to national priorities or circumstances. Potential data sources and their comparative advantages and limitations in the production of international migration statistics were also discussed. Finally, the meeting debated selected types of temporary mobility that carry special interest and reviewed data sources that can be used to capture them.

All these elements will be pulled together in the revised international recommendations, to be submitted to the Statistical Commission for discussion in 2024.

Health statistics

Expert Group meetings

UNDESA-WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, 8th Meeting of Working Group, 29 March 2022

The 8th meeting of Working Group 2 provided members with an update of the UN Statistical Commission discussions that are relevant to its work. This includes input from countries on the stocktaking paper on collecting adult mortality data through population censuses and surveys, and the draft UNSC decision point in supporting the work of Working Group 2. Discussion during the meeting covers work plans for 2022 for the Working Group, including finalizing the stocktaking paper, formulating recommendations and reporting back to the Statistical Commission in 2023. A series of webinars on innovative approaches will be organized before summer to inform recommendations formulation and an expert group meeting will be organized in August 2022 to review the recommendations. Establishing regular linkage with other working groups under the TAG to foster integration of data sources and bringing the work of the working group under the umbrella of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys were also suggested by members.

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Innovative methods to measure the impact of COVID-19 on mortality through surveys and censuses, Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), 23 – 25 August 2022

UNSD, in collaboration with the Population Division and New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi, organised an Expert Group Meeting on Innovative Methods to Measure the Impact of COVID-19 on Mortality through Surveys and Censuses, at NYU Abu Dhabi, from 23-25 August 2022. The meeting was organised under the guidance of the WHO-DESA Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment (TAG).

The meeting discussed a set of proposed recommendations and innovative approaches for censuses and surveys based on ongoing research and experiments for countries without complete death registration. These recommendations aim to (a) improve adult mortality data collection in terms of quality, availability and timeliness; and (b) generate census and survey data that could be used to measure the impact of epidemics, pandemics and other disasters on adult mortality. The participants also discussed actions and roadmaps to support countries in implementing the recommendations and in adopting innovative approaches.

The meeting was joined by 53 in-person participants and around 10 remote participants, from national statistical offices, research institutions, regional and international organisations and donors. The outcome of the meeting will be open for a global consultation with national statistical offices and experts later this year before submission to the UN Statistical Commission in 2023.

Time-Use statistics

Training workshop on time-use statistics for Africa, 8 June 2021

UNSD contributed a presentation to a training workshop on time-use statistics organized online by UN Women. The training workshop covered the introductory notions and basics of producing, analyzing and disseminating time-use data as well as their policy relevance for gender equality. UNSD's presentation focused on the latest methods to collect time use data and light and innovative instruments using modern technologies, while promoting the use of ICATUS, the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics. In particular, UNSD provided step-by-step guidance on how to classify different activities people undertake during the day in line with ICATUS, to promote the production of time-use statistics that are international comparable. The workshop was attended by around 80 participants, mostly national statisticians from the African region.

Country visit and stakeholder consultation for the DA Project: Time-use data for better policies in Africa, Western Asia and Latin America, 6-8 December 2022

As part of the Development Account 12th Tranche (DA12) project on time-use for better policies in Africa, Western Asia and Latin America, UNSD organized and participated in a series of meetings with Statistics South Africa at their headquarters in Pretoria, South Africa from 6-8 December 2022. The objectives of the meetings were threefold: (a) to present international statistical methods for time-use surveys developed under the project and exchange country experiences in modernizing time-use data collections. The Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and the International Labour organization presented different instruments and modes of data collection to address challenges faced by NSOs when producing timely, high quality and granular time- use data; (b) to hold a stakeholders consultation to facilitate dialogue between time-use data users and producers, improve statistical literacy of data users and promote the multiple uses of time-use data among policy makers; and (c) to initiate discussions on the preparation of the 9th Global Forum on Gender Statistics which will be hosted by Statistics South Africa in 2023.

UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS), 13 April 2021

A virtual meeting of the UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time- Use Statistics was held on 13 April 2021. The Group started its work in June 2018 with the overall objective of taking stock and reviewing country practices in time-use surveys and providing recommendations and technical guidance to improve the collection and use of time

use data, including on unpaid work, using the latest technologies and in support of SDGs implementation. The meeting was attended by 28 representatives from 9 countries and 6 international organizations and regional commissions. The rapid assessment instrument for collecting time use data during crisis, which was developed by a subgroup of the TUS-EG, was presented to the broader Group. The Group also agreed on the workstreams for the rest of 2021: finalizing the minimum harmonized instrument as a "light" solution to collect time-use data, providing guidance on data quality issues in time use surveys as well as the digitalization of ICATUS (International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics).

2022 Meeting of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS) and the 44th International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR) Conference and Workshop, Montreal, Canada, 16 - 19 August 2022

The EG-TUS meeting was organized by UNSD in a hybrid format and held back-to-back to the 44th IATUR Conference and Workshop at the University of Québec in Montréal on 16 August 2022. It brought together 12 in-person and 10 virtual participants, including representatives from 14 national statistical offices (NSOs), 2 UN agencies, 2 international agencies, 1 research institute, and UNSD staff. The meeting was chaired by Statistics Canada and continued the discussion and advanced further the revision of the United Nations guidelines for producing time-use statistics to be published in 2024 as requested by the Statistical Commission at its 53rd session (decision 53/111 (b)). The meeting further discussed and agreed on pending decisions, next milestones, timeline, and responsibilities in the revision process. Participants were also updated on the ongoing implementation of the DA12 project "Time Use Data for better policies in African, Western Asian and Latin American countries", and other initiatives implemented by members of the group.

All experts offered to actively contribute to the revision of the guidelines by sharing their knowledge, resources and national experience including on the implementation/piloting of the methods and instruments proposed by the EG-TUS and adopted by the Statistical Commission.

This year IATUR Conference's theme was "*Time use and wellbeing: the challenges ahead in a post-pandemic era of uncertainty*" and brought together around 60 participants from the researchers' community, NSOs and international agencies. With the support of the DA12 project, UNSD funded the in-person participation of representatives of NSOs from Chile, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa, and Thailand in the EG-TUS meeting as well as the IATUR Conference and Workshop. During the three days, 17-19 August 2022, through keynotes and highlight sessions the Conference addressed observed changes in activities, habits, and organization of people's time during the past years of pandemic lockdowns, mobility, and work restrictions.

The IATUR Workshop jointly organized by IATUR and UNSD titled "*Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): The Roles and Implications of Time Use Research*" took place in the afternoon of 16 August 2022, and gathered around 20 participants from academia, NSOs, and international agencies. The Workshop presented the nexus between the SDGs and

time-use statistics, discussed current state of work in linking time-use data with the monitoring of SDGs, and shared harmonization efforts, methods and instruments being developed to overcome current challenges to unlock the potential use of time-use data.

20th International Experts Meeting on Time Use and Unpaid Work and the XXIII International Meeting on Gender Statistics, Aguascalientes (Mexico), 4-7 October 2022

The 20th International Experts Meeting on Time Use and Unpaid Work was co-organized by UNSD, INEGI, INMUJERES, UN Women and UNECLAC at INEGI headquarters in Aguascalientes, Mexico on 4 October 2022 and brought together 52 participants from national statistical offices (NSOs), machineries for the advancement of women (MAWs), academia, and international agencies. With the support of the DA12 project, UNSD funded the in-person participation of representatives of national statistical offices from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru and Uruguay.

The meeting was organized in 5 sessions. In the first one, representatives from three countries, from NSOs and from MAWs, debated on the opportunities and challenges of time use data and the need for involving data users when discussing content in data collection processes. The second session presented the regional and international regulatory frameworks as well as the existing tools and methods developed both at the regional and international level, and the synergies between instruments. On the third and fourth panels, the experience, and the challenges of 6 countries that have recently conducted a time-use data were presented. The meeting ended with a workshop in which all participants worked in groups to share national experiences on the use of existing tools and to provide feedback on how to implement them at the national level.

The meeting strengthened dialogue between data users and producers, particularly between NSOs and MAWs, who have been fundamental actors in the time-use measurements in the region. The meeting also gathered feedback from countries on the proposed methodologies and tools to produce time-use statistics that will be incorporated in the revision of the UN guidelines on time-use statistics to be published in 2024.

The Experts Meeting on time use was held back-to back with the XXIII International Meeting on Gender Statistics (IMGS) in the same venue, between 5 and 7 October 2022 with the theme: *Care at the center of development: statistical opportunities and challenges*. The objective of the meeting was to discuss how to strengthen information systems with a gender perspective, capable of monitoring the social and economic impacts of the care economy, both paid and unpaid, integrating different data sources to monitor progress towards national, regional and international commitments. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with 112 participants attending in person and more than 150 people connected virtually. UNSD participated in a high-level panel titled *Towards a care society: advances and challenges in international and regional commitments* with a presentation on the statistical opportunities and challenges facing national statistical systems to measure the multiple dimensions of care and also in a workshop titled *Advancing Towards Measurements that Consider the Contributions of Care to the Well-being of*

Societies with some reflections on how time can be used as a measure of wellbeing that complement GDP. UNSD also contributed to the discussion on Gender mainstreaming in statistical production, with a presentation on the Global Gender Statistics Programme, implemented by UNSD and key partners.

Economic Statistics

Workshops

Workshop: Innovation to address data demands for statistical analysis in times of crisis, 13 September 2022

UNSD, in collaboration with the KOF Swiss Economic Institute; Marmara University; and the Turkish Statistical Institute, organised a pre-conference workshop of the 36th CIRET conference (see 36 CIRET Conference) on 13 September 2022. This event is part of an ongoing collaboration between UNSD and the KOF Institute that brings together the latest developments from the community of official statisticians and business cycles and economic tendency experts in a dedicated workshop prior to the biennial CIRET Conference. This year, the theme of the workshop was Innovation to address data demands for statistical analysis in times of crisis. The Workshop aimed to review successful examples of how statistical offices have adjusted to the constrains of Covid crisis, taking advantage of technological advances and to discuss how statistical offices, research institutes, and data owners can collaborate in this area in a mutually beneficial to advance collection and processing of statistics to inform policy analysis. The first session of the workshop featured examples of creativity and innovation in the collection and processing of official statistics in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The afternoon session featured presentations on creativity and innovation to facilitate economic tendency and business cycle analysis in response to the COVID-19. A final panel discussion with the presenters on the challenges and benefits of statistical innovations for economic and business cycle analysis concluded the workshop.

Workshop on "Globalization and Economic Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities", 14 September 2021

UNSD, in collaboration with the KOF Swiss Economic Institute; Poznań University of Economics and Business; and the Central Statistical Office in Poland, organized a pre-conference workshop of the 35th CIRET conference on 14 September 2021. The event is part of an ongoing collaboration between UNSD and the KOF Institute that brings together the latest developments from the community of official statisticians and the business cycles and economic tendency experts in a dedicated workshop prior to the biennial CIRET Conference. This year, the theme of the workshop was Globalization and Economic Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities. The first session of the workshop featured presentations on the statistical challenges related to globalization and current initiatives in improving the measurements of globalization. The second session featured presentations on the impact of globalization on expectations of future production capacity and economic growth potential. The workshop was

particularly welcomed by the participants especially as they learned about the recent efforts by the statistical community to address the challenges of globalization, including the revision of recommendations for the compilation of National Accounts and Balance of Payments and the development of statistics on Multinational enterprises.

Second Organizational Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, 24 November 2021

The second Organizational Sprint Meeting of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) was organized to seek agreement on the terms of reference of the Network. It also aimed to initiate a discussion on the modalities of user consultations, including country consultations through national, regional, and global user seminar/forums, consultations with statistical bodies under the Statistical Commission, and other statistical agencies such as Eurostat, IMF, OECD, and the World Bank. The Director of UNSD and Assistant Chief Statistician of Canada, Mr. Greg Peterson, co-chaired the meeting, which was attended by around 40 participants from Member States and international and regional organizations.

Participants broadly agreed with the terms of reference of the Network and the proposals to refine the terms of reference to indicate that the Network should actively engage and network with the chairs of existing economic statistics groups to discuss and collate their ongoing work and plans to identify emerging themes and gaps and avoid duplication. They also supported the proposal for UNSD to coordinate with the regional commissions to identify high-level economic statisticians from the national statistical systems of the respective regions to contribute to the work of the Network as thought leaders. In addition, participants agreed with the initial proposals on the modalities of user consultations, including the proposal to organize an annual global forum on economic statistics to complement the present practices of quarterly regional outreach seminars organized in consultation with the regional commissions. There was also support for idea to develop a branding and communications strategy to promote the activities of the Network.

The third meeting of the Organizational Sprint is scheduled for 15 December 2021 to finalize the discussions on user consultations and identify the next steps, continue other discussions and develop a two-year rolling workplan for the Network to be considered in the fourth meeting of the Sprint.

Third Organizational Sprint Meeting of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians, 15 December 2021

A UN Network of Economic Statistics was established by the Statistical Commission in March 2021 to, inter alia, better network its statistical groups and entities for better coordinated regional and global programs.

On 15 December 2021, the Third (Virtual) Organizational Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) was organized to finalize the discussion on user consultations and identify the next steps, continue the discussion on the branding and communications strategy and develop a two-year rolling workplan for the Network to be

considered in the fourth meeting of the Sprint. The Assistant Chief Statistician of Canada, Mr. Greg Peterson, and the Director of UNSD co-chaired the meeting, which was attended by around 30 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

Participants broadly agreed with the proposal to organize a Global Forum on Economic Statistics in late 2022 for the producers and high-level users of economic statistics on the various recommendations that will be included in the updated System of National Accounts (SNA) and Balance of Payment Manual (BPM). The Forum can be considered as a "North Star" in gathering feedback on the needs of users in the updated SNA and BPM, synthesizing the next priorities for a shared global program on economic statistics based on feedback from existing statistical groups and sharing the diverse perspectives of regional users gathered through quarterly outreach seminars. There was also broad support for the proposal to organize a "prior series of webinars to complement the Global Forum and to develop targeted messages for various groups of users such as the classical users, media, etc. Participants also broadly supported the proposed elements of a branding and communications strategy and the proposed themes of a rolling two-year workplan.

The fourth and last meeting of the Organizational Sprint is scheduled to be organized on 12 January 2022 to seek agreement on the main elements of a two-year rolling workplan for the Network.

Fourth Organizational Sprint Meeting of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians, 2 February 2022

UNSD organized the Fourth Organizational Sprint Meeting of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) to determine the program of work for the Network for period 2022 and 2023. The meeting was also the last one of the Organizational Sprint series. The Director of UNSD and Mr. Greg Peterson, Assistant Chief Statistician of Canada, co-chaired the meeting, which was attended by around 30 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

Participants broadly welcomed the proposal to organize an annual capstone event that brings together data users and producers in a UN Global Forum on Economic Statistics (Global Forum) to ensure that statistical activities remain relevant and a Eurostat/UN Global Conference on the Update of the Macroeconomic Statistics Standards (Global Conference) to address the new recommendations for the updates of the SNA and BPM. They also noted the usefulness of organizing regional user consultations ("The Road to …") to gather the views of a broader range of users on topics that cover the update of the macroeconomic statistics standards as well as beyond the update of the current standards to consider the forward-looking agenda on economic statistics. The outcomes of the "the Road to …" will lead up to the annual Global Forum and inform the Global Conference. Participants welcomed the proposal to form a group to discuss the modalities of both events and maximize the synergies between them.

In addition, participants also supported the proposed outline of the synthesis report based on the reports from various Statistical Committees and other groups to the Statistical Commission 2022 from an economic statistics perspective. The synthesis report aims to identify gaps that the Network can address in its work programme.

Participants also agreed with the proposal to appoint Mr. Greg Peterson as one of the co-chairs of the Network. The Statistics Division will follow up to finalize the membership of the Network, in coordination with the regional commissions, after which the other co-chair will be appointed.

Further, participants agreed with the proposal to include the following themes in the workplan of the Network: globalization and supply chains of multinational enterprises; digitalization and technological innovation; urbanization; climate change; demographic shifts; inequality; and informal economy. Given the comeback of inflation, they also proposed to add prices, in particular, housing prices, to the workplan.

First Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians, 10 March 2022

The UN Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) (of which UNSD is a member of the bureau) organized the First Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting on 10 March 2022. The Beyond GDP sprint is co-led by the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics and the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, with support from the bureau of the Network.

The main objective of the Beyond GDP Sprint is to probe the "Inclusive Wealth" approach to measuring well-being by identifying generally agreed areas of high priority for research and, where possible, agree on common frameworks. The first meeting of the Sprint discussed the scope of modern capitals (including intangible capital, human capital, natural capital, etc.) and how to consistently measure these modern capitals and their resultant flows of benefits. It was attended by around 70 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

The director of UNSD provided the opening remarks at the meeting. He noted that economic developments over the years have resulted in the demand for broader measures of progress beyond the traditional GDP metric. He also highlighted the potential mutual benefits between the work of the sprint and the implementation of the relevant recommendations in the report of the Secretary General on "Our Common Agenda" through a cross-fertilization of ideas.

Renowned experts from national statistical offices, international organizations and academia gave presentations on intangible assets, data as an asset, natural assets and human capital. In the subsequent discussions, participants acknowledged the vast challenges involved in accounting for these assets in macroeconomic statistics, including the lack of proper price deflators, measurement of spillover benefits and synergies, measurement of the collective management of these assets and feasibility of using non-market valuation methods such as replacement cost rather than sum of costs to value these assets. One way forward is to first tackle those areas where the challenges are less pronounced and then assess whether the solutions can be applied to resolve the more difficult challenges.

Second (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, 24 March 2022

The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) (of which the Statistics Division is a member of the bureau) organized the Second (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting on 24 March 2022. The Beyond GDP sprint is co-led by the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics and the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, with support from the bureau of the Network. The main objective of the Beyond GDP Sprint is to probe the "Inclusive Wealth" approach to measuring well-being by identifying generally agreed areas of high priority for research and, where possible, agree on common frameworks. The second meeting of the Sprint aimed to share ideas, strategies, and examples from the ongoing work that is central to the SNA research agenda on distributional accounts. It was attended by around 90 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

The Director of the Statistics Division provided the opening remarks in which he noted that the two mutually reinforcing trends of digitalization and globalization (as manifested by the proliferation of modern capital) have resulted in widening disparities in income and wealth, which, in turn, mean that traditional metrics such as average measures of GDP, consumption, wealth, etc. may not meaningfully reflect the well-being of the general population. In order to address these disparities, there is a need to develop proper and robust measures of how income, consumption and wealth are distributed across the population using an integrated macroeconomic statistical framework such as the System of National Accounts (SNA).

Experts from national statistical offices, international organizations and academia gave presentations on initiatives to develop a broader framework for well-being and sustainability as part of the update of the 2008 SNA, and distributional national and financial accounts. In the ensuing discussions, participants noted that single indicators like GDP are still useful in providing a composite picture of economic progress. However, they need to be complemented by other indicators such as distributional measures of income, consumption and wealth to provide a more holistic picture of the well-being of the general population. They also noted the difficulties and challenges involved in linking macro and micro data in the compilation of these distributional measures and appreciated the collaboration between the relevant agencies in addressing these challenges. Participants also highlighted the need to improve the timeliness of these measures and to enhance the capacity of less developed economies to produce them. It was suggested that international partners could collaborate among themselves to undertake these statistical capacity building initiatives. The need to communicate the usefulness of these measures to policymakers was also highlighted.

Third Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, 5 April 2022

The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) (of which UNSD is a member of the bureau) organized the Third (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting to discuss well-being initiatives associated with, and that extend, the System of National Accounts (SNA) on 5 April 2022. The meeting was attended by 105 participants from countries and international and

regional organizations.

In his opening remarks, the Director of UNSD highlighted the diverse attendance at the previous meeting. He also noted the sprint can contribute to one of the objectives of the report of the Secretary General on "Our Common Agenda" to develop new measures to complement GDP. Further, he observed that the development of well-being initiatives that extend the SNA should still leverage on the basic principles of SNA to ensure the production of an integrated set of statistics to inform policy.

Experts gave presentations on initiatives to develop new aggregated welfare measures, country practices in valuing unpaid household services and modernization of time use surveys to better measure well-being and unpaid household services. In the subsequent discussions, participants noted the need for close coordination between the time use and economic statistics communities on the valuation of unpaid household services to provide an integrated picture of well-being. The need for access to and availability of microdata, better data linkages across different data sources using statistical data matching techniques and better methods to recognize inter- household flows and stocks in order to produce better measures of well-being was also highlighted. Also, they recommended the prioritization of unpaid household work in future distributional and well-being initiatives.

Fourth Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, 21 April 2022

UNSD and the Population Division co-moderated the Fourth (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) on 21 April 2022. The meeting discussed the socio-demographic disaggregation of national accounts and was attended by 120 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

In their opening remarks, the directors of the Statistics Division and Population Division appreciated the collaboration between the national accounts and demography communities to disaggregate national accounts data below the household level and emphasized the relevance of the work to policymakers.

Experts gave presentations on initiatives to disaggregate national accounts data by age, gender and social-economic status such as education, income and type of family. In the ensuing discussions, participants discussed the possible solutions, such as better access to administrative data, to overcome the challenges in producing these disaggregated data such as the difference in the survey periods of the income and consumption data. They also noted the disaggregated data can be enhanced by leveraging on time-use surveys to incorporate estimates of unpaid household services.

Fifth Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, 5 May 2022, virtual

The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) organized the Fifth (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting on 5 May 2022 to discuss initiatives to compile complementary

measures to GDP using indices, indicator frameworks and the wealth and health approaches. The meeting was by 106 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

In his opening remarks, the Director of the Statistics Division underscored the potential for the work of the sprint to contribute to determining the exact ingredients needed to develop a broader and inclusive, people- centric, worker-centric and environment-centric framework to track well-being and sustainability. He also presented an overview of the Secretary General's Beyond GDP initiative.

Experts gave presentations on initiatives to measure well-being and sustainability using the multidimensional dashboards, capabilities, wealth and equivalent income, and health and environment approaches. In the subsequent discussions, participants noted the importance of using proper models and frameworks to track well-being and sustainability, possibly through household satellite accounts.

Sixth (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians 31 May 2022

The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians organized the Sixth (Virtual) Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting on 31 May 2022 to discuss the summaries of the previous meetings and propose an outline of the next steps. The Director of UNSD chaired the meeting, which was attended by 91 participants from countries and international and regional organizations.

Keynote speakers from the user and academic communities gave presentations on the various approaches to compile complementary measures to GDP and the challenges involved. They also underscored the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in the compilation of these measures.

Experts gave presentations on the outcomes of the previous five beyond GDP sprint meetings. These were followed by a plenary discussion on the most important lessons learnt and key take-away messages from the sprint, and the key next steps and gaps for future sprints to prioritize and address.

In his closing remarks, the Director of UNSD highlighted the success of the sprint in bringing together various groups such as the economic statistics and population and social statistics communities to share their views on how to compile complementary measures to GDP and identify avenues for follow-up collaborative work. He also noted that the work of the sprint could provide inputs to the beyond GDP initiative of the Secretary General and the ongoing work to update the 2008 SNA. In addition, he observed the need for an information architecture based on a coherent conceptual framework to help countries compile policy-relevant complementary GDP indicators which can be communicated easily to policymakers.

First Meeting of Measurement of Inflation of Owner-Occupied Housing in the CPI Sprint of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians Virtual, 22 June 2022

The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians organized the First Meeting of

Measurement of Inflation of Owner-Occupied Housing in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Sprint on 22 June 2022 to discuss the various methods employed in the measurement of the owner-occupied housing services costs in the CPI. The meeting was attended by 116 participants from countries and international and regional organizations. The Assistant Director and Chief of the Data Innovation and Capacity Management Branch of the Statistics Division gave the opening remarks on behalf of the Director of the Statistics Division. He noted the difficulties in measuring the services costs provided by owner-occupied housing, mainly due to the fact that housing is a particularly heterogenous asset. He also highlighted the aim of the sprint to provide an avenue for compilers of the CPI to exchange experiences and best practices that will help them improve their current approaches.

Experts gave presentations on the conceptual methods to measure the services costs provided by owner-occupied housing and country experiences in accounting for this item in their CPIs. Participants subsequently discussed the common opportunities and challenges related to the availability of source data on owner-occupied housing and noted the communications challenges encountered in explaining their approach to measuring this item to users.

National Accounts

Workshops

Webinar on the Statistical Treatment of Islamic Finance in the National and International Accounts
16 December 2021

On 16 December 2021, UNSD and ESCWA organized a Webinar on the Statistical Treatment of Islamic Finance in the National and International Accounts to complement the global consultation for the guidance note on "Islamic Finance in the National Accounts and External Sector Statistics" which has been prepared by an Islamic finance task team (IFTT). The IFTT comprises national accounts and balance of payments experts from Member States, regional and international organizations. It was formed in 2020 to develop recommendations on how to record Islamic financial activities in the national accounts and external sector statistics as part of the global initiatives to update the System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA) and the Sixth Edition of the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6).

Around 140 participants attended the webinar, which saw presentations on the progress in updating the 2008 SNA and BPM6 and the context underlying the inclusion of Islamic finance in the research agenda of the SNA. There were also presentations on the recommendations in the guidance note, including the classification of Islamic financial instruments; terminology for the investment income for selected Islamic financial instruments; use of the 2008 SNA FISIM formula and the appropriate reference rate; sectorization and output of Islamic financial entities; economic ownership of non-financial assets underlying various Islamic financing arrangements; and statistical treatment of Islamic insurance and reinsurance. In addition, an overview of the process to conduct testing and experimentation of the recommendations in guidance notes was provided. This was followed by a round-table discussion on regional and inter-regional

coordination on technical support and capacity building for testing and experimenting the recommendations in the Islamic finance guidance note in countries where Islamic finance is prevalent.

Participants appreciated the comprehensive recommendations in the guidance note and noted the request to use the online questionnaire which has been developed by the UNSD to provide their responses. They welcomed the recommendation to develop an Islamic finance compilation guide to enhance the statistical visibility of Islamic finance through a satellite account and to provide practical guidance and illustrative numerical examples on recording Islamic financial activities in the macroeconomic accounts. There was also general consensus on the need to provide support to economies with less matured statistical systems if testing and experimentation of the recommendations in the guidance note are conducted.

International Workshop on the Update of the System of National Accounts, 2008, 6-8 September 2022

The National Bureau of Statistics of China and Statistics Division jointly organized the International Workshop on the Update of the System of National Accounts, 2008 from 6- 8 September 2022 to provide a forum for countries to be engaged and participate directly in the global SNA update programme by discussing and commenting on the guidance notes and their participation in the experimental and testing exercises. The meeting was attended by around 150 participants from countries around the world as well as international and regional organizations.

Experts gave presentations on the progress of the 2008 SNA update programme, proposed outline of the 2025 SNA and guidance notes on the priority areas (communication, globalization, well-being and sustainability and digitalization) and thematic topics (financial and payments systems, Islamic finance and informal economy) of the 2008 SNA update programme. In addition, the Statistics Division gave a presentation on the overview of the process underlying the experimentation and testing exercises which will be organized to test the recommendations in selected guidance notes.

Participants appreciated the presentations which were provided and agreed on the broad elements of the way forward to conduct the experimentation and testing exercises in the region.

Expert Group Meetings

Sixteenth Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts 12-14 July 2021

The sixteenth meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) was held virtually on 12-14 July 2021. The event was organised by the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), namely DESA's Statistics Division (Chair), OECD, Eurostat, IMF and World Bank. The ISWGNA and AEG collaborate in developing and implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA), the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity. The meeting was attended by members of the

AEG, ISWGNA organizations and United Nations Regional Commissions.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consider progress with resolving issues on the research agenda for the update of the System of National Accounts (SNA). The AEG reviewed proposed guidance on the treatment of data and free products; valuation of imports and exports of goods; the treatment of government special purpose entities abroad; an assessment framework to measure alignment with international statistical standards; terminology and branding of the international macroeconomic statistical standards; taxonomy for communicating economic statistics, products and product updates; the concept of valuation in the SNA and SEEA; and the treatment of retained earnings, capturing non-bank financial intermediation, financial derivatives by type, and subscription rights. The update of the SNA provides a unique opportunity to evaluate how to incorporate elements of well-being and sustainability into a broader macroeconomic framework to produce the relevant indicators to track the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

17th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts
15, 16 and 19 November 2021

The 17th meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) was held online on 15,16 and 19 November 2021. The event was organised by the Inter- secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), which consists of UNSD (Chair), OECD, Eurostat, IMF and World Bank. The ISWGNA and AEG collaborates in developing and implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA), the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity. The meeting was attended by members of the AEG, ISWGNA organizations and United Nations regional commissions.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consider progress with resolving issues on the research agenda for the update of the System of National Accounts (SNA). The AEG reviewed proposed guidance on the treatment of Islamic finance in the SNA; a framework for the informal economy; the treatment of artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital intermediaries; the communication of macroeconomic statistical standards; and issues related to the accounting of wellbeing and sustainability in the SNA.

The update of the SNA provides a unique opportunity to evaluate how to incorporate elements of well-being and sustainability into a broader macroeconomic framework to produce the relevant indicators to track the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Environmental-Economic Accounting

Workshops, Missions

Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services: First session of the NCAVES India National Forum, 14 January 2021

As part of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project, on 14 January, the first session of the NCAVES India National Forum successfully launched the final project report of the compiled SEEA Ecosystem Accounts. A large number of senior officials attended, including the Minister of State Statistics and Programme Implementation of India and the Ambassador of the European Union to India. The first session of the event held was dedicated to discussions on the efforts made by India and the international agencies in the domain of natural capital accounting and valuation of the ecosystem services. The session was attended by approximately 1000 participants around the globe, and was livestreamed on the web- portal that was set up for the series of events: http://ncavesindiaforum.in. The upcoming session on 21 January will focus on policy uses of SEEA and will feature the Indian Minister of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Inger Andersen (by video message), Elliott Harris and Elizabeth Mrema. The third session on 28 January will focus on work undertaken at subnational level and will include a presentation of the results of the pilot in the state of Karnataka. The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India will give a keynote presentation.

High-level webinar on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting for countries in Latin America, 4 February 2021

The high-level webinar on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) for countries in Latin America took place on Thursday, 4 February 2021 at 10:00 New York time. The Webinar was co- organized by ECLAC and UNSD and was attended by over 117 participants, including 5 heads of NSOs, from 18 (out of 19) countries in Latin America. It was conducted in Spanish to facilitate the discussion, specifically targeting the Spanish speaking countries in the region. The webinar was very timely, as the SEEA EA is being submitted for adoption to the UN Statistical Commission at its session in early March. The webinar aimed to inform the countries in Latin America of the SEEA EA revision process, give a sense of ecosystem accounting achievements in some countries in the region and provide a platform for discussion on ecosystem accounting, as well as prepare the NSO management for the upcoming discussion at the Statistical Commission. To achieve that, the webinar started with two introductory presentations by Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, director on UNSD, on the SEEA EA revision process and by Mr. Rolando Ocampo, director of ECLAC statistics division, on the regional perspectives on ecosystem accounting. The introductory presentations were followed by a high- level panel on experiences with ecosystem accounting in the region. High-level representatives from four countries – Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and

Mexico – shared their countries' experience with implementation of SEEA EA. The main messages from the webinar included that the speakers see the SEEA EA as an important statistical standard to inform the policy decisions in their countries, they support its adoption at the upcoming session of the Statistical Commission, and hope for further work on implementation of the ecosystem accounting in the region.

Launch of the Development Account project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-based Policy in the Philippines", 28 May 2021

On 28 May 2021, UNSDand the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) held a high-level launch of the Development Account project "Environmental- Economic Accounting for Evidence-based Policy in the Philippines." Over 130 participants from PSA, line ministries and NGOs participated in the launch. The launch was opened by the chief statistician of PSA, Mr. Dennis Mapa; opening messages were provided by Usec. Mercedita Sombilla of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez, UN RC of the Philippines; and Ms. Gemma Van Halderen of ESCAP. The opening messages focused on the importance of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the project in achieving sustainable development and a green recovery from COVID-19. Speakers also noted the leadership that the Philippines has shown in the region in compiling the SEEA. The launch included a session on SEEA initiatives in the Philippines, with presentations from UNSD and PSA, as well as a panel discussion. The panel discussion included experts from NEDA; the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and the Resources, Environment and Economics Center and demonstrated the shared commitment of line ministries and PSA to SEEA implementation and the project. Finally, former Chief Statistician of PSA and adviser to the project, Dr. Lisa S. Bersales, provided an overview of the launch and outlined potential next steps. In closing the workshop, PSA thanked participants for their commitment and enthusiasm for the project.

Closing Workshop of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) Project in China, 2 June 2021

UNSD and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission convened the Closing Workshop of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project on 2 June to present China's achievement on Natural Capital Accounting under the NCAVES project. Over 130 officials and experts from NBS, line ministries and international organization participated in the workshop.

The culminating event of the workshop was the release of the NCAVES China final project report. Under the NCAVES project, China has delivered results for a set of pilot ecosystem accounts using the SEEA framework in Guangxi and Guizhou and the examination the regional eco-compensation policy at Xijiang River Basin. At the national level, work has been in progress on valuation methods for the natural resource balance sheet programme and the alignment of

SEEA and Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP). The relevance of SEEA and NCAVES result to support the national ecological compensation standard, policymechanism on valuation of ecological product and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework were discussed and highlighted at the workshop. All results of the NCAVES China workstream can be found at the NCAVES China page.

The closing workshop marks the end of the NCAVES China workstream, and a new journey of advancing SEEA implementation in China to make nature count.

Webinar on the SEEA and land accounting as part of the Development Account project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-based Policy in Africa and Asia", 29 July 2021

On 29 July 2021, UNSD, in collaboration with the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) and the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), held a webinar on the SEEA and land accounting as part of the Development Account project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-based Policy in Africa and Asia." Over 170 participants from PSA, DOSM, and line ministries and NGOs from both countries participated in the webinar. Welcome addresses were given by both the Chief Statistician of PSA, Mr. Dennis Mapa and the Chief Statistician of DOSM, Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahindin. The opening messages focused on the importance of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the project in promoting evidence-based policies for sustainable development. The webinar included presentations from UNSD on the SEEA, land accounting and the ARIES for SEEA tool, which enables rapid compilation of SEEA land and ecosystem accounts for anywhere in the world. In addition, representatives from Statistics Indonesia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics shared their experiences in compiling land accounts in their countries. Both country presentations stressed the importance of collaboration with stakeholders and line ministries as well as the value added of compiling land accounts. This webinar followed a high-level launch of the project in the Philippines in May and will be followed by a high-level launch of the project in Malaysia next month.

Technical webinar on the contribution of the SEEA to the measurement of Goal B "Nature's contribution to people" of the draft monitoring framework of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), 19 August 2021

UNSD, the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD), the Group on Earth Observation Network (GEO BON), the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Framework (UNEP-WCMC) and in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions organized a technical webinar on the contribution of the SEEA to the measurement of Goal B "Nature's contribution to people" of the draft monitoring framework of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

UNSD chaired the meeting and provided a presentation on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounts,

with particular focus on the measurement of ecosystem services in physical and monetary terms and their relevance of the GBF. The presentation was followed by a presentation of ARIES for SEEA which illustrated the possibility of compiling ecosystem services accounts using global datasets. In addition, the Chinese Academy of Science presented their experience in rolling out the compilation of the Gross Ecosystem Product in various Chinese provinces and their relevance policy. The webinar brought together experts from different communities including national statistical offices, Parties to the CBD as well as academia and think tank measuring and valuing ecosystem services to foster collaboration for the operationalization and implementation of the GBF.

Technical Workshop on Land Accounts in Senegal, 24- 25 August 2021

The virtual Technical Workshop on Land Accounts in Senegal was organized by UNSD, in collaboration with the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (Agence Nationale de Statistique et de la Démographie, ANSD), under the Development Account (DA) project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia". The workshop was attended by 25 participants from the national technical committee on SEEA accounts, including the ANSD and other related national agencies, as well as UNSD, UNECA and GLOBE as partners in the implementation of the project. The technical workshop introduced the methodology and compilation practices for land and ecosystem extent accounts. It trained the participants on the methodological background, the "ARIES for SEEA" tool to compile land and extent accounts using global data sources, and discuss the results obtained from these data sources. National agencies also introduced national land cover data maps available in the country. The participants discussed the possibility of combining the national data with the global data to compile land accounts for Senegal and the use of appropriate land cover classifications. The workshop concluded with a set of priorities and next steps to work towards the compilation of land accounts for Senegal over the following months.

Technical Workshop on Compilation of Land Accounts and ARIES for SEEA in Senegal, 8-12 November 2021

This technical workshop took place from 8-12 November 2021 in Dakar, Senegal. The Workshop was organized in collaboration between the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (Agence Nationale de Statistique et de la Démographie, ANSD) and UNSD and is part of the implementation of the DA project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia" in Senegal. The Workshop compiled the land cover accounts for Senegal using national and global data sources, train technical level staff form ANSD and other related national agencies to better understand the methodology and compilation practices for land and ecosystem extent accounts, train participants on the ARIES for SEEA tool, and discuss the possibilities of combining national and global land cover maps to compile land accounts in Senegal. The Workshop was attended by 16 members of the national technical committee on SEEA accounts from six agencies involved in environmental-economic accounting. The discussions during the workshop also helped with the agreement on the national land cover classification between the government agencies and validating the local data

available.

Joint Workshop on Water Account Compilation and Ecosystem Accounting in Kenya, 12-16 September 2022

The Joint Workshop on Water Account Compilation and Ecosystem Accounting in Kenya consisted of two parts (1) on water accounting on 12-14 September organized by UNSD in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), and (2) on ecosystem accounting on 15 & 16 September, organized also in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The objective of the first part, the technical workshop on water accounting, was assist technical level staff from KNBS and other national ministries and agencies related to water management to better understand the methodology and practices for compiling water accounts and gather the data necessary in order to advance the compilation of the water account in Kenya. The workshop was structured as a training and hands-on data and compilation workshop, where an outline of the water account supply and use table was developed based on the hydrological cycle and characteristics in Kenya. Data to compile the water account were identified and partnerships between national agencies made.

In the second part on ecosystem accounts, the workshop aimed to kick off the production of ecosystem accounts in Kenya. The participants were introduced to the SEEA EA definitions and terminology, and ARIES for SEEA was described in detail. The workshop achieved the following: (1) identify data available and gaps to produce ecosystem accounts; (2) prioritize ecosystem services relevant for Kenya; and (3) identify opportunities to link ecosystem accounts with national supply use tables. In addition, the workshop illustrated policy applications using ecosystem accounts to support conservation policies, negotiations in the benchmark of the Conservations for Biological Diversity, and Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop was attended by technical level staff from national ministries and agencies related to environment, water, energy, ecological management, spatial management and mapping.

Technical Workshop on Energy Account Compilation in Mozambique, 20-22 September 2022

The Technical Workshop on Energy Account Compilation in Mozambique took place on 20-22 September 2022 in Maputo and was organized as an activity under the Development Account project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia" in collaboration between the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and UNSD. The workshop was opened by Ms. Magaua, the president of INE, and attended by 25 technical experts from 9 different national agencies, including the INE, Ministry of natural resources and energy, Ministry of environment, National Petroleum Institute, Mozambique Electricity, etc.

The workshop helped technical level staff from the various national agencies to better understand the methodology and practices for compiling energy accounts and gather the data necessary to advance the compilation of the energy accounts in Mozambique. The workshop was structured as a hands-on data and compilation workshop, where a technical expert and UNSD staff worked with the national technicians on mapping of the national energy sector

and flows of the energy resources. The national energy data sources were reviewed, shared between the national agencies, and used to develop a conceptual framework for the Mozambique energy accounts. The workshop concluded with a discussion on next steps on how to finalize the energy accounts.

Land Accounting Workshop for the Philippines, 26-30 September 2022

On 26-30 September 2022, UNSD and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) held a workshop at PSA offices in Manila on land accounts. This workshop took place under the Development Account project, "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence- Based Policy in Africa and Asia", which aims to address the technical and institutional barriers to the establishment of routinely produced environmental-economic accounts at the national level by national statistical offices. The PSA is currently compiling land cover accounts under the project for 2015 and 2020. Approximately 15 people participated in this small, hands-on workshop, and participants came from both PSA and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA). During the workshop, UNSD provided an overview of the conceptual framework of land and ecosystem accounts according to the System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SEEA). The majority of the workshop was dedicated to providing participants with a hands-on opportunity to compile land accounts using QGIS. Participants also learned how land cover maps can serve as input to ecosystem extent accounts through the ARIES for SEEA. In addition, participants began completing a geospatial data assessment, which will provide information on what ecosystem accounts (e.g. condition, specific ecosystem services) may be possible to compile using national data sources. The workshop concluded with a discussion on next steps on how to finalize the land cover accounts and move on to ecosystem accounts.

Workshop on Earth Observation for Ecosystem Accounting
Virtual meeting, 28 November to 1 December 20022

The Workshop was jointly organized by the European Space Agency, UNSD and the Earth Observation for Ecosystem Accounting (EO4EA) of the Group on Earth Observation. The workshop brought together the earth observation community with the environmental economic accounting community, involving experts in environmental economic accounting, national accountants, ecologists and geospatial experts from national statistical offices, academia, NGOs, and private sector to discuss how earth observation can support scaling up the implementation of ecosystem accounting, setting priorities and providing an input in the development of a road map for the development and use of earth observation for ecosystem accounts. Over 75 abstracts were received and were presented orally or shared on the workshop website. The first day focused on providing some context on what is the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEE EA), its implementation strategy and regional and thematic global activities linked to the SEEA EA. The remaining days were organized according to the SEEA EA core accounts – ecosystem extent, condition and services – and thematic accounts on forest, ocean and coastal, urban and agro ecosystems as well as the operationalization of earth observation in the SEEA EA and included presentation on interoperability of data and models and different platforms. As a result of the workshop a roadmap for earth observation on ecosystem accounts will be developed.

Sixteenth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), 15-17 June 2021

The Sixteenth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) took place virtually on 15-17 June 2021. Nearly 70 members from national statistical offices and international organizations took part in the annual meeting. The Committee, chaired by Bert Kroese, Deputy Director General of Statistics Netherlands, provides the overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics. The meeting was opened by the Director of the Statistics Division, Stefan Schweinfest, who congratulated the Committee on the recent adoption of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) by the UN Statistical Commission and noted the importance taking advantage of the momentum to scale up implementation of the SEEA EA. The Committee discussed the need to prioritize activities considering the growing demands noting that the SEEA EA implementation, data compilation and dissemination and mainstreaming the SEEA into policy discussions such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework monitoring framework, climate change and circular economy. The development of classifications to respond to policy needs as well as the new workstream on business accounting were also considered very important areas of work.

Forum of Experts on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting 2021, 7-8 December 2021

The sixth Forum of Experts on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting took place 7-8 December 2021 in a virtual format. More than 300 participants from 66 countries, including scientists, environmental economists, statisticians, national/environmental-economic accountants, geospatial experts from national statistical offices, ministries of finance and planning, ministries of environment and other government agencies, NGOs, academia and the private sector attended over the two days. The main objectives of the sixth Forum were: (1) to share experiences and best practices in applying and compiling ecosystem accounts, in particular in the countries that have participated in the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project; (2) to discuss how to operationalize the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) implementation strategy and the interoperability of data for compilation of accounts; and (3) to discuss opportunities and ways to mainstream the SEEA EA into national and global initiatives.

The Forum was opened with a conversation on the importance of natural capital accounting between Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and UN Chief Economist, and Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director Natural Capital, European Commission. The conversation highlighted the important contribution of the SEEA EA in changing the views of how nature is perceived in economic decision-making processes and that the new framework goes beyond the commonly used data of gross domestic product (GDP) and ensures that natural capital the contributions of forests, oceans and other ecosystems adds to existing economic accounts. The conversation also highlighted the European Commission's view of the SEEA EA as methodological basis for the development of the headline indicators to monitor

progress on implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The first day of the Forum served as the closing event for the NCAVES project. The five project countries, i.e., Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa, presented the results of the pilot projects and shared lessons learnt from implementing the SEEA EA over the past 5 years. The experiences of the five project countries were also complemented with several presentations of other countries implementing ecosystem accounting, who brought to the breadth of the experiences to the fore. The second day focused on the implementation of the SEEA EA and highlighted the interactions with other related key initiatives and interoperability of data and models. It also served to source expert opinion on how to take the work of the implementation groups forward in the areas of forest, carbon, and oceans.

Business Statistics and Trade Statistics

Workshops

UNSD-SIAP-ADB joint development of the e-Learning Foundational course on Statistical Business Register, 27 September - 12 November 2021

UNSD, the Statistical Institute of Asia Pacific (SIAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly developed the e-Learning Foundational course on Statistical Business Register, which will be conducted from 27 September to 12 November 2021. The course will be initially conducted for the ESCAP region and will further be offered to other regions. The e-learning course was developed under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts of Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) and, in particular, with its two task teams on Exhaustive Business Registers and Capacity Building on SBRs.

This course provides a strong conceptual and practical foundation to build high quality SBRs and support the compilation of integrated economic statistics. The course is based on the recent UN Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers and other relevant material including the draft Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers that is being finalized by the UNCEBTS. The course is comprised of seven modules accompanied by three webinars.

International Workshop on the Integrated Use of International Trade Statistics and Economic Statistics Beijing (China), 23 – 25 November 2021

UNSD, UNCTAD and National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) in cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO) jointly organized an International Workshop on the Integrated Use of International Trade Statistics and Economic Statistics from 23- 25 November 2021. More than 150 participants from the Chinese national statistical system and from over 30 other

countries across the globe shared concepts, definitions, on-going methodological work, and then best practices and innovative approaches to compiling and using international trade statistics.

The Workshop discussed issues relating to interconnectedness of various phenomena, including economic growth, businesses, international trade, and information, communication and technology focusing on the production of various datasets, linking and their use. It specially tackled important issues for advancing the production and use of international trade statistics, including digital trade and e-commerce, trade by enterprise characteristics, more granular statistics of international trade in services, foreign affiliates trade statistics (FATS), and other related economic statistics.

Participants exchanged knowledge that will be applied to improve their work and programs in international trade statistics. Furthermore, the new perspectives and information shared in this Workshop is further to be reflected upon in the on-going processes for the revision of the international standards for trade statistics.

International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) online course and webinars, 28 February – 12 April 2022

The annual six-week e-learning course on IMTS in French and English, followed by two webinars, have been concluded on 12 April 2022. The objective of the course is to enhance the capacity of trade statisticians to apply the most recent internationally agreed recommendations (IMTS 2010), define the best possible data sources, set up or enforce collection systems, and strengthen statistical production processes. The online course was attended by 1129 participants, 49% female, from 163 countries or areas, whereas there were around 200 participants in the webinars. The majority of the participants came from data providers, followed by academia and data users. The overall satisfaction rate for the course stands at 89%.

UNSD-SIAP-ADB E-Learning course Foundational course on Statistical Business Registers, 26 September – 11 November 2022

The UNSD-SIAP-ADB E-Learning Foundational Course on Statistical Business Registers (SBR) was launched on 26 September 2022 and will run until 11 November 2022. The course was developed under the overall guidance of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and experts from the Committee will contribute to the delivery of the course. The Course covers seven modules: an initial overview of SBRs; the roles of SBRs; the coverage of SBRs; Data sources, maintenance of update; Legal framework, Organizational, and IT considerations; SBR Maturity model; Profiling and Globalization. More than 80 participants from the Asian-Pacific region are registered for the course. Staff from the UNSD/Business Statistics Section will facilitate the course as lecturers.

Fourth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, *23 - 24 June and 7 - 8 July 2021*

The Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) was held by UNSD virtually on 23-24 June and 7-8 July 2021. Participants included 146 experts on business and trade statistics from 34 countries and 20 international organizations.

The meeting discussed follow-up actions in response to the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2021 related to the revision of the trade statistics manuals and the creation of a task team on the joint research agenda for the revision of the trade-related standards. The integration between business and trade statistics was particularly welcomed as a fundamental strategic direction of the Committee.

The UNCEBTS also reviewed the progress of work, in particular, the preparation of the *Manual on the principal indicators for business and trade statistics* and the *Manual on the maturity model for statistical business registers* and encouraged their finalization by the end of 2021.

Overall, the Committee agreed on the priorities for 2022-2023 to inform the new normal and to address the COVID-19 recovery programmes with more granular, coherent and integrated business and trade statistics and better integrated business, trade and household related statistics to inform the dynamics of economic activity of the business sector and their impacts on jobs, income, consumption, and wealth distribution of households. A more detailed work plan will be developed by the Task teams based on the feedback from the UNCEBTS.

The Committee also welcomed new initiatives such as the collaboration between UNSD and OECD on the global group register and the global initiative on unique identifiers for business to assist countries in the strengthening of their SBRs.

1st Meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics, 12–13 October 2021

An inaugural meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics (TT on ITS) was held virtually on 12 and 13 October. The Task Team has been established under the UN Committee of Experts in Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) to lead and coordinate a joint research agenda on business and international trade statistics for the revision of trade-related standards and companion manuals on international merchandise trade statistics and international trade in services statistics. It will also work on developing new trade-related business indicators, on guidance for the integration of international trade related characteristics of businesses in the statistical business registers, and on the promotion of the data tools and e-learning programmes on international trade statistics. These activities of the Task Team are undertaken consistent with the decision 52/107 (e-g) of the 52nd session of the UN Statistical

Commission.

The inaugural meeting discussed the working arrangement and modalities of work; research topics and prioritization; structure and outline of the manuals. Sixty participants included country experts from NSOs, Central Banks, line ministries, Customs Offices, and international organizations, and other relevant offices. The Task Team is led by Ms. Cristina Neves (INE Portugal) and Mr. Houssein Ouljour (Office des Changes Morocco).

Third Meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, 14 – 16 December 2021, Geneva (Switzerland)

The 3rd Meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics took place from 14-16 December 2021, in Geneva, Switzerland and virtually. The meeting discussed many research topics for the update of the trade manuals, including the scope of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS), impact of the on-going updates of related economic standards on the update of trade manuals, and issues relating to globalization, digitalization, environment, sustainability and productivity, valuation and the recording principle of trade, cultural products resulting from creative industries, linking trade and business statistics, price and volume measurement, alternative data sources, measurement and compilation issues, among others.

A total of 60 trade experts from national statistical systems and international organizations shared knowledge and information that will be applied to advance the work on the joint research agenda between business and international trade statistics for the revision of the manuals, capacity building activities, data programs, and coordination for international trade statistics.

5th Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, New York, 6 – 9 September 2022

The 5th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) was held from 6 to 9 September 2022 in the UN Headquarters. The meeting gathered more than 40 participants from 19 countries and several international and regional organizations. The Committee discussed its future priorities in light of its new strategic view on business and trade statistics which focuses on a stronger integration between business and trade statistics but also a stronger integration across other statistical domains and with the macro-economic frameworks such as the national accounts and the environmental accounts. Particular focus for the future work of the Committee will be on (1) digitalization, productivity and innovation; (2) wellbeing and social inclusion; and (3) green economy. The meeting also discussed new areas of work such as: mainstreaming gender in business and trade statistics, the development of Integrated Data Infrastructure to link micro data on people and businesses, and a global initiative on unique identifiers.

3rd Hybrid Meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics Muscat, Oman, 19 – 22 December 2022

A third hybrid meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics (TT on ITS) was held in-person in Muscat, Oman and virtually from 19 to 22 December 2022. The Task Team, established under the UN Committee of Experts in Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) leads and coordinates the research agenda on international trade statistics for the revision of trade-related standards and companion manuals (goods and services). It also works on developing new trade-related business indicators, on guidance for the integration of international trade related characteristics of businesses in the statistical business registers, and on the promotion of the data tools and e-learning programs on international trade statistics. These activities of the Task Team are undertaken consistent with the decision 52/107 (e-g) of the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission.

This meeting discussed several research issues and options for advancing the work on revising the manuals on international trade statistics. In particular, the meeting discussed, among others: draft Guidance Notes for the revision of the concepts and definitions; outline of the manuals on IMTS and SITS, workplans, drafting and timelines; Volume 2 of the principal indicators on Business and Trade Statistics; and updates of the Balance of Payment Manual, System of National Accounts, the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) as they relate to the trade manuals.

Energy Statistics

Workshops

UNFCCC/UNSD/IEA Workshops on Quality Assurance of the National Energy Information Management System and Energy Statistics of selected African countries (hybrid: Lomé, Togo on 7–9 September 2022; and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 12–14 September 2022)

As part of a project to address national circumstances of developing countries regarding their energy statistics and energy balances, in connection with the requirements for the energy sector of the national GHG inventories, the UNFCCC, UNSD and IEA held workshops in Togo on 7-9 September and in Burkina Faso on 12-14 September. UNSD participated virtually.

The UNFCCC secretariat seeks to provide a coordinated approach to energy data collection, GHG estimates development and reporting, establishment of a sound basis for targeted mitigation actions and policies, as well as contributing to strengthen the collaboration between various relevant institutions at the national level. In order to do so, the secretariat expanded its

collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Energy Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), enhancing synergies amongst the three organizations to provide the support requested from developing countries.

The main objective of this initiative is to improve the institutional arrangements and the technical capacity of developing country Parties in order for them to improve and maintain their national energy statistics and balances as a means to reinforcing transparency in reporting national GHG inventories and mitigation actions in accordance with the reporting requirements under the ETF of the Paris Agreement.

For each country, this was the first workshop in a set of three workshops, focusing on a detailed quality assessment of the national energy statistics, resulting in a set of recommendations for the country to address its data gaps and deficiencies.

UNFCCC/UNSD/IEA Workshops on Quality Assurance of the National Energy Information Management System and Energy Statistics of selected African countries, 21–23 September 2022, Cotonou (Benin) and 26–28 September 2022, Niamey (Niger)

As part of a project to address national circumstances of developing countries regarding their energy statistics and energy balances, in connection with the requirements for the energy sector of the national GHG inventories, UNFCCC, UNSD and IEA held workshops in Benin and in Niger. UNSD participated virtually.

The UNFCCC secretariat seeks to provide a coordinated approach to energy data collection, GHG estimates development and reporting, establishment of a sound basis for targeted mitigation actions and policies, as well as contributing to strengthen the collaboration between various relevant institutions at the national level. In order to do so, the secretariat expanded its collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and UNSD, enhancing synergies amongst the three organizations to provide the support requested from developing countries.

The main objective of this initiative is to improve the institutional arrangements and the technical capacity of developing country Parties in order for them to improve and maintain their national energy statistics and balances as a means to reinforcing transparency in reporting national GHG inventories and mitigation actions in accordance with the reporting requirements under the ETF of the Paris Agreement.

For each country, this was the first workshop in a set of three, focusing on a detailed quality assessment of the national energy statistics, resulting in a set of recommendations for the country to address its data gaps and deficiencies.

Preparatory meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (InterEnerStat)
10 February 2022

UNSD hosted an online preparatory meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (InterEnerStat) with regional agencies that deal with statistics for all kinds of energy (African Energy Commission, Asia Pacific Energy Research Center, Eurostat, International Energy Agency, Latin American Energy Organization). The meeting served as an initial step to set up a coordinated participation in the revision of the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC). InterEnerStat was established by the UN Statistical Commission in 2005, among other objectives, to harmonise differing definitions across organisations as close as possible, in which it succeeded, delivering the basis of what came to be SIEC. Now SIEC needs a revision to take into account new developments in energy products, and this revision needs to be coordinated with the ongoing revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC). Other more specific energy organizations will be involved at a later stage.

Meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics Virtual, 8 December 2022

UNSD chaired a virtual meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (InterEnerStat), hosted by the Group's chair, the International Energy Agency. InterEnerStat was established by the UN Statistical Commission in 2005, among other objectives, to harmonise differing definitions across organisations as close as possible, in which it succeeded, delivering the basis of what came to be the International Standard Energy Product Classification (SIEC). Now SIEC is under revision to take into account new developments in energy products, and this revision is led by a Task Team (TT-SIEC) under the Aegis of the UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications. The InterEnerStat meeting aimed to inform its members of progress of the Task Team and to solicit initial inputs on potential revisions. There were thoughtful discussions on the initial list of issues (and on some of the issues themselves), while the main input is expected to come in writing, consolidated by agency, by mid-January 2023. The written inputs will be summarized by InterEnerStat and fed back to TT-SIEC.

Environment Statistics

Workshops

Deep Dive Training on Waste Wise Cities Tool, 2-3 February 2021

Upon the invitation of its co-custodian for SDG indicator 11.6.1, UN-HABITAT, UNSD presented material demonstrating the strong relevance and benefit of countries aggregating waste data to the city and national level. Indicator 11.6.1 pertains to municipal solid waste generation and treatment and calls for close liaisons between the national statistical office and other key stakeholders, typically at the local, or municipal level of government. UNSD stressed the close collaboration it maintains with UN-HABITAT for work on this indicator, the developments made in metadata in recent years, and the relevance and application of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (waste section), which collects country data for this indicator. Countries showed keen interest in understanding how their data plays a key part in informing SDG-related policies, and how international organizations such as UNSD are collaborating with one another to minimize reporting burden upon countries.

Towards the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, 19 February 2021 (virtual)

A Side Event to the fifty-second session of the Statistical Commission was organized by the Statistics Division, it provided updates on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators developed by the Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES). Statistical reflections on the work of UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were also presented. National experiences on the contributions to and the application of the draft Global Set, as well as their own country experiences in the development of climate change statistics, were shared by Suriname and Tanzania, both members of the EGES.

DA12 project Kick-off webinar: Introduction to climate change and disaster statistics in the Caribbean, 9-11 March 2021

The Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division participated in the "DA12 project Kick-off webinar: Introduction to climate change and disaster statistics in the Caribbean" that was held virtually from 9 to 11 March 2021. The webinar was organized by ECLAC as part of a new DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies". The project is managed by ECLAC in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Statistics Division and focuses on supporting capacity building of the national statistical systems of non- Spanish speaking Caribbean countries to institutionalize climate change and disaster-related data collection and indicators production and runs from 2021 to 2023. The project builds on the past

and current work undertaken by important stakeholders involved in capacity development of environment statistics and climate change statistics in the region, such as the CARICOM Secretariat and the Statistics Division.

The webinar focused on stocktaking of the regional/national situation, demand and supply of environment, climate change and disaster statistics as well as concepts, methods, classifications and international demand for climate change and disaster statistics production. The goal of the webinar is to assess opportunities and challenges to climate change and disaster statistics production in the Caribbean. The Statistics Division delivered two presentations: on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and its tools such as the Basic Set of Environment Statistics and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT); and on the development of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. Based on the long-standing work in environment and climate change statistics and vast experience in the region, the Statistics Division also served as resource persons and participated actively in all discussions, many of which focused on the Division's outputs in environment statistics, such as the FDES, the ESSAT, and the draft Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. The Division's participation was very much appreciated by ECLAC and country representatives were very supportive of the Division's work in these fields of statistics.

DA12 project – National workshop on Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Suriname, 13-15 July 2021 (virtual)

The Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division participated in the DA12 project "National workshop on Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Suriname" that was held virtually from 13 to 15 July 2021. The workshop was organized by ECLAC as part of the DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" managed by ECLAC, in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and the Statistics Division. Despite having the mechanisms in place to access and compile some environmental data, the complexity of climate change and disaster statistics and indicators poses several challenges for Suriname to produce the necessary indicators to guide decision making. The objectives of the workshop were to: train the participants to build selected environment, climate change and disaster indicators and their metadata; identify data and capacity gaps to build an information platform on resilience for the country (statistics and geospatial data); and have a better understanding of how geospatial data can enhance the use of environment, climate change and disaster indicators for effective decision making. One of the main outcomes was a list of relevant and prioritized climate change and disasters indicators for Suriname that are also linked to the Paris Agreement and the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators currently being developed by the Statistics Division.

The Statistics Division delivered a statement in the inaugural session as well as gave two presentations on: the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and its tools such as the Basic Set of Environment Statistics and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT); and the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators. Based on the long-standing work in environment and climate change statistics and vast experience in the

region, the Statistics Division also served as resource persons and participated actively in discussions, many of which focused on the Division's outputs in environment statistics, such as the FDES, the ESSAT, and the draft Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. The Division's participation was very much appreciated by ECLAC and the General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname who have been very supportive of the Division's work in these fields of statistics.

Somalia country consultation on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, 16 August 2021

UNSD held a bilateral country consultation with the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) upon request by the SNBS. The virtual meeting focused on two main topics: the Global Consultation on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, and the data collection for the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics.

UNSD gave a brief introduction on the objectives and structure of the current Global Consultation on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. The Global Set will provide a comprehensive statistical framework to support countries in preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators and support the reporting requirements of countries under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement. Colleagues from the SNBS asked questions about the Global Consultation, and the Statistics Division invited the SNBS to assess the Global Set's relevance, methodological soundness, and data availability, as well as other climate-related country capacities. The Statistics Division also showcased the water and waste sections of the Questionnaires and explained its key role in helping the country to monitor and evaluate the progress of various waste and water SDG indicators, such as 6.3.1, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 11.6.1, 12.4.2, 12.5.1.

The colleagues from the SNBS informed that Somalia adopted its first Statistical Act in 2020, and that the SNBS is now able to officially liaise with other ministries and offices in obtaining important data related to the environment and climate change. SNBS also iterated the importance of statistical capacity development in Somalia, and expressed their commitment to establishing a closer working collaboration with the Statistics Division.

The bilateral consultation served as a good experience on how to use the virtual meeting technology to engage with partners that were once challenging to reach out to. The Statistics Division is learning from this good lesson and continues to explore effective and flexible ways to support Member States.

Regional webinar on "Embedding climate reporting in national statistics" for the Africa and Eastern Europe Region, 30 September 2021

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), with support from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), organized this regional webinar with a view to facilitating the enhancement of developing countries' transparency arrangements under

the Framework Convention and the Paris Agreement, in a manner that taps into potential opportunities and mainstream data collection and analysis activities for climate reporting, as well as for optimal use of the existing resources and capacity at the national level. The regional webinar aimed, inter alia, to: explore potential opportunities and synergies in data collection and analysis for climate and other areas, at the national level; and showcase experiences from countries who have involved national statistical offices (NSOs) into their national MRV/transparency processes. The target audience were practitioners who: (1) are actively involved in preparation of national communications, biennial update reports and national greenhouse gas inventories; (2) are or will be involved in planning for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework (ETF); and (3) are from NSOs.

Presentations were made on these topics by the CGE, ECA, ECE, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Statistics Division and by the United Republic of Tanzania (jointly by the National Bureau of Statistics and national focal point for reporting to UNFCCC). The Statistics Division focused its presentation on the role and strength of NSOs in climate reporting, in particular on activity data for national inventories, the innovative new surveys being designed by NSOs to compile climate change statistics and highlighted some NSOs and regional statistical institutions that have produced climate change statistics reports. The work of the Statistics Division in the development of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics, that was mandated by the Statistical Commission, was highlighted. The ongoing Global Consultation on the draft Global Set, some of the preliminary results, as well as the plan to submit the Global Set to the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission for adoption, were described. The Statistics Division also emphasized the close relationship established with UNFCCC demonstrated by many joint activities, including capacity development events in the region.

Discussion revolved around some topics such as: the challenges and gaps of the current national statistics systems for embedding climate reporting and ways to address it; the set up of climate change statistics sections/units in NSOs and whether they are stand- alone units or part of existing sections/units such as environment statistics or social statistics; and the capacity development plans of international/regional institutions to assist NSOs in the African region to embark on/improve the development of climate change statistics in their countries. Preliminary results of the Global Consultation could already inform several of the topics raised by the participants in the discussion.

DA12 project: National workshop on generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Saint Lucia, 16-18 November 2021

UNSD participated in the National workshop on generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Saint Lucia held virtually from 16- 18 November 2021. The workshop was organized under the DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" managed by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. Despite having mechanisms in place to access and compile some environmental data, the complexity of climate change and disaster statistics poses several challenges for Saint Lucia. There is need to

enhance the production and use of environment, climate change and disasters indicators to draw attention to national priorities and better engage in adaptation to climate change processes. The objectives of the workshop were to: train the participants to build selected environment, climate change and disaster indicators and their metadata; identify data and capacity gaps to build an information platform on resilience for the country; and have a better understanding of how geospatial data can enhance the use of environment, climate change and disaster indicators for effective decision making. One of the main outcomes was a list of relevant and prioritized national climate change and disasters indicators that are also linked to the Paris Agreement and the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.

UNSD delivered a statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT); and the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators. Based on the long-standing work in environment and climate change statistics and vast experience in the region, UNSD also served as resource persons and participated actively in discussions, many of which focused on UNSD's outputs in environment statistics, such as the FDES, the ESSAT, and the draft Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. UNSD's participation was very much appreciated by ECLAC and the Central Statistics Office of Saint Lucia who have contributed to UNSD's work in these fields of statistics.

National webinar on environment statistics and climate change statistics for Grenada, 23 November 2021

UNSD participated in a webinar on environment statistics and climate change statistics organized by the Central Statistical Office of Grenada (CSO) by providing an opening statement and serving as a resource person. UNSD had previously organized, in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, a Regional Workshop on Environment Statistics and Climate Change Statistics in November 2019 in Grenada, which was followed by a national workshop organized by the CSO, where UNSD participated as resource persons. Based on this support of UNSD, as well as the continued collaboration during the COVID pandemic, the CSO was able to complete the Compendium on Environment Statistics 2020 based on the data collection started after the national workshop in 2019.

The current webinar brought together various stakeholders to discuss the status of the data submission to the CSO based on UNSD's Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) for the preparation of the next Compendium on Environment Statistics in 2022.

Given the current pandemic and that the country is in the midst of conducting their decennial census, it is remarkable that Grenada has been actively contributing to UNSD's work on the Global Consultation on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and is planning to produce a second compendium on environment statistics in 2022.

DA12 project National workshop on Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Antigua and Barbuda, 3, 6 and 7 December 2021

This DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" is being managed by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. This was the third occasion for UNSD to participate in a national level workshop as part of this DA12 project this year. UNSD delivered a statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). Based on the long-standing work in environment and climate change statistics and vast experience in the region, UNSD also served as resource persons and participated actively in discussions and group exercises, many of which focused on UNSD's outputs in environment statistics, such as the draft Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, and methodological guidance on environmental themes. Participants demonstrated enthusiasm for application of UNSD's outputs for compilation of statistics which will require inter-institutional collaboration from those who were in attendance. UNSD's participation allowed it to build upon existing relationships with ECLAC and Antigua and Barbuda which will assist in other aspects of work including regular data collection.

Workshop for the generation of indicators of climate change and disasters in Ecuador, 22-24 February 2022

The availability of high-quality statistics and indicators is crucial to effectively address the effects of climate change. In this sense, Ecuador has done concrete efforts to build and publish environmental data through its "Ecuador in Numbers" platform, which includes a visualizer organized according to the FDES. However, it faces statistical and institutional challenges, as do other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this context, the Statistics Division of ECLAC, in collaboration with the Division of Sustainable Development and Human Settlements, join forces to support the production and use of key indicators and metrics for monitoring the effects of climate change, through the strengthening of Environmental Information Systems (AIS). These efforts, supported via the Development Account, aim to advance the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda and thus improve policy coherence in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, SAMOA Trajectory, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. UNSD delivered a statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES).

Workshop for the compilation of environmental SDG indicators in the Dominican Republic, 29 and 31 March, 5 and 7 April 2022

The National Statistics Office (ONE) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA) of the Dominican Republic, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) hosted a

four-day workshop to strengthen the technical capacities for the compilation of the environmental SDG indicators which are prioritized by the Dominican Republic. UNSD delivered a presentation on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) which also included a brief overview on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. ONE, with the support of ECLAC, published its first Environment Statistics Bulletin in December 2020, a dissemination tool developed jointly with the MIMARENA. This tool offers fundamental information for the design of public policies necessary to deal effectively with the causes and consequences of climate change. ECLAC supports the Dominican Republic in developing a System of Environmental Information (SIA), towards the consolidation of the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the policy coherence in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, SAMOA Trajectory, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.

DA12 Project: National Workshop for generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Saint Kitts and Nevis Hybrid, 22-24 June 2022

This DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" is being implemented by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. This was the fourth occasion for UNSD to participate in a national level workshop as part of this DA12 project since its inception. The workshop took place in a hybrid form and used intensively the implementation support material on environment and climate change statistics developed by UNSD, which were further adapted and applied as training materials by ECLAC. In addition, UNSD delivered a statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES).

SESRIC Webinar Series on Statistical Experiences Sharing: Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster Related Statistics 16 June 2022

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESCRIC) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), UNSD, UNESCAP, and ESCWA held a webinar focused on "*Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster Related Statistics*".

This webinar was part of a series, with the objective of exchanging knowledge and best practices to improve the production of disaster related statistics, including challenges and lessons learnt by national statistical offices (NSOs) of OIC member countries. Topics covered were, the nexus between official statistics and disaster risk reduction; the geospatial dimension in producing disaster-related statistics, and county experiences in producing disaster-related statistics, from Indonesia, Jordan and Mozambique. There was also a panel discussion on global and regional approaches to close the gaps in disaster-related statistics with question-and-answer sessions.

UNSD presented the geospatial dimension in producing disaster-related statistics, showcasing the global geospatial frameworks prepared by the UN-GGIM which facilities the integration of statistical and geospatial data and making geospatial information and services accessible, current, accurate and timely. UNSD also participated in the panel discussion and addressed how coordination could be achieved for the efficient flow and exchange of data between statistical and GIS related agencies for better disaster risk management and post-disaster recovery. The main take away from the webinar was that disaster risk management is complex and multi-disciplinary, having many stakeholders, resources and tools and therefore the need for the statistical, disaster and national mapping agencies (and other relevant organizations from local to global) to work together to produce fit for purpose disaster related statistics. The data produced is to be used by national governments in making policy and strategic decisions and to support reporting to the Sendai Framework and the SDGs global monitoring systems.

National workshop on Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Kingstown (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), 27-29 June 2022

This DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" is being managed by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. This was the fifth occasion for UNSD to participate in a national level workshop since the project's inception.

UNSD was represented remotely by two colleagues who between them delivered a statement in the inaugural session, gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), and participated in group work at a technical level. Those group exercises drew from materials prepared by UNSD and endorsed by the Statistical Commission (the Global Set, the FDES and related supporting methodologies). Participants demonstrated enthusiasm for the compilation of a broad thematic variety of statistics which will require inter- institutional collaboration from those who were in attendance. UNSD's participation allowed it to build upon existing relationships with ECLAC and St Vincent and the Grenadines which will assist in other aspects of work including regular data collection.

DA12 Project: National Workshop for generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Dominica Dominica/hybrid, 19-21 July 2022

This DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" is being implemented by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. This was the sixth occasion for UNSD to participate in a national level workshop as part of this DA12 project since its inception. The workshop took place in a hybrid form and used intensively the implementation support material on environment and climate change statistics developed by UNSD, which were further adapted and applied as training materials by ECLAC. In addition, UNSD delivered a

statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). UNSD's participation allowed it to build upon existing relationships with ECLAC and Dominica which will assist in other aspects of work including regular data collection.

DA12 Project: National Workshop for generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Grenada hybrid, 17-19 October 2022

This DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" is being implemented by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. This was the seventh occasion for UNSD to participate in a national level workshop as part of this DA12 project since its inception, but this time UNSD was present both in-person and virtually. The workshop used intensively the implementation support material on environment and climate change statistics developed by UNSD, which were further adapted and applied as training materials by ECLAC. In addition, UNSD delivered a statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). UNSD's participation allowed it to build upon existing relationships with ECLAC and Grenada which will assist in other aspects of work including regular data collection. The Government of Grenada has highly appreciated the support extended by UNSD in the areas of environment and climate change statistics emanating from the UNSD/CARICOM Development Account Project (2000-2003) and which has resulted in, inter alia, Grenada publishing environment statistics compendia, participating in the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, and contributing extensively to the development and adoption of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators by the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission.

DA12 Project: National Workshop for generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Belize, hybrid, 9-11 November 2022

This DA12 project entitled "Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies" is being implemented by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and UNSD. This was the eighth occasion for UNSD to participate in a national level workshop as part of this DA12 project since its inception, but this time UNSD was present both in-person and virtually.

The workshop used intensively the implementation support material on environment and climate change statistics developed by UNSD, such as the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) which were applied as training materials by ECLAC. In addition, UNSD delivered a statement in the inaugural session and gave two presentations on: the Global Set of Climate Change and Indicators, and the FDES. UNSD's participation allowed it to build upon existing relationships with ECLAC and Belize which will assist in other aspects of work including

regular data collection. The Government of Belize has highly appreciated the support extended by UNSD in the areas of environment and climate change statistics emanating from the UNSD/CARICOM Development Account Project (2000-2003), recognizes and systematically applies UNSD environment statistics outputs, such as the FDES and the ESSAT, and greatly values its participation in the Expert Group on Environment Statistics.

Workshop on Environment and Climate Change Statistics for the African Development Fund Countries, Nairobi, Kenya, 28 November - 1 December 2022

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat organized a Workshop on Environment Statistics and Climate Change Statistics for 37 African Fund Countries, for which UNSD provided the overall substantive support towards its organization and conduct. The workshop took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 28 November to 1 December 2022. Several other international and inter-governmental organizations participated in the Workshop, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as several African regional economic communities such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and African statistical training institutes. The workshop brought together stakeholders from National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Environment (including some national reporting authorities to UNFCCC) in order to strengthen the user-producer dialogue, collaboration and data exchange at the national level.

Delivered in a hybrid manner, the workshop significantly referenced the implementation support material on environment and climate change statistics (such as the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013), the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT), the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators (Global Set), the Climate Change Indicators Self-Assessment Tools (CISAT) and the Implementation Guidelines developed by UNSD. The Chief of the Environment Statistics Section participated in person, provided an opening statement and delivered several presentations, and another staff member of the Section participated virtually and delivered some presentations. The Workshop was very well received by the participants who found it extremely useful in providing them with guidance towards the implementation of the FDES 2013, the ESSAT, the Global Set and the CISAT in their countries. In addition to group work sessions and presentations by other key partners such as UNFCCC, the Workshop discussed and adopted a key set of recommendations on the way forward. UNSD's participation allowed for the expansion of existing relationships with COMESA and other institutions present, which will assist in all aspects of global and regional work on environment and climate change statistics.

National mission and workshop to initiate the development of a national programme of climate change statistics and indicators in Peru, Lima, Peru, 12-16 December 2022

UNSD in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the National Institute of Statistics and Information (INEI) and the Ministry

of Environment (MINAM) of Peru organized a five-day national mission including a three-day workshop to initiate the development of a national programme of climate change statistics and indicators in Peru. The mission is part of an RPTC activity proposal entitled 'Support to countries to initiate the development of national programmes of climate change statistics and indicators'. The main goal of the national workshop was to increase the technical capacity for climate change and environment statistics in the country, by bringing the stakeholders together to provide hands-on training on priority topics related to climate change. For this purpose, the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, recently adopted by the 53rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the recently drafted implementation support tools, were applied in the country.

The workshop was attended by about 40 participants from 24 national institutions (18 of which were engaged by INEI and MINAM last year, to contribute to the Global Consultation on the draft Global Set). The workshop established that Peru has a very strong basis for the strengthening of a National Statistics System covering comprehensively the data requirements for the Enhance Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement and other national and international commitments related to climate and environment. However, currently the processes of data supply and use may be fragmented or insufficiently coordinated at national level; there may also be duplication of effort on data collection in some subject areas; there are data gaps in quantity and quality of certain subject areas; there are also deficiencies in preparedness to apply the existing input data in indicators needed to monitor climate/environmental policies. The workshop recommended that INEI and MINAM establish a national committee on climate change and environment statistics; complete the self-assessment; define priorities for statistical development and prepare a national action plan; and further engage the key stakeholders in the processes of producing statistics which will contribute both to national policies and international reporting. The workshop was closed by the Director of INEI and the Minister of Environment reiterating their commitment. A bilateral meeting was held with UNDP on the last day of the mission who provided assurance that the initiative will be fully supported.

Expert Group meetings

Eighth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, 12-20 October 2021

The Eighth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES), organized by UNSD, was held virtually on 12, 13, 14, 19 and 20 October 2021. The meeting was attended by approximately 134 experts in environment statistics and climate change statistics from countries and agencies. The meeting discussed, inter alia: (i) climate change statistics and indicators; (ii) environment statistics data collection; the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and related methodological work; and (iv) capacity development in environment statistics and climate change statistics. Several experts made presentations on the above agenda items including on recent developments regarding the fulfilling of the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement. The meeting facilitated fruitful dialogue which allows UNSD to continue to lead and coordinate the work programme on environment statistics, e.g., in response to the mandate of the Statistical Commission where the Division was requested to develop a Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators in close collaboration with

UNFCCC.

One of the main outcomes of the meeting was that considering the extensive global consultation to which 85 countries from all regions and 25 agencies participated in, as well the country presentations and plenary discussions/group work during the meeting, the EGES recommended that the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators be submitted to the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission in 2022 for adoption. Concerning the waste and water data which UNSD collects from countries via the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, experts agreed for continuation of close collaboration concerning methodologies used and content within questionnaires so as best to meet SDG- and other policy-related demands while minimizing any burden to countries.

Ninth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, New York, 25-28 October 2022

The Ninth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES), organized by the Statistics Division, was held virtually from 25 to 28 October 2022. Approximately 158 experts in environment statistics and climate change statistics from countries and agencies registered for the meeting. The meeting discussed, inter alia: (i) climate change statistics and indicators; (ii) environment statistics data collection; (iii) environment statistics toolbox; and (iv) capacity development in environment statistics and climate change statistics.

Several experts made presentations on the above agenda items including on recent developments regarding the reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement. The meeting facilitated fruitful dialogue which allows UNSD to continue to lead and coordinate the work programme on environment statistics and climate change statistics, in particular due to the adoption by the Statistical Commission of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) in 2013 and of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators in 2022, as statistical frameworks to be used by countries embarking on environment statistics and climate change statistics respectively. UNSD's main planned outputs after the adoption of the Global Set, namely the Implementation Guidelines and the Climate Change Statistics Self- Assessment Tool (CISAT), were discussed at length and experts provided valuable advice to assist towards their finalization and use by countries.

Important linkages were made between climate and gender statistics, as well as climate and health statistics, and appreciation was expressed on the collaboration between UNSD and UN-Women, and between UNSD and the UK Office of National Statistics, for the respective topics. Concerning the waste and water data which UNSD collects from countries via the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, experts agreed for continuation of close collaboration concerning methodologies used and content within questionnaires so as best to meet SDG- and other policy-related demands while minimizing any burden to countries. Capacity development drew a lot of interest and UNSD and regional institutions, delivering multiple capacity development activities on environment, climate change and disaster statistics, in partnership with specialized agencies and other development partners, will continue engaging and collaborating, given limited resources and the need to minimize duplication of effort.

Cross-cutting statistics

SDG indicators

Workshops

Workshop on Preparing Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews for 2021 HLPF, 18-19 January 2021

In July 2021, forty-four countries plan to present a Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the HLPF, many of whom (35 countries) presenting a review for the second or third time. Data and statistics are the backbone of any meaningful and evidence-based review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants from these countries were invited to discuss and share best practices and lessons learned on how data and statistics can support a data-driven and evidence-based VNR process and how countries have responded to the COVID-19 crisis in terms of data collection for the implementation of the SDGs. The workshop was organized around the following themes: (i) national SDG monitoring mechanisms and processes; (ii) assessing and including the impacts of COVID-19 in VNRs; (iii) integrating new data sources and data innovations for official statistics and partnerships with stakeholders (iv) data disaggregation and leaving no one behind; and (v) communicating data in VNRs and engaging data users.

A total of 105 participants from 36 countries presenting a VNR in 2021 attended. The workshop included participants from national statistical offices (NSOs), Ministries of planning, Permanent Missions and other offices tasked with developing and leading the VNR process. Participants from Egypt, Japan, Colombia, Denmark, Malaysia, Spain, Myanmar and Lao PDR presented on these areas, providing examples of NSOs leading data work for the VNR process; integration of new data innovations and sources, in particular due to COVID-19; the effects of the pandemic on the SDGs in country; as well as best practices presenting VNR reports and engagement with stakeholders.

Data sharing and metadata training for Bangladesh as part of the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring, 6-8 April 2021

In partnership with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), UNSD delivered a series of online training workshops in the development of data sharing agreements and the compilation of national metadata for the SDGs. The training involved participants from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and almost all the line ministries producing data for SDG indicators in Bangladesh, with over 70 participants each day. Due to the importance of the work and the current difficult COVID-19 situation in Bangladesh, the workshop was opened by Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Ms. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh and Mr. Mohammad Tajul Islam, Director General of BBS.

The first part of the training focussed on developing mechanisms to streamline the flow of

data within the national statistical system in Bangladesh, reducing processing time and reporting burden, thereby facilitating the reporting of national data and other means through the Bangladesh's SDG Tracker and other means. The second part of the training highlighted the importance of SDG data being accompanied by national metadata, so users are able to interpret and use the data appropriately, as well as introducing participants to the globally agreed metadata reporting template, which facilitates the sharing of comparable metadata. The response to the training was extremely positive, with a commitment made by data providers to compiling and sharing draft metadata with BBS by late April, which will allow BBS to take forward plans to make the metadata available in the SDG Tracker alongside the data for each indicator, supported by the UNSD-FCDO project.

Virtual training on metadata compilation for SDGs for the wider national statistical system of Lao PDR, 11-13 May 2021

In support of Lao PDR's preparations to present its second VNR in July of this year, UNSD has ramped up capacity development efforts to ensure the data and metadata for SDG indicators are made widely available and accessible to users, as part of the UNSD- FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring. Over three morning sessions UNSD, supported by UN SIAP and consultants, conducted a virtual training workshop with the Lao Statistics Bureau and representatives from a wide range of line ministries and agencies compiling data for the SDGs. The workshop emphasized the importance of metadata, familiarized participants with the standardized metadata concepts to be used in describing SDG data, and demonstrated the process of converting compiled metadata into the SDMX format for machine readability and dissemination. Participants used the afternoons between the sessions to explore filling in the metadata template for their specific national SDG indicators and later presented their progress to the group to receive feedback and clarify any questions. Following the training, participants will finalize the compilation of their metadata and share it with LSB for publication on the national SDG data platform, which is forthcoming.

Training for Nepal on SDG metadata and establishing a national data platform as part of the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring, 10-14 May 2021

Working with partners, UNSD has delivered an online training workshop series between 10-14 May 2021 for the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in Nepal, covering the compilation of national metadata and establishing a national SDG data and metadata platform. The first workshop, delivered in partnership with UN SIAP, highlighted the importance of SDG data being accompanied by national metadata, so users are able to interpret and use the data appropriately, as well as introducing participants to the globally agreed metadata reporting template, which facilitates the sharing of comparable metadata in SDMX format.

The second workshop was delivered with the UK Office for National Statistics, who provided training in the use of Open SDG, an open-source solution for national SDG platforms. The training covered all aspects of configuring and customising the national platform for Nepal, as well as ongoing management including the updating of data and metadata in SDMX, building on both the metadata training and an earlier workshop on data modelling delivered by UNSD.

Both trainings made use of a combination of taught sessions, practical exercises, group discussions and quizzes. Following the training, with support from UNSD, CBS will be working with partners across the national statistical system in Nepal to continue to increase the availability of SDG data and metadata for their over 400 national indicators, making as many as possible available on their new Open SDG platform ahead of its official launch.

Data sharing and metadata training for Viet Nam as part of the UNSD- FCDO project on SDG monitoring, 25-26 May 2021

In partnership with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), UNSD delivered an online training workshop on the compilation of national metadata for the SDGs. The trainings took place on from 25- 26 May 2021 and involved participants from across the General Statistics Office (GSO) of Viet Nam. Through a combination of taught sessions, practical exercises, group discussions and quizzes, the training highlighted the importance of SDG data being accompanied by national metadata, so that users are able to interpret and use the data appropriately, as well as introducing participants to the globally agreed metadata reporting template, which facilitates the sharing of comparable metadata. At the end of the training, GSO presented a detailed action plan setting out how they would put their learning into action over the coming months by compiling national metadata for the 158 VSDG indicators using this global reporting template. This metadata will be published on Viet Nam's new SDG data dissemination platform, which is being developed by GSO with support from the UNSD-FCDO project and Istat, the Italian national statistics office.

Training for Cambodia on establishing a national SDG data platform, 27-28 May 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and the National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia (NIS) conducted a joint virtual workshop from 27-28 May 2021 on establishing a national SDG data and metadata platform for Cambodia. The training focused on supporting NIS in establishing a platform using Open SDG, an open- source solution for national SDG platforms, developed by partners including the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS). The training covered all aspects of configuring and customizing the national platform for Cambodia, as well as the use of a tool for establishing and managing English and Khmer translations of the new platform. The data in the platform will be automatically updated from NIS's main CAMSTAT platform, using an SDMX API. Following the training, NIS are working to further customize the platform and finalize the translations, as well as upload their SDG metadata, which they are currently in the process of compiling following separate training from UNSD. NIS aim to formally launch this new platform by the end of June.

Training for Lao PDR on establishing a national SDG data platform, 2-3 June 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) conducted a joint virtual two-day workshop on establishing a national SDG data and metadata platform for

Lao PDR from 2-3 June 2021. The training focused on supporting LSB in establishing a platform using Open SDG, an open-source solution for national SDG platforms, developed by partners including the UK Office forNational Statistics (ONS). The training covered all aspects of configuring and customising the national platform for LSB, as well as the use of a tool for establishing and managing English and Lao translations of the new platform. The data in the platform will be used in the upcoming VNR of Lao, which focuses on reporting on nine SDG goals. The data and related metadata have beenprepared following a prior training provided by the project on data modelling and metadata using the SDMX information model. Following the training, LSB colleagues are working to further customise the platform and finalise the translations, as well as upload their SDG data and metadata. LSB aims to formally launch this new platform by the end of June.

Webinar for the Arab region: Interagency and Experts Collaboration to Improve the Production and Dissemination of SDG Indicators from Official National Sources Beirut (Lebanon)/virtual, 8-10 June 2021

Upon the invitation of UNESCWA and UNEP, UNSD presented material demonstrating the value of countries' responses to the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (waste section), as feeding into the compilation of and reporting on SDG indicator 12.5.1 (national recycling rate), of which UNSD and UNEP are co-custodians for. In order to meet SDG-related and other demands, and to maintain relevance, modifying or adding variables collected via the Questionnaire (e.g. electronic waste, municipal waste) and mechanisms of how to do so, was very much appreciated. During the discussion, countries demonstrated keen interest for the Questionnaire to maintain strong relevance not only to SDG indicator 12.5.1, but also to several other SDG indicators related to waste (especially food waste [12.3.1]), and for UNSD and collaborating international agencies to continually bear in mind response burden put upon countries.

Virtual workshop the SDG and COVID-19 Data Visualization Toolkit in the context of the UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring, 17/18 August 2021

With many countries launching their SDG data and metadata platforms this past year and also presenting their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), UNSD received requests for guidance in developing and delivering engaging data visualizations across a range of outputs and media. In response, UNSD developed an SDG and COVID-19 data visualization toolkit as part of the UNSD-FCDO project, containing a set of SDG and COVID-19 related icons, along with templates for a range of outputs, including reports, infographics, social media and flyers.

The workshop introduced the toolkit and provided guidance on how to best make use of the icons and templates included in the toolkit. It also shared best practices for designing graphics, introduced some of the other available tools and resources, and provided examples of how to utilize the toolkit for SDG and COVID-19 related reporting and other thematic outputs. The workshop was offered during two different sessions – on 17 August in the evening and on 18

August in the morning (New York time), in order to allow countries across different time zones to participate. Guest speakers working in visual communications and social media presented key considerations for effectively engaging with users through various media. Three of the project countries – Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Kyrgyzstan – also shared their experiences in successfully producing data visualizations.

Following workshop, the SDG and COVID-19 data visualization toolkit will be made available to project countries for use as a starting point in reaching a wider audience.

International Workshop on the Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 12-13 January 2022

UNSD and the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) jointly organized an International Workshop on the Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, held as a virtual event from 12-13 January 2022. The Director of UNSD opened the meeting along with the Deputy Commissioner of the NBS. The workshop brought together close to 120 participants from 18 countries in the region of Asia and the Pacific and from the Chinese national statistical system. The workshop invited experts from UNSD, UN-ESCAP, UNODC, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, IDA, UN Women, ADB, and from national statistical offices. The workshop focused on SDG global indicator framework and monitoring the SDGs at global, regional and thematic levels. Participants in the workshop shared their national experiences in SDG monitoring and national SDG data reporting mechanisms and platforms. In addition, the workshop discussed the practical tools and guidance for countries to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data to ensure no one is left behind. Lastly, the workshop discussed the topics of data innovations and the use of non-traditional data sources for monitoring the SDGs amid the pandemic.

Series of SDG Webinars for the Arab Region: UNEP and UNSD on selected SDG indicators under Goals 12 and 15, 12 May 2022, virtual

Organized by ESCWA in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and UNSD, colleagues from the Environment Statistics Section and the Environmental-Economic Accounts Section presented on their respective work and how it relates to SDG indicators. This workshop is part of a series that UNSD has previously contributed to in close collaboration with ESCWA and UNEP.

From the environment statistics section, a colleague presented on how the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics serves as a key input into SDG indicator 12.4.2 (Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment). The variety in data availability concerning SDG 12.4.2 of ESCWA member states was shared with countries, and UNSD demonstrated to what extent country data could be used to analyse hazardous waste generated per capita, and hazardous waste by treatment type (recycling, incineration, landfill, etc.). The value of country-owned data for SDG indicator compilation was stressed. Questions from countries revealed their keen interest in understanding metadata and definitions of the Questionnaire (especially for its forthcoming 2022 collection cycle), and the Questionnaire's relationship to both the Basel Convention and e-waste.

In addition, the environmental-economic accounts section provided a brief introduction to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and sub-indicator 15.9.1b. The presentation introduced the conceptual frameworks of the SEEA Central Framework and the recently adopted SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, and explained how they provide the integrated information necessary to go beyond GDP and help monitor the SDGs. UNSD also presented sub-indicator 15.9.1b, which looks at the integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the SEEA. UNSD administers the Global Assessment on Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics to collect data for the sub-indicator. UNSD shared the results of the 2021 Global Assessment and stressed the importance of obtaining high quality data from the region not only for sub-indicator 15.9.1b, but also to better inform the SEEA community's capacity building efforts.

Workshop on Small Area Estimation under the Data For Now Project, 16-20 May, Senegal

The National Statistical Office of Senegal (ANSD) and relevant national stakeholders identified small area estimation (SAE) as one of the priority areas for capacity development under the Data For Now initiative to improve the level of disaggregation of available data. ANSD identified Food Insecurity Experience Scale (a key measure of food security) for the application of Small Area Estimation since it is one of the key measures of food security in Senegal, the indicator is currently available at the regional level, and there is a need to estimate it at the department level, and ANSD staff is well versed with the indicator's methodology with a recent training also conducted by FAO in September 2021 under the Data For Now project. In this context, a 5-day workshop was conducted at the National Statistical Office of Senegal (ANSD) from 16-20 May on the application of small area estimation by the project's consultant. Participants reviewed the basics for domain estimation, used R to run examples, and calculated FIES indicator at the department level (small areas). On the last two days of training, participants analyzed the census data to extract auxiliary variables for the area model and run an application using FIES. More than 10 participants attended the workshop from the National Statistical System.

UNSD workshop and training for Nepal on compilation of SDG data & metadata and establishing a national data platform, Dhulikhel (Nepal), 7-9 June 2022

As part of the UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring, UNSD and the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal (CBS) conducted a workshop on the use of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the compilation and sharing of SDG data and metadata. The three-day workshop was held from 7-9 June 2022, in Dhulikhel, Nepal, with about 20 statistics and IT experts from CBS and a range of line ministries participating. In the first part of the workshop, the basics of the data modelling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting and customizing the global structures for national use. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the data modelling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. Participants then worked on modelling their own data and by the end of the workshop, almost 100 disaggregated SDG indicator series had been

prepared.

The second part of the workshop focused on metadata, highlighting the importance of SDG data being accompanied by national metadata, so users are able to interpret and use the data appropriately, as well as supporting participants in using the globally agreed metadata reporting template to compile the metadata for the indicators they had been working on, and sharing that metadata in SDMX format.

In the final session, UNSD introduced participants to Open SDG, an open-source solution for national SDG platforms, which CBS will be using to disseminate the data and metadata they have compiled. UNSD are currently following this up with further remote support for CBS IT staff in configuring and customizing the national platform for Nepal, with CBS working towards officially launching their platform, at an event with senior policymakers, at the end of June.

Workshop on the use of small area estimation for the SDGs in Ethiopia Bishoftu (Ethiopia), 13-17 June 2022

UNSD in partnership with, the Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS) organized and facilitated a five-day technical workshop from 13-17 June 2022 on the application of small area estimation (SAE) for the production of disaggregated SDG data, as part of the UNSD- FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring. The workshop was attended by 28 participants from the different directorates of ESS.

The workshop introduced the participants to the theory and concepts of domain estimation, introduced them to a number of area-level and unit-level modelling approaches, and supported them in developing and evaluating small area estimates using national data from ESS through the R software package. By the end of the workshop, participants had developed draft area-level and unit-level models for variables of interest from the recent agricultural survey using data from the last census and geospatial data, including earth observation. UNSD will be following up with ESS after the workshop to further refine the modelled estimates and provide guidance for developing ESS's capacity to use SAE in official statistics. These activities are also part of the Data For Now initiative, which aims to increase the use of innovative sources and technologies in the production and dissemination of SDG data, improving its timeliness, coverage, and quality. Ethiopia is also among several countries under the Data For Now initiative where UNSD will be working closely to support related activities.

Training webinar series on development of SDG data & metadata platforms using Open SDG, 27 & 30 June 2022

UNSD, in partnership with the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), held a two-part training webinar series for countries that have used Open SDG to develop their SDG data platforms, as part of the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG Monitoring. Open SDG is an open-source, free to use solution for managing and publishing national data and metadata for the SDGs. Seven out of the twenty countries participating in the UNSD-FCDO project chose to develop and launch national data platforms using Open SDG, with support from UNSD.

All seven countries (Cambodia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Rwanda, Tajikistan)

participated and engaged actively in the webinar series, which focused on important tasks for the maintenance and improvement of countries' Open SDG implementations, with these topics identified through earlier engagement with the NSOs of the countries on their priorities. The first session, on 27th June, focussed on tasks including upgrading to the latest version of Open SDG, creation of a production site, and auditing and changing the content of pages. This was built upon in the second session on 30th June, which covered topics including uploading of indicator metadata using the global SDG metadata authoring tool template developed by UNSD, expanding the platform to include standalone (non-SDG) indicator pages, and the display of subnational breakdowns using maps.

In addition to covering these topics, the webinar series also succeeded in its aim to facilitate exchange between the project countries, as well as other organisations working with Open SDG such as ONS, so that after the UNSD-FCDO project concludes later this year, there is a strong Open SDG user community in place whose members can support each other, helping ensure the sustainability of these platforms through to 2030 and beyond.

Virtual workshop on strengthening the use of geospatial information for the production of SDG indicators for Rwanda, 21-24 June 2022

UNSD, in partnership with FAO and Digital Earth Africa, organized and facilitated a four-day virtual technical workshop on the use of geospatial information for SDG monitoring from 21-24 June 2022, as part of the UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring. The workshop introduced the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, developed by the IAEG-SDGs' Working Group on Geospatial Information and adopted by the Statistical Commission in March 2022, as a tool for guiding the integration of geospatial information and statistics for the SDGs at the national level, demonstrating the practice and potential of using geospatial data, including Earth observations, to calculate SDG indicators. The workshop brought together staff members of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) and the Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority to discuss and apply geospatial calculation methods to selected prioritized SDG indicators:

SDG 2.4.1: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture; and,
SDG 15.4.2: Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI).

The workshop was aligned with the Data For Now initiative, which aims to increase the use of innovative sources and technologies in the production and dissemination of SDG data, improving its timeliness, coverage, and quality.

During the workshop, Mr. Lorenzo DeSimone (FAO) discussed the different sub- indicators of multidimensional indicator 2.4.1, exploring with participants the data availability, methodological considerations and challenges for calculating the indicator in Rwanda. He also presented the FAO methodology for calculating indicator 15.4.2. Mr. Joseph Tuyishimire and Mr. Edward Boamah (Digital Earth Africa) demonstrated the resources their organization is making available in the region to support the use of geospatial data for development, including their online sandbox using Python to automate the calculation of indicators from geospatial data.

Participants were able to calculate indicator 15.4.2 using the DE Africa Jupyter notebooks and to have a frank discussion on the challenges presented by indicator 2.4.1. It was suggested that a follow- up in-person workshop be organized in the Fall of 2022 to allow for more time for participants to become acquainted with the tools and methods and to further their progress in the integration of geospatial information and statistics.

Workshop on the use of geospatial information for the production of SDG indicators Bujumbura (Burundi), 27-29 June 2022

UNSD, in partnership with Digital Earth Africa, organized a three-day technical workshop on the use of geospatial information for SDG monitoring from 27-29 June 2022, as part of the UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring. The workshop, held in a hybrid format, introduced the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, developed by the IAEG-SDGs' Working Group on Geospatial Information and adopted by the Statistical Commission in March 2022, as a tool for guiding the integration of geospatial information and statistics for the SDGs at the national level, demonstrating the practice and potential of using geospatial data, including Earth observations, to calculate SDG indicators. The workshop was facilitated in-person by Mr. Joseph Tuyishimire of Digital Earth Africa, with input from UNSD staff joining remotely and in-person support from the UN RCO in Burundi. Participants from the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU), the Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEBU), the Geomatics Centralization Office (BCG) and the Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (OBPE) learned about and discussed the application of geospatial calculation methods to selected prioritized SDG indicators:

SDG 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area;
SDG 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area; and,
SDG 15.4.2:Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI).

The workshop was aligned with the Data For Now initiative, which aims to increase the use of innovative sources and technologies in the production and dissemination of SDG data, improving its timeliness, coverage, and quality. Participants appreciated the opportunity to be introduced to the new sources and methods and expressed their interest in conducting a follow-up longer workshop to further develop their capacity in this emerging area.

Technical Assistance Seminar: Follow up on SDG indicators with incomplete or missing data in Guatemala, as part of the National Development Priorities hybrid: 11 October 2022, Guatemala City (Guatemala)

As custodian of SDG Indicator 7.2.1 on renewable energy (together with the International Energy Agency), UNSD was invited to clarify aspects of the indicator to Guatemalan authorities as part of their "National Development Priorities: Water Access and Natural Resource Management in the Area of Energy and Clean Technology". UNSD presented virtually (in Spanish) to Guatemalan authorities from the National Statistical Institute, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the National Secretariat of Planning, and other institutions, all they

wanted to know about the indicator, working with them a way forward, including the establishment of a focal point in the country.

Other aspects discussed were the importance of the indicator as one of the two prongs of reducing GHG emissions from the energy sector, metadata, step-by-step calculation, definition of variables, formulas, frequency of calculation, responsibilities, uses and interpretations.

UNSD's participation was very successful in clarifying some misconceptions and pointing out that Guatemala already produces the relevant statistics necessary for the calculation of the indicator, which not everybody was aware of. UNSD suggested another seminar the following week to focus on SDG indicator 7.3.1 on energy efficiency, which was promptly accepted, even though it was not previously a priority, having become one when Guatemalan authorities realized it is a low-hanging fruit not yet harvested.

Technical Assistance Seminar: Follow up on SDG indicators with incomplete or missing data in Guatemala, as part of the National Development Priorities Guatemala City (Guatemala), 21 October 2022

As custodian of SDG Indicator 7.3.1 on energy efficiency (together with the International Energy Agency), UNSD was invited to clarify aspects of the indicator to Guatemalan authorities as part of their "National Development Priorities: Water Access and Natural Resource Management in the Area of Energy and Clean Technology". In addition to the SDG indicator, Guatemala asked for advice on indicator(s) on energy efficiency rates that are mentioned in different places of their National Plan but never defined. The Chief of the Energy Statistics Section presented virtually (in Spanish) to Guatemalan authorities from the National Statistical Institute, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the National Secretariat of Planning, and other institutions, all they wanted to know about the SDG indicator and related energy efficiency indicators to inform their own policies, working with them a way forward, including the establishment of a focal point in the country.

Other aspects discussed were the importance of the indicator as one of the two prongs of reducing GHG emissions from the energy sector, metadata, step-by- step calculation, definition of variables, formulas, frequency of calculation, responsibilities, uses and interpretations. Guatemala has been using the nationally- calculated SDG indicator 7.3.1 for their (overall) indicator on energy efficiency rates. The trend of the national series diverges a bit from the SDG series calculated by the custodians using harmonized methodology. UNSD invited the country to get in contact for clarification, while pointing out that the official SDG database uses GDP in real terms and measured in purchase power parity (PPP) US dollars. Additionally, UNSD called the country's attention to the importance of also defining more disaggregated energy efficiency indicators fit to monitor and evaluate national energy efficiency policies and their targets. Reference material on energy efficiency indicators was shared.

Initiation mission to Sierra Leone under the Data For Now project and SDG Metadata workshop, 20-27 October 2022

UNSD conducted an initiation mission to Sierra Leone, as one of the participating countries, under the Data For Now initiative. The project is funded by the Italian and Norwegian governments to support the Data For Now approach of strengthening capacity of countries in the use of innovative data sources, technology, and methods to support the information needed to support the 2030 agenda. The first two days of the mission focused on introducing and prioritizing activities to be implemented under the Data For Now project. Meetings were held with the senior staff with focus on the Data For Now project. This was followed by practical level sessions with Statistics Sierra Leone, line ministries, and data owners to identify specific data needs linked to policy priorities, including the need for new data/indicators as well as increased timeliness and/or disaggregation of existing data, exploring feasibility of priority data needs and identify potential data sources.

From 24-26 October UNSD staff served as resource persons, to conduct a SDG Metadata workshop to support the national statistical system's ability to compile national metadata for SDG indicators in Sierra Leone. The workshop introduced participants to the metadata template, guide participate to compile metadata, and share experience from other countries on compilation and dissemination of SDG metadata and data. This activity was led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Sierra Leone, who also funded most of SDs travel costs for the mission, in collaboration with Statistics Sierra Leone.

Expert Group meetings

First Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs Task Team on Sustainable Tourism Virtual, 8 September 2022

The *Task Team on Sustainable Tourism* held its first meeting on 8 September 2022. The task team was formed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) following a direction of the UN Statistical Commission with a mandate to develop indicators on sustainable tourism to better monitor Target 8.9.

Six member countries attended along with UNSD staff and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Ms. Cara Williams of Canada, IAEG-SDGs co-chair, chaired the meeting. She briefed members on the terms of reference of the task team, including objectives, activities, membership, working modalities, and timeline and workplan. UNWTO shared their ongoing work on measuring the sustainability of tourism. A timeline of important developments regarding indicators for Target 8.9 and proposed a decision framework to search, screen, and select sustainable tourism indicator(s) to be submitted to the IAEG-SDGs during the 2025 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework was also presented. These presentations were followed by an open discussion where members shared their expectations and comments on the work of the task team.

Second Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs Task Team on Sustainable Tourism, 29 November 2022

The Task Team on Sustainable Tourism held a virtual meeting on 29 November 2022. The Task Team was formed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG- SDGs) to develop sustainable tourism indicators to better monitor Target 8.9. Eight member countries attended along with UNSD, UNWTO, and ILO. Ms. Cara Williams of Canada, IAEG-SDGs and task team co-chair, chaired the meeting. The chair introduced two new members and informed all members of meeting modalities going forward. UNSD then presented the process, timeline, and tentative criteria for the 2025 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework that were adopted by the IAEG-SDGs at its 13th meeting in November 2022. After the presentation, members had an open discussion on Target 8.9 and what indicators for this target should measure. Members also spent some time considering the definition of "sustainable tourism" developed jointly by UNEP and UNWTO and concluded that this definition was sufficient for the task at hand. Finally, members agreed on a way forward for the work of the task team. The task team will have its next meeting in March 2023.

Gender statistics

Expert Group meetings

15th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, 6-8 December 2021

UNSD organized the 15th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), in a virtual format from 6-8 December 2021. The Group was established in 2007 to provide guidance to the Global Programme on Gender Statistics, mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission. UNSD is the secretariat of the Group. The meeting brought together more than 80 national, regional, and international experts working in the area of gender statistics from the national statistical offices of the 21 member countries of the Group, 5 regional commissions and 16 international organizations.

The Group (a) agreed on its contribution to integrating a gender perspective into the work of the UN Statistical Commission as per decision 51/115 b; (b) facilitated country- country exchange of good practices and lessons learned in producing gender statistics; as well as country-agency understanding of related data needs and priorities; (c) reviewed international methods and guidelines to produce statistics on selected areas of gender concerns, namely on femicides/feminicides; on violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic; and on work and labor force statistics; (d) took stock of IAEG-GS's members ongoing work in using administrative records to close gender data gaps; (e) informed and reviewed recent initiatives to strengthen gender statistics, implemented by regional and international organizations to enhance coordination; and (f) agreed on the IAEG-GS' annual work plan for 2022.

16ᵗʰ Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), 12-14 December 2022 (virtual)

The 16ᵗʰ Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) was organized by the Statistics Division, virtually, on 12-14 December 2022. The meeting was attended by over 100 participants, including gender statisticians and experts in the areas of environment and trade statistics from national, regional and international statistical entities. The IAEG-GS (a) discussed on-going activities related to mainstreaming a gender perspective into climate change statistics, and into trade statistics, and developed a plan of work for an established IAEG-GS Advisory Group to carry out this mandate and ultimately report back to the Statistical Commission on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Commission; (b) discussed and provided feedback on preliminary results from the 2022 Global Survey on National Gender Statistics Programmes; (c) took stoke of national initiatives on closing data gaps for monitoring gender equality as well as of activities by the Regional Commissions and international agencies to strengthen gender statistics, in such areas as violence against women (including among elderly women and women with disabilities); and (e) discussed future work priorities for the IAEG-GS, as well as preparations for the 9ᵗʰ Global Forum on Gender Statistics that will be hosted by Statistics South Africa in 2023.

The IAEG-GS was established in 2006 to provide guidance to the Global Programme on Gender Statistics, mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission. UNSD is the secretariat of the Group.

Statistical infrastructure and methodology

Classifications

Expert Group meetings

First meeting of the Task team on the revision of the Standard International Energy Product Classification (TT-SIEC), 14 July 2022

The Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) is the first international classification for energy products built on a set of internationally harmonised definitions of energy products. It was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2011 as part of the *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics*. SIEC aims to cover all products necessary to provide a comprehensive picture of the production, transformation and consumption of energy throughout an economy.

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 53ʳᵈ session (2022) endorsed the proposal from the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (CEISC) to

revise SIEC, aiming to address definitional and content changes that have been identified by users. Given the ongoing revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC), the CEISC proposed a concomitant revision of SIEC to ensure better harmonization between the classifications. For this purpose, a task team on the revision of SIEC (TT-SIEC) has been established, being composed of experts responsible for energy statistics, statistical classifications, the SEEA and other related areas from countries and relevant international and regional organizations. The first meeting served as an introduction among the members, discussed the Terms of Reference of the TT-SIEC, and proposed an initial list of issues to be discussed. The meeting counted 25 participants representing countries and international organizations. Within UNSD, the work is coordinated with the relevant substantive sections, namely the Business Statistics Section, the Energy Statistics Section and the Environmental Accounts Section.

Third meeting of the Task team on the revision of the Standard International Energy Product Classification (TT-SIEC), 18 October 2022

The Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) is the first international classification for energy products built on a set of internationally harmonised definitions of energy products. It was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2011 as part of the *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics*. SIEC aims to cover all products necessary to provide a comprehensive picture of the production, transformation and consumption of energy throughout an economy.

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 53rd session (2022) endorsed the proposal from the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (CEISC) to revise SIEC, aiming to address definitional and content changes that have been identified by users. Given the ongoing revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC), the CEISC proposed a concomitant revision of SIEC to ensure better harmonization between the classifications. For this purpose, a task team on the revision of SIEC (TT-SIEC) has been established, being composed of experts responsible for energy statistics, statistical classifications, the SEEA and other related areas from countries and relevant international and regional organizations. The third meeting followed up from previous work, concluding the initial list of issues and started preparations for an expert consultation on this list until the end of 2022. Participants actively discussed principles underlining SIEC's scope, setting up the tone of the questions; were updated on the revision of the CPC; and on the CEISC meeting on 25- 28 October.

The meeting counted with 23 participants representing countries and international organizations. Within UNSD, the work is coordinated with the relevant substantive Sections, namely Business Statistics Section, Energy Statistics Section and Environmental Accounts Section.

Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, UNHQ, 25 – 28 October 2022

UNSD organized the Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications in New York from 25 – 28 October 2022. 32 experts from several

countries and international organizations attended the meeting in person. In addition, some experts remotely joined selected sessions of the meeting. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the work on classifications, UNSD experts on national accounts, energy statistics and environmental accounts also participated in the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the revision processes of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), the Central Product Classification (CPC), the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC), and the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG). The Committee approved two classifications as international classifications: the Classification of Statistical Activities Version2.0 (CSA Ver. 2.0) by UNSD and UNECE,and the International Classification of Violence Against Children (ICVAC) by UNICEF. The revised ISIC, the revised CSA and ICVAC will be submitted to the UNSC for endorsement.

Finally, the Committee reviewed updates on other classifications, such as the Harmonized System (HS) 2027 from WCO, the Classification of Environmental Functions from Eurostat, the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) from ILO, the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes from UNODC, and the International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons from UNODC.

The UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications is the central coordination body for the work on international statistical classifications. UNSD serves as the secretariat of the Committee.

Workshop for the Implementation of the Degree of Urbanization Methodology in South-East-Asian Countries, Bangkok, Thailand, 28 November - 2 December 2022

The Statistics Division conducted a training workshop for the implementation of the Degree of Urbanization methodology in South-East-Asian Countries in Bangkok, Thailand from 28 November to 2 December 2022. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the European Commission Joint Research Center and UN-Habitat. Historically, countries use different criteria to define cities and urban areas which has made it difficult to compare related statistics across countries. With the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in 2016 there was a need to harmonize statistical definitions of cities, urban and rural areas.

The *Degree of Urbanization methodology* was therefore developed by the European Commission and partners and was endorsed by the Statistical Commission at it 51st session. The implementation of this methodology results in a harmonized classification of cities, urban and rural areas across countries that is people based and relies on three simple criteria: population size, population density and grid cell contiguity. Participants in the workshop included statisticians and geospatial specialists from 9 countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. By the end of the workshop, each participant produced a classification by degree of urbanization for local units and respective population of their country. Participants reported that they will implement the Degree

of Urbanization as their national definition due to the simplicity of concepts of population size and density and appreciated that both statistical offices and geospatial agencies were invited, and they had the opportunity to work together.

Data sources - Population and housing census

Workshops

United Nations Regional Workshop on Measuring Sustainable Development Indicators Through Population and Housing Census and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Data in African countries, 31 March-2 April 2021

UN Statistics Division, in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, conducted the Regional Workshop on Measuring SDG Indicators through Population and Housing Census and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Data virtually from 31 March-2 April 2021. The workshop was organized in English and French and attended by 40 participants from 21 countries, the African Development Bank and Southern African Development Community. The workshop focused on the newly issued Technical Report on Measuring Sustainable Development Goals Indicators through Population and Housing Census and Civil Registration Data, prepared by the UN Statistics Division and the UN regional commissions.

The workshop concluded that there are quite a few advantages in terms of exploiting census and civil registration data for compiling SDGs indicators and in terms of disaggregation by key policy groups and small geographical areas, as well as certain limitations such as conducting censuses once every ten years and lack of universal recording of vital events. The workshop highlighted the benefits of integrating geospatial information and census data for generating relevant SDG indicators and disaggregation and visualization at small geographic areas. The workshop also outlined adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of conducting both censuses and civil registration in uninterrupted manner. The workshop emphasized the usefulness of the methodological guidance for the use of census and civil registration data for computing SDG indicators and noted that the report, as well as the workshop itself, provide a sound basis for further elaboration of these issues at the national level to generate reliable, relevant, timely and disaggregated statistics.

Workshop on Using Administrative Registers for Population and Housing Censuses, 29-30 June 2021

UNSD organized an experience sharing workshop on *Using Administrative Registers for Population and Housing Censuses* jointly with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRIC) for member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The workshop discussed key considerations and requirements for transitioning from the traditional census to a combined or register-based censuses and provided a platform to exchange experiences for building comprehensive and reliable statistical registers for censuses. The

workshop also addressed methods used for establishing population register and building and dwelling register and highlighted the importance of continuous cooperation with register-owners to assess and improve the quality of administrative registers. Participants had extensive discussions on strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to leverage the use of administrative data for statistical purposes. The workshop was attended by more than 100 census experts from 32 national statistical offices and noted a growing interest in the use of administrative sources for producing census information.

Training workshop on Population and Housing Censuses
Guatemala City (Guatemala), 24-28 October 2022

UNSD in collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Guatemala (INE) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) organised a five-day training workshop, aiming at achieving improved understanding of registers-based approaches in conducting censuses and building capacity in assessing the availability and initial quality of administrative data sources.

The training workshop also discussed how to better utilize the results of the 2018 population and housing census of Guatemala to produce relevant SDG indicators at small geographic areas and for small population groups.

The workshop was attended by 20 staff from the INE, National Population Register Directorate, National Institute of Social Security and Ministry of Health. UNSD introduced the United Nations international guidelines on population and housing censuses, focusing in particular on the *Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses* and the *Technical Report on Measuring SDG Indicators from Population and Housing Census and Civil Registration Data*. The workshop had an extensive discussion on benefits of conducting censuses with the use of administrative data sources and challenges in changing census method particularly for countries that are planning to use administrative data sources for the first time. The workshop also discussed potential uses of the 2018 census data of Guatemala for the calculation of some SDG indicators and related disaggregation by sex, age group, ethnic groups, people with disabilities and migration status.

United Nations Regional Workshop on the 2020 World
Programme for Population and Housing Censuses for Arabic-
speaking Countries Algiers, Algeria, 5 - 8 December 2022

The United Nations Regional Workshop on the 2020 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses for Arabic-speaking Countries took place from 5 to 8 December 2022 in Algiers, Algeria. The workshop was organized by the Statistics Division in collaboration with UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (UNFPA ASRO), the Arab Institute for Training and Research on Statistics (AITRS) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Central and Western Asia (ESCWA). The workshop was conducted with the support of the Ministry of Digitization and Statistics of the Republic of Algeria and UNFPA Algeria Country Office. The workshop saw the participation of over 70 participants (census mangers, methodologists, experts

as well as representatives of UNFPA Country offices) from Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia. During the opening session, the workshop was addressed by Honorable Hocine Cherhabil, Minister, Ministry of Digitization and Statistics of the Republic of Algeria. The workshop aimed to help Arabic-speaking countries in achieving a common and enhanced understanding of international recommendations and standards on quality assurance in population and housing censuses, the impact and challenges of conducting a population and housing census during the COVID-19 pandemic and other crisis situations, and the necessary preconditions and the challenges of transitioning to a registers-based census. The workshop also provided a platform to discuss the experience, challenges and good practices available among Arabic-speaking countries in census-taking during the 2020 census round.

Expert Group meetings

Census-taking during the pandemic: Multiple challenges, 9-12 February 2021

UNSD organized and conducted the UN Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Conducting Population and Housing Census and on Census Data Quality Concerns, held online from 9 – 12 February 2021. Over one hundred experts from twenty-four national statistical offices took part, as well as participants from regional and international organizations. The meeting focused on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the design and conduct of census operations and challenges in producing timely, accurate and reliable small area statistics during the pandemic. The meeting also addressed data quality issues caused by the pandemic protocols and the effects of the pandemic on census statistics and comparability of census data over time.

Overall, the experts concluded that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on census- taking in a majority of countries participating at this expert group meeting resulted in increased costs. Postponing the planned activities, such as fieldwork, implied that the costs of providing, disseminating and storing census materials and devices would be much higher than initially planned for. Switching to data collection techniques that do not require direct contact with the respondents requires meticulous and extended testing, also not included in the original census budget. And implementing these techniques requires a significant additional investment, for example, in developing detailed geographical frames as address registers are not readily available in many countries. Additionally, conducting field enumeration under the pressure of Covid-19 pandemic have created concerns in terms of data quality. Changes in the design of field operation to reduce face-to-face interview and extending the duration of enumeration of the population several times, might have a negative impact on data quality. Respondents may have difficulty in remembering where they were living and how many people were residing at a given address on the census reference date. Conducting the fieldwork over a long period of time might result in ambiguous responses in terms of listing household members on the census reference date considering that household size might be changed during the enumeration.

Second United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Conducting Population and Housing Censuses and on Census Data Quality, 2 – 5 November 2021

The Second Expert Group Meeting on the COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Census-taking was organized and conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division and took place online from 2 to 5 November 2021. Over one hundred experts from well over forty national statistical offices took part, as well as participants from regional and international organizations and UN regional commissions. The first meeting on the topic was organized by the UN Statistics Division in February 2021 and its conclusions and recommendations were submitted to the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission in March.

This second meeting focused on potential adjustments of census questionnaires; modifications in census design and procedures to reduce the adverse impact of the pandemic; assessment of the quality of population and housing censuses in terms of impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on process and output quality; and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on data analysis and comparability overtime. The meeting concluded that a number of countries/areas adapted to the pandemic and conducted the population and housing census successfully. However, another considerable number of countries is repeatedly postponing conducting of the census with all the financial and substantial implications that come with it. The meeting also emphasized the many consequences related to interpreting data from censuses conducted amidst the pandemic.

Expert Group Meeting of the 6th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 24 – 28 October 2022

UNSD, in its role of a co-chair of the secretariat of the UN LIA Task Force, participated and substantially contributed to the Expert Group Meeting of the 6th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration - an event that was attended by more than 500 experts from the African continent with the task of preparing the discussion and proceedings for the Ministerial Conference. The recommendations of this expert group meeting are emphasizing the central role of the implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda for the African continent as the most efficient instrument for reaching the goals of legal identity for all by 2020. The resolutions and decisions of the 6th Conference will be available once the Conference takes place – scheduled for January 2023.

3rd United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Conducting Censuses and Quality Concerns, UNHQ, New York, 12 - 14 December 2022

The 3rd United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Conducting Censuses and Quality Concerns was organized and conducted by the United

Nations Statistics Division in New York from 12 to 14 December 2022. Thirty-two experts from 19 national statistical offices participated, as well as experts from UNSD, UNFPA and the Population Division of DESA. The following countries were represented in the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Ireland, Kyrgyz Republic, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

The third meeting aimed at continuing monitoring the challenges in conducting population and housing censuses during the pandemic, focusing on two areas; innovative approaches in designing census operations, challenges and mitigation strategies in conducting censuses under the pressure of the pandemic; and assessment of the quality of census data and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on comparability of census results across time. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss lessons learned from conducting censuses during times of crisis and recommendations for improving the resilience of future censuses.

Data sources – Household surveys

Workshops

Webinar: Designing and Implementing Gridded Population Surveys, 29 September 2022

Household surveys based on gridded population sample frames emerged more than a decade ago as an alternative to outdated or inaccurate census sample frames, with new methods to identify "hidden" urban populations. Rapid evolution of the inputs and methods to produce gridded population datasets means that these sample frames are increasingly accurate and fine-scale, enabling new survey designs that reduce time and resources spent in the field, and minimize face- to-face contacts in the era of COVID-19.

This 90-minute webinar was organized by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Survey (ISWGHS) and it was attended by around 250 people. Moderated by Dale A Rhoda (Biostat Global Consulting), the group of three experts, Dana R Thomson (University of Twente), Sarah Staveteig Ford (US Department of State), Michael Imohi (National Bureau of Statistics), provided guidance about the datasets and tools used in gridded population surveys, and reviewed three real-world comparisons between traditional census surveys and gridded population surveys in Uruguay, Nigeria, and Nepal. The webinar corresponded with the launch of *Designing and Implementing Gridded Population Surveys*, a manual with step-by-step tutorials for survey practitioners.

Technical Meeting on National Practices on Household Survey Microdata Dissemination, 14 April 2022

The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) organized a technical meeting on national practices on disseminating household survey microdata on 14 April 2022. During the meeting a small group of students from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) presented their findings on practices of survey microdata dissemination in 4 countries: Costa Rica, State of Palestine, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. The presentation highlighted key findings from a reported prepared by the LSE students after desk research and focus group discussion with the 4 countries. The findings pointed out the need for (a) global guidance on microdata anonymization especially on disclosure risk monitoring and threshold; and (b) building IT structure capacity for hosting the microdata and technical capacity of national statistical offices in documenting, anonymizing and disseminating survey microdata. Variations in national capacities and needs were also discussed, hence requires guidance to be flexible that can cater to countries with different needs. The work with LSE students is one of the many ongoing projects that UNSD has been collaborating with the University – outcome of this particular study will contribute to the work currently carried out by the ISWGHS Task Force on Microdata Dissemination. Such collaboration also is also an effort of UNSD in providing trainings to students through hands-on projects with countries.

International Seminar on "Measuring shared prosperity and inclusion: challenges and innovative approaches", 2-4 November 2022

This three-day international seminar was co-organized by UNSD and the National Bureau of Statistics China. Officially held in Hangzhou and Beijing, China, the seminar gathered around 40 speakers from national statistical offices, line ministries and regional and international organisations to discuss methodological development, projects, and national experiences about measuring shared prosperity and inclusion. Around 120 people attended the event from China whereas around 100 people from other countries. Each session of the conference focused on specific aspects of the main topic, including the use of household surveys and innovative approaches for data collection to measure poverty, prosperity and inclusion; integration of data from different sources to improve the inclusiveness on data on poverty; experience from national statistical offices in assessing inequality in poverty and ensure inclusiveness; the alignment of household survey data with SNA and broader concepts of poverty. The event allowed to share experiences of various institutions and countries, highlighting challenges and opportunities and fostered international discussion on this globally relevant topic.

Data sources – Administrative data

Mission to Bhutan on use of administrative data for statistics production Thimphu (Bhutan), 29 August – 2 September 2022

As part of the DA13 project Administrative data for disaggregated Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, UNSD conducted a mission to Thimphu, Bhutan from 29 August to 2 September 2022. The mission included two key components:
A three-day workshop on quality of administrative data for producing official statistics and user engagement
A pilot quality assessment of administrative data sources for three sectors; agriculture, education and health

The work builds on more than one year of remote interaction during the pandemic and is closely connected to a consultancy in support of the work in Bhutan on assessing the quality of administrative data overall, also under the DA13 project. The training had participants from the national statistical office (NSB) and 20 different ministries and agencies that hold administrative data. Participants were actively engaged, sharing experiences and knowledge and came up with a very practical list of action points for follow up. The project will also be supporting some of the identified areas of work.

UNSD also met with representatives of the UN Country Team who have been advocating strongly for more support to data work in Bhutan. They very much appreciated the work DESA is doing. Areas of future collaboration were also discussed, particularly around SDG monitoring.

High-level meeting and technical workshops in Namibia Windhoek (Namibia), 7-16 September 2022

From 7-9 September, UNSD jointly with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) held a three day workshop for 40 participants from the Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) on user engagement and data values in statistics. The workshop participants discussed how to better engage the different usersof statistics in the Namibian context through involvement of users in decision processes on what to produce and in developing more targeted products to different needs. The Data Values Project was also introduced at practical level for the first time and created further thinking from the statisticians side on how to better interact with data providers and users.

On 12 September, NSA and the UN jointly held a high-level seminar with the title: *Why official statistics*?. The seminar was opened by the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Pang and Statistician General Mr. Shimuafeni. It had two parts where participants discussed the *Value of*

official statistics for informed decision making and *Reliance of statistics on high-quality and up to date decision making*. The event had around 60 participants from many different ministries and agencies, civil society and private sector and was also covered by media representatives. It provided useful feedback to NSA on the views of various actors and also allowed NSA to communicate to various stakeholders what they are working to achieve and challenges they are facing in this context, the latter being mainly connected to financing for statistics and lack of access to data.

This was followed by a four day workshop on **use of administrative data for statistics production** from 13- 16 September. The workshop was led by Statistics Division with support from the UN Economic Commission for Africa and UN Women. It had 45 participants from 14 different ministries and agencies as well as from NSA. The workshop was important for NSA in the context of aiming to increase the use of data collected for administrative purposes for statistics production since they have had very limited funding for primary data collection through survey's and censuses. The facilitators provided introductions on various topics followed by longer exercises and activities meant to stir conversations across agencies. It led to new knowledge on available data sources, helped create new connections and led to agreement on implementation of new processes that would enhance data sharing. The workshop content was here tested for the first time in its entirety and received very positive feedback.

UNSD staff also had bilateral meetings with the UN Resident Coordinators office and GIZ to coordinate with their interests and related activities.

Expert Group meetings

Expert clinic on quality of administrative data 18 October 2021

The *Collaborative on Use of Administrative Data for Statistics* has started organizing expert clinics. These are online meetings that cover a specific topic of interest to the members of the *Collaborative*. Four to five countries and partners meet and each present for around 10 minutes on their experience on the topic, followed by an hour of informal conversations afterwards, learning from each other. The formal part is soon after published on the pages of the *Collaborative* for everyone to benefit from.

The second expert clinic on data quality in administrative data and collaboration with administrative data owners on data quality matters took place on 18 October 2021 and recordings from the formal part have now been made available online. It was initiated by Colombia that had concrete data quality questions which everyone in turn responded to, followed by presentations from Cameroon (in French), Canada, Norway and Slovenia. The expert clinic was co-organized by UNSD and the *Global Partnership for Development Cooperation*, who also co-run the *Collaborative*.

4th session of the Global Sprint on Data Access, 16 March 2022

This 4th session of the Global Sprint on Data Access was organized by Statistics Netherlands together with UNSD and was led by Dominik Rozkrut, President of Statistics

Poland. Since the sprint was co- organized with the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, the focus of the data access is on data sources relevant for economic statistics, in particular for global value chains (GVCs) and global supply chains. In the first 3 sessions the relevance of GVCs was explained in relation to generation of income and employment, fair labor, sustainability and trade in goods and services; the connection was made with the UN Global Compact and the corporate social responsibility, as well as to the principles for the statistical community to follow when engaging in public-private partnerships; and discussions were held with several private sector companies on what the win-win situations could be in giving the statistical community access to the privately held data.

In the 4th and final session of the Global Sprint, this group of about 60 experts (from around the world) explored the way forward, in which it would build a community of practice around several specific use cases, such horticulture (flower industry), semi- conductors (computer chips), e-commerce and digital trade, and possibly the tourism industry. For each of these use cases work programs would be established covering user needs, principles for data access, GVC methods and capacity building. The session was concluded with remarks from the chair of UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, the chair of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians and the director of UNSD.

UN Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework, Bangkok (Thailand), 10–11 November 2022

UNSD organised an Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework, 10–11 November 2022 in Bangkok.

The meeting discussed (a) different ways that citizens can contribute to data for advocacy, research and/or public policy; (b) challenges and opportunities in fostering close collaboration between civil society organisations and various stakeholders within the national statistical systems; and (c) mechanisms for various partners to work together in harnessing the power of citizens' contribution to data.

Experts agreed to establish a collaborative, co-led by UNSD and partners, to bring stakeholders together, including national statistical offices, relevant entities within the national statistical systems, civil society organisations, academia and regional and international organisations, to share knowledge and experiences in leveraging citizens' contribution to data and to inform further normative work required in this area. The meeting was attended by more than 40 experts from national statistical offices, civil society organisations at the national and international level and regional and international organizations.

Data sources - Data Science

Workshops

UN PET Lab Open House: second meeting, 2 June 2022

The first Open House, which was held on 5 May, showed a wide array of communities involved in the use of Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs), such as the statistical community (BPS Indonesia), government (ICO), civil society (the evidence quarter) and the private sector (duality technologies, Samsung, SIIA and others).

This second Open House focused squarely on the handling of sensitive data by the statistical community and the corresponding demand for PETs. Ms. Aberash Tariku, Deputy Director-General of the Ethiopian Statistics Service, spoke about practical instances, when her office handles sensitive data and needs to consider privacy concerns. The examples included accessing of data from tax authority or Customs and disseminating micro-data from the population census. In addition, short presentations were made by Brazil, Mexico and Canada with similar examples of access to tax records, banking information and Tweets, and of making microdata of the statistical office available to researchers. Currently, the statistical offices need to do their own self- assessment to determine if they are sufficiently addressing all privacy concerns. The UN PET Lab may be able to help with assessment in the future. Around 50 individuals participated in the webinar.

African Regional Hub Development Workshops, 6-10 June 2022, Kigali (Rwanda)

A set of workshops to support the startup of the African Big Data Regional Hub was conducted at the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) on 6-10 June Kigali, Rwanda. The sessions were conducted in close collaboration with NISR, the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom (ONS) and the ECA. The workshops targeted different levels of organization and involvement in the startup of the regional hub. A governance structure for the hub was agreed and a strategic workplan was drafted, which will also be presented during the African Statistical Commission meeting in November 2022. The detailed elaboration of responsibilities of different parties in the hub will facilitate the management of project that are expected to be launched in the coming months and years. During the workshop with participating countries, priority areas for early work in the regional hub were agreed and include: web-scraping (for price statistics), Consumer Price Index (CPI) pipeline automation and use of Earth Observation data (for land use, agriculture statistics). UNSD and ONS plan to conduct similar workshops also for other regional hubs.

Technical Meeting on Human mobility and mobile big data and Mobile Tartu 2022, Tartu (Estonia), 28-30 June 2022

A technical meeting of the Mobile Phone Data (MPD) Task Team was organized by UNSD to

discuss the operational aspects of the revised methodological guidelines on migration, tourism, displacement and disaster statistics and dynamic population. During the meeting subgroup leads discussed the implementation of e-learning courses on the topics as well as agreed on the preparation of the upcoming workshop on the use of mobile phone data in November. The meeting was hosted by Positium, an active member of the MPD Task Team.

Five subgroup leads were invited to contribute the Mobile Tartu 2022 Conference, i.e. Session 3 a: "Methodological guidance for using mobile phone data for official statistics, the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science", which was organized and chaired by UNSD. The presentations gave an overview of each methodological guidelines, underlying the advantages of using mobile phone data for official statistics and outlined how can the implementation of the guidelines be accelerated. The meeting was held at University Tartu and the session was well attended.

7th International Conference on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, Yogyakarta (Indonesia), 7-11 November 2022

The 7th International Conference on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics took place on 7-11 November 2022 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, with the appropriate theme "Global challenges and the Importance of Relevant and Timely Data". The conference consisted of high-level panels on sustainability and global economic recovery, on food security and on access to relevant data. The conference also contained several mini- workshops on the use of earth observations for agriculture statistics, on the use of mobile phone data for the estimation of tourism and population statistics, on the use of AIS data for maritime transport statistics, on machine learning techniques for official statistics and on the use of privacy- enhancing technologies to enable access to sensitive data. These workshops were well attended by over 100 statisticians and data scientists from developing and developed countries. Another highlight of the conference was the 2022 UN Big Data Hackathon, in which close to 2,000 young data scientists and statisticians participated world-wide. The conference promoted data innovation, launched several new initiatives and showed creative solutions by the hackathon teams to help address global challenges.

Data Sources - Geospatial data

Workshops

Joint Workshop on the Integration between Geospatial and Statistical Information in International Organizations and Member States, 26-27 April 2021

UNSD as the Secretariats for UN Geospatial Network and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), with the cooperation of OICT (as the co-Secretariat for UN-GGIM), UNODC and UNEP have organized the "Joint-Workshop on the Integration Between Geospatial and Statistical Information in International Organisations and Member States" on 26-27 April, with future sessions on 5 and 12 May.

The joint workshop raised awareness of the respective documents that guide the Network's and the Committee's work programmes: CCSA's System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics and the UNGN's Blueprint: Geospatial for a Better World. CCSA and UNGN will build on these documents to contribute to the Secretary General's Data Strategy; and, is practically helping to ground the relevance of each of the CCSA and UNGN's work, among staff across the UN system with an interest or professional focus in statistics, geospatial information, or data generally. By connecting staff members in these areas, colleagues are being empowered to mutually identify opportunities for strengthening collaboration and coherence and reducing duplication of efforts. Colleagues are invited to register for sessions 3 and 4.

Joint webinar on: "Geographical names standardization supporting national development", 31 August 2021

The Regional Committee for UN-GGIM Americas-CARIGEO, UNSD, the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), jointly staged the webinar Geographical names standardization supporting national development.

The webinar built awareness of geographers, geospatial professionals, linguists, cartographers and cultural historians across the Caribbean on the importance of geographical names standardization and the principles and techniques of geographical naming with a special focus on cultural heritage and practices and procedures in creating and managing a geographical names authority.

The webinar was attended by a global audience of more than 105 persons, from 39 countries. The core content of the webinar was delivered by the chair of the UNGEGN working group on Training Courses in Toponymy, Mr. Peder Gammeltoft, Scientific Manager, Norwegian Language Collections, University of Bergen (Norway) and his colleague UNGEGN member, Dr Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen, Associate Professor of Name Research at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. The items covered were:- a) the significance and benefits of geographical names – language, culture, history, tourism, b) framework for effective names standardization, c) legal and Administrative requirements d) effective communication and awareness raising strategies and e) an overview of UNGEGN and CARIGEO was delivered by a representative from the UNSD.

The webinar was a successful representation of global and regional collaboration across the UN system - UN Headquarters, UN Regional Commission for the Americas, ECOSOC subsidiary bodies- UN-GGIM – [UNGGIM Americas - CARIGEO - (private sector, academia, NGO's)] and UNGEGN, all working together to increase/strengthen awareness on the benefits of national names standardization and what is needed to create national names authorities.

National training workshop on using geospatial information to calculate SDG indicators, 11-13 May 2022, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

UNSD, in partnership with Statistics Norway, organized and facilitated a three-day technical workshop on the use of geospatial information for SDG monitoring from 11--13 May 2022, in

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as part of the UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring. The workshop introduced the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap as a tool for guiding the integration of geospatial information and statistics for the SDGs at the national level, demonstrating the practice and potential of using geospatial data, including Earth observations, to calculate SDG indicators. The workshop brought together staff members of the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan (NSC), the State Land Management Institute (Kyrgyzgiprozem) and the Department of Cadastre to learn and apply geospatial calculation methods and to discuss what is needed in the country to advance the integration of geospatial information.

The technical approach of the workshop was directly informed by the three phases and key actions of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, developed by the IAEG-SDGs' Working Group on Geospatial Information, which was adopted by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session in March 2022. The workshop was also aligned with the Data For Now initiative, which aims to increase the use of innovative sources and technologies in the production and dissemination of SDG data, improving its timeliness, coverage, and quality. Data For Now places particular focus on innovations in data, including geospatial information, big data and non-traditional data sources, supporting their mainstreaming into official statistical production processes.

Country policy priorities and corresponding data needs were established through extensive consultations with the NSC and Kyrgyzgiprozem in the lead-up to the workshop resulting in the identification of two priority indictors to be produced for Kyrgyzstan using geospatial data sources and methods: SDG 9.1.1: Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road; and SDG 11.3.1: Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.

National workshop on capacity building for geospatial information actors Bamako (Mali), 12-16 September 2022

UNSD supported a week-long workshop aimed at strengthening the national management of geospatial information, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Convened by the Institut Géographique du Mali (IGM), the workshop was split into halves, one focusing on the strategic global geospatial frameworks developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the other focusing on geospatial tools and methodologies for the production, analysis, dissemination of geospatially integrated data. The workshop brought together Ministers and senior experts from across Mali's geospatial information ecosystem, including the National Transition Council (NTC), Statistical, Cadastral, Defense, Forestry, Health, Development, and Interior agencies and other agencies ministries. Also taking part in the workshop were representatives from Mali's Academic, NGOs and private sectors, GRID3, the University of Colombia and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

Participants discussed in this collaborative and inclusive workshop how geospatial information is used nationally and discuss actions to establish a better national geospatial ecosystem. In this regard, UNSD highlighted the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes as strategic frameworks that enable the potential of geospatial information to be realised.

During discussions, decision-makers agreed to re-establish an interministerial committee to coordinate geospatial information, composed of senior representatives from across the government. A first step for this group will be to develop the Country Action Plan of the IGIF, guided by Mr. Mahamadou Keita, Director-General of IGM and the Minister of Infrastructure as high-level geospatial "champions". Other agreed actions include examining existing governance and legislative frameworks to ensure these are 'fit-for- purpose' and examining the potential of new geospatial technologies so that other areas, such as statistics, can also be transformed to provide deeper institutional capacity.

Closing the workshop, Mr. Aly Kone of the NTC noted the timely moment in which the workshop participants found themselves, as the country seeks a pathway to rebuild and stabilise the country, with geospatial information offering all government entities "with the data to build a roadmap to a safer, more secure future for Mali and its people".

The workshop was covered extensively in the Malian media, including ORTM, Mali's national broadcaster covering the workshop (in French).

Expert Group meetings

7th Meeting of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, 1-2 December 2022

Both UN-GGIM and the Statistical Commission (UNSC) recognise the important role of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and other data sources, for making informed decision-making. To meet this demand, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) has been adopted by both the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the Statistical Commission. As the principal output of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the recent work of the Expert Group has focused on developing guidance to support the implementation, operationalisation, and awareness-raising of the GSGF.

Convened directly after the ninth session of UN-GGIM Americas (which will be featured in next week's briefing), 32 representatives from 15 Member States (consisting of representatives from both National Statistical Offices and National Geospatial Information Agencies) participated in the seventh meeting of the Expert Group hosted by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile.

Appointing Brazil (IBGE Brazil) and Ireland (Ordnance Survey Ireland) as its new co-chairs, the Expert Group agreed on actions that will strengthen the bridge between the geospatial and statistical communities and enable countries to advance geo-statistical integration. These actions included agreeing on suitable coordination mechanisms to strengthen coordination and coherence among functional groups of the Statistical Commission and regional statistical and geospatial bodies and agreed on the format and composition of its future task teams. The Expert Group also decided to prioritise the development of materials that raise awareness of the importance of geo-statistical integration to decision-makers, highlighting the vital role that the

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework can play in helping countries advance their national data ecosystems.

Furthermore, the Expert Group discussed its future strategic direction, noting that many countries have implemented the 2020 Round of Census, and agreed to refocus its future direction towards meeting the demands of countries for integrated geo-statistical data. In this regard, the Expert Group notes ECOSOC resolutions 2022/3 (Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem) and 2022/24 (Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements), recognising its unique position as the bridge between the statistical and geospatial communities. The Expert Group emphasised that integration and collaboration can, and should be strengthened, to enable both communities to implement these resolutions. Thus, the Expert Group's future direction will focus on enabling the GSGF to be implemented and applied to underpin the integrated data needs of work on climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at both national and local levels.

Data exchange

Workshops

Webinar on SDMX tools developed by Statistical office of Italy for the statistical community, 14 January 2021

UNSD and the Italian National Institute of Statistics (IStat) conducted a webinar on the use of data management and dissemination tools based on the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard. UNSD has a long and successful history of using software tools developed by IStat in support of economic statistics and other data exchange. At the webinar, IStat presented StatKit, a set of software products designed to efficiently convert raw data into a machine-readable format, process, and disseminate the data. StatKit is a powerful software suite, which is based on SDMX and supports other important data standards, such as RDF and DCAT. UNSD will be evaluating the tools for use in support of its own, as well as National Statistical Offices' business processes. The meeting was attended by more than 20 participants from UNSD and the regional commissions.

UNSD Virtual Workshop on the Use of SDMX for SDG Data Reporting for Nepal, 12 – 15 January 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and Central Bureau Statistics of Nepal (CBS) conducted a joint virtual workshop on the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the reporting of SDG indicators. The four-day workshop was held from 12 – 15 January 2021 in Dhulikhel, Nepal, with about 20 statistics and IT experts from both CBS and a range of other line ministries participating. The basics of the data modeling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting and customizing the global structures for national use. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize

themselves with the data modeling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. Participants also worked with their own data, including the latest Nepal Multiple Indicator Child Survey (NMICS), where over 40 disaggregated SDG indicator series have been collected. The resulting SDMXs outputs produced by the participants were submitted to UNSD's SDGLab, which allows countries to compared their national data and metadata with the global data submitted by custodian agencies. The SDMX outputs will also be used as an input to Nepal's new SDG data dissemination platform, which is currently being developed through support from the project, with an initial version expected to be available in the coming month.

Virtual training on Data modelling and SDMX for Ghana Statistical Service (15, 18, 22 and 25 March 2021)

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) conducted a series of joint virtual workshop on Data Modelling and SDMX for SDG indicators. The four-day virtual workshop was held on March 15, 18, 22 and 25 for the core team members of the GSS working on the national SDG platform. The basics of the data modeling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting and customizing the global structures for national use. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the data modeling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. The team was also trained in customization of the global DSD in order to capture data at the sub-national level and allow additional disaggregation currently not available at the global level. The staff are now able to map Ghana's available national SDG indicators to a customized national SDG DSD and convert them into SDMX format. GSS staff will publish the SDMX dataset to their national platform. The project, in collaboration with the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), will also support the upgrade of OpenSDG to the latest version that supports the publishing of nationally customized SDG data from the SDMX format.

Virtual training on Data modelling and SDMX for the Lao Statistics Bureau, 5-8 April 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) conducted a series of joint virtual workshop on Data Modelling and SDMX for SDG indicators. The four-day (2.5hrs/day) virtual workshop was held from for the core team members of the LSB working on the national SDG platform. The basics of the data modelling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting and customizing the global data structure for national use. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the data modelling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. The team was also trained in customization of the global DSD in order to capture data at the sub-national level, incorporate Lao's Goal 18 and allow additional disaggregation currently not available at the global level. The staff are now able to map Lao's available national SDG indicators to a customized national SDG DSD and convert them into SDMX format. LSB staff plan to publish the SDMX dataset to their national platform as part of UNSD-FCDO project support. The project, in collaboration with the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), will also support the implementation of OpenSDG at LSB as their national SDG platform that supports the

publishing of nationally customized SDG data from the SDMX format.

Workshop on the Use of SDMX for SDG Data Reporting for Viet Nam, 18-22 April 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and General Statistics Office (GSO) conducted a joint virtual workshop on the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the reporting of SDG indicators. The four-day workshop was held from 18-22 April 2021 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, with statistics and IT experts from across the GSO participating.

The basics of data modelling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting and customizing the global structures for national use. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the data modelling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. Participants also worked with their own data, bringing together data for Viet Nam from the ASEAN data platform with data for Viet Nam's national SDG indicators (VSDGIs). The resulting SDMXs outputs produced by the participants were submitted to UNSD's SDGLab, which allows countries to compared their national data and metadata with the global data submitted by custodian agencies. GSO will use the skills learned in this workshop as they further develop their VSDGI database, increasing the number of available indicators and disaggregations. The resulting SDMX outputs will be used as an input to Viet Nam's new SDG data dissemination platform, which is being developed by GSO over the coming months with support from the UNSD-FCDO project and Istat, the Italian national statistics office.

Virtual workshops on metadata compilation using the SDMX for SDGs metadata authoring tool template for Cambodia and Lao PDR, 19 and 22 April 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring, which aims to make national SDG data more widely available and accessible to users, UNSD organized and conducted virtual training workshops on the use of the metadata authoring tool template for SDG metadata with staff from the national statistical offices of Cambodia (19 April) and Lao PDR (22 April). The refresher workshops familiarized participants with the standardized metadata concepts to be used in describing SDG data, as well as the functionality that will convert compiled metadata into the SDMX format for machine readability and dissemination. Participants were able to explore filling in the metadata template for their specific national SDG indicators and to clarify any questions in the informal workshop setting, interacting directly with the UNSD consultant developing the tool.

Following these refresher trainings for statistical office staff, longer capacity development workshops for line ministries producing SDG indicators were agreed upon. The first one, with Cambodian line ministries is presented below.

Metadata and data sharing training for Cambodia as part of the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring, 28-30 April 2021

Working with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), UNSD delivered an online training workshop series for Cambodia covering the compilation of national metadata and the development of data sharing agreements for the SDGs. The workshop took place from 28-30 April and was officially opened by Her Excellency Ms. Hang Lina, Director General of National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia (NIS). Participants came from the NIS and almost all the line ministries producing data for SDG indicators, with over 80 participants each day.

Through a combination of taught sessions, practical exercises, group discussions and quizzes, the training highlighted the importance of SDG data being accompanied by national metadata, so users are able to interpret and use the data appropriately, as well as introducing participants to the globally agreed metadata reporting template, which facilitates the sharing of comparable metadata. The training also focussed on developing mechanisms to streamline the flow of data within the national statistical system in Cambodia, reducing processing time and reporting burden, thereby facilitating the reporting of national data through NIS's CAMSTAT platform. Following the training, NIS will be coordinating the compilation of SDG metadata across Cambodia, in order to publish it in a handbook as well as alongside the data on the forthcoming SDG dissemination platform, also supported by the UNSD-FCDO project, which will complement CAMSTAT through providing increased opportunities for users to visualise and explore the data.

UNSD Workshop on the Use of SDMX for SDG Data Reporting for Bangladesh, 3-6 May 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted a joint virtual workshop on the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the reporting of SDG indicators, with support from UNRCO Bangladesh. The four-day workshop was held online from 3-6 May 2021 and involved participants from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and almost all the line ministries producing data for SDG indicators in Bangladesh, with over 70 participants each day. The basics of data modelling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting and customizing the global structures for national use. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the data modelling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. Participants also worked with their own data from their SDG Tracker platform. The training showed a high level of active engagement and sharing by the participants.

Following on from the training, UNSD will be working with BBS and a2i, who built SDG Tracker, to discuss how the outputs from the data modelling can best be integrated, including exploring the feasibility of full SDMX integration for data inputs and outputs. The SDMX outputs produced by the participants will also be submitted UNSD's SDGLab, which allows countries to compare their national data and metadata with the global data submitted by custodian agencies.

Workshop on national data modelling and SDMX for the SDGs for Liberia, 26 May - 1 June 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project, UNSD and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) conducted a joint virtual workshop on data modelling including the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the reporting of SDG indicators. The four-day workshop was held from 26 May - 1 June 2021 in Monrovia, Liberia, with statistics and IT experts from LISGIS and line ministries participating. The basics of data modelling, the SDMX Information Model and the global SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) were presented along with an introduction to tools that can be used in SDG data reporting. A series of hands-on exercises enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the data modelling process and the use of SDMX tools for SDG reporting. Participants also worked with their own data, bringing together data for Liberia from the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) report of Liberia. LISGIS will use the skills learned in this workshop as they further develop and use Liberia's Open Data Platform, increasing the number of available indicators and expanding the availability of disaggregated datasets on the SDGs.

Joint virtual training series in Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the Thailand National Statistical Office four webinars, June-July 2021

The Asian Development Bank and UNSD conducted a joint virtual training event in Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the Thailand National Statistical Office over four webinars in June-July 2021. The training was attended by over 20 participants from the national statistical office of Thailand. Building on a previous joint ADB-UNSD workshop conducted in November 2019, the participants received hands-on skills in SDMX data modeling, mapping SDG indicators to the global SDG Data Structure Definition, the use of advanced SDMX tools, and transmission of national indicators to the SDG Global Platform. Over 50 of Thailand's SDG indicators were mapped and transmitted to SDG Lab, the data exchange component of the SDG Global Platform, in the course of and following the event. The training will also facilitate the implementation of automated statistical data exchange and dissemination at national statistical office of Thailand.

Workshop on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) Data Modeling, 26 July to 5 August 2021

UNSD conducted a virtual workshop on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) Data Modeling organized jointly with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and Centrostat, an International Center for Statistical Expertise. Conducted in the Russian language, the training was attended by about 30 participants from national statistical offices of the Eurasian Economic Union member states namely Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russian Federation, as well as key experts of the EEC. Over the course of four sessions, the participants were given an introduction to statistical data modeling and SDMX Information Model, and received hands-on training in some of the common SDMX tools. As part of the training, the participants developed a data structure for one of the questionnaires used in EEC data collection

and converted their respective countries' data to the SDMX format. It was also demonstrated how their data can then be published and visualized online using SDMX tools. The workshop successfully completed, and a follow-up advanced training course was requested for late 2021.

Regional Workshop on Advanced Data and Metadata Exchange for SDG Monitoring and Reporting, Beirut (Lebanon), 27 June – 1 July 2022

UNSD and ESCWA conducted a joint Regional Workshop on Advanced Data and Metadata Exchange for SDG Monitoring and Reportin. The meeting was held in a hybrid format and was attended by a total of 31 participants from ESCWA region countries, including 15 who attended in person. Following the first three virtual workshops in 2020- 2021, ESCWA established a successful data exchange of SDG indicators with countries of its region based on the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) format. Objectives of the fourth event included familiarization of the participants with advanced techniques for data exchange, customization of the Global SDG Data Structure Definition for national use, and introduction of advanced software tools for SDMX data modeling and exchange. Following the first three workshops, the participants demonstrated a high level of proficiency in the use of common data exchange tools, successfully completed all the hands-on exercises, and absorbed the new knowledge and skills. The workshop was highly rated by the participants, who expressed strong interest in further expanding data exchange with ESCWA and continued training in SDMX tools to further improve the efficiency of data exchange and reduce the reporting burden.

In a meeting with ESCWA Executive Secretary, UNSD noted that the ESCWA data portal was impressive in its scope and information content, while its data exchange systems follow best practices and are built to a high standard of usefulness, efficiency, and user- friendliness. The Executive Secretary expressed strong interest in strengthening ESCWA Data Ecosystem to facilitate evidence-based decision-making in the region, as well as commitment to helping the countries expand data exchange while reducing the reporting burden.

Regional Training Workshop on Data and Metadata Sharing and Exchange for the SDGs, Kampala (Uganda), 26-29 September 2022

UNSD and ECA conducted a joint Regional Training Workshop on Data and Metadata Sharing and Exchange for the SDGs in Kampala, Uganda, on 26-29 September 2022. The event took place as part of the project *Support to monitoring of SDGs and statistics in Africa*, funded by the EU and implemented by ECA. The overall objective of the project is to develop innovative tools to track member states' progress towards achieving SDG, reporting and dissemination SDGs indicators through harnessing innovative tools and technologies. The event was organized attended by representatives of 6 African countries as well as the East African Commission. The workshop delivered basic training in the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for the SDG indicators. Participants successfully completed hands-on exercises, including mapping a number of their SDG indicators to the global SDG Data Structure Definition and converting national indicators to the SDMX format, and transferring indicators to the SDG Lab, a data exchange hub for national SDG indicators. The countries shared experience with regard to the reporting and dissemination of SDG Indicators. UNSD also provided an introduction to and

demonstration of advanced SDMX tools including the .Stat Suite, a data warehouse.

Advanced Workshop on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) and SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) Customization Workshop, Bangkok (Thailand), 7-10 November 2022

UNSD conducted an Advanced Workshop on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) and SDG Data Structure Definition (DSD) Customization Workshop, jointly organized with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ESCAP, held at the Thailand national statistical office. The event was funded by the ADB follows a series of in-person and virtual workshops organized by ADB and UNSD since Nov 2019. The audience included officers from across Thailand's national statistical system, as well as participants from Kyrgyzstan and the Maldives whose participation was funded by ESCAP. The participants familiarized themselves with recommendations for customization of the global SDG DSD for national use, tools in support of DSD maintenance, advanced techniques for data mapping and transformation, and received a demonstration of advanced SDMX tools and platforms; they successfully completed intensive hands-on exercises and absorbed the knowledge and skills. The participants shared experience in the area of SDMX-based data exchange and dissemination, where Thailand and Kyrgyzstan have already achieved impressive results while the Maldives have started a project with ESCAP. Both Kyrgyzstan and the Maldives are piloting an SDMX-based data warehouse based at the UN Global Platform.

Expert Group meetings

11th SDMX Experts Meeting Aguascalientes (Mexico), 28 Nov – 1 Dec 2022

UNSD co-organized and participated in the 11th SDMX Experts Meeting, which took place at the premises of Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The meeting is a biennial event that brought together experts in the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) from international agencies, national statistical offices, central banks, academia, and the private sector. The meeting took place in the in-person format for the first time since 2018, following a virtual event in January 2022. The meeting was broadcast live; over 60 participants attended in person and more than 65 remotely. UNSD co-organized the event with the other SDMX Sponsor agencies, as well as INEGI and ILO, who co-hosted the meeting. UNSD led a breakout session on SDMX SWOT analysis, co-chaired the session on Capacity Building and Communication, made a presentation on data modeling challenges and resolutions in the context of the SDG Global Structure Definition, co-presented (remotely) on a UNSD- World Bank project on the translation of SDG Reference Metadata using UNSD's SDMX Reference Metadata Application Programming Interface, and introduced (remotely) the SDMX User Forum. Some of the highlights of the meeting are a review of the implementation of the latest version SDMX v3.0; complex data modeling issues and resolutions; progress on the development of SDMX e-learning courses, and demonstrated strong interest in interoperability of SDMX and other data management technologies, including the UNSD-WB presentation on computer-assisted translation of SDG metadata. The SDMX User Forum, announced and

launched at the meeting, was welcomed and attracted strong attention. Annual Meeting of the SDMX-SDG Working Group was held in the margins of the SDMX Experts Meeting, in the hybrid format for the first time since 2019.

Strategic and Managerial issues

National Statistical Systems

Workshops

Training on user engagement for national statistical system in Tanzania, 14-16 April 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring, UNSD has conducted a series of online training workshops on user engagement for those working with official statistics in Tanzania. The training took place from 14-16 April and involved participants from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), line ministries and other government agencies and institutions, including both producers and users of SDG data. The sessions covered a wide range of topics including the identification of different users and the use of different means of engagement, including focus groups, user surveys and other forms of consultation. Given the current situation, there was a particular focus on how to engage with users online through social media and organizing webinars; the training also provided support on user-friendly dissemination and infographics, to help Tanzania's SDG data reach a wider audience. The training was interactive, with participants having the opportunity to practice what they'd learned, including writing effective media releases. The NBS plans to follow up by organizing their own user-engagement activities.

UNSD will be providing similar training sessions to other project countries over the coming months and are also developing a related e-learning course in order to reach an even wider group of countries.

Coordination of National Statistical Systems and Data Stewardship, 15-17 June 2021

UNSD, jointly with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research, and Training Centre (SESRIC), organised a workshop on "*Coordination within the National Statistical Systems and beyond*" for member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Organised within the framework of the Programme of Action of the OIC- StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030, the workshop also addressed the call of the 75th session of the General Assembly to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems under the leadership of national statistical offices to respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More than 90 chief

statisticians and senior managers of national statistical agencies discussed and shared challenges, experiences and best practices in coordinating a statistical system and nurture a vivid national data ecosystem. The workshop also benefitted from the expertise of PARIS21, UNECE and UNESCWA.

Virtual training on user engagement for national statistical system in Bangladesh, 16-17 June 2021

As part of the UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring, UNSD conducted an online training workshop on user engagement for those working with official statistics in Bangladesh. The training took place from 16-17 June and involved participants from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), line ministries and other government agencies and institutions, including both producers and users of SDG data. The sessions covered a wide range of topics including the identification of different users and the use of different means of engagement, including focus groups, user surveys and other forms of consultation. There was a particular focus on how to engage with users online through social media and organizing webinars. The training was highly interactive, with participants applying what they'd learned, including writing effective media releases and social media posts. There was also a feedback session in which data users shared their experiences and provided feedback to BBS and other producers. BBS plans to follow up by organizing their own user-engagement activities, supported by the UNSD-FCDO project.

Retreat of senior management of the Kyrgyz Statistics Committee, 11-12 December 2021

At the request of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, UNSD, jointly with World Bank and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Bishkek, organized a two-day retreat for the senior management of the National Statistics Committee. The objective of the retreat was to develop a mid-term programme (2022-2026) for the Development of OfficialStatistics to accelerate the institutional, organizational and technological transformation of the Kyrgyz statistical system. The draft 5-year development programme addresses the recommendations provided by the assessment of the national statistical system conducted recently by UNECE. The outcome of the retreat was discussed from 13-17 December in a series of round table meetings with bilateral and multilateral partner organizations, national data providers, users and other stakeholders, and eventually all staff members of the Statistics Committee. UNSD facilitated and contributed to this series of events.

5-day technical mission to the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal, 9 to 13 May 2002, Senegal

The Statistics Division conducted a 5- day technical mission to the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal from 9 to 13 May 2002, under the Data for Now project "Accelerating implementation of Data for Now in Colombia and Senegal", focused on the implementation of a new IT architecture and the strengthening of ANSD capacity to develop a COVID-19 dashboard.

The mission team, together with project consultant and IT staff of ANSD conducted 3 days of hands-on sessions to deploy on ANSD servers a series of data storage, data ingestion, data cleaning and orchestration components, and to build on them a pipeline for the processing and analysis of COVID-19 survey data. In addition, a prototype website with dashboards and data visualizations was setup using ArcGIS online. At the end of the mission, ANSD senior management underlined the usefulness of the new IT architecture and the new in-house capacities acquired by their technical staff, highlighting the importance of the Data for Now initiative in helping ANSD improve data availability in Senegal. Moreover, ANSD senior management expressed their interest in receiving additional trainings based on this experience. The DESA team also briefed Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Senegal on the outcome of the mission, thanked for the continuous collaboration and partnership with UN RCO. UN RCO welcomed the mission and ensured continuous support for the project.

Workshop on Modernising Statistical Legislation, 1 - 2 June 2022

UNSD held a virtual workshop organized jointly with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) on *Modernizing Statistical Legislation*. The Workshop was attended by more than 90 experts from 35 OIC countries and colleagues from ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA, the World Bank and PARIS21. The Workshop addressed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission's commitment to statistical modernization and innovation for 2030 and the call of the 75th session of the General Assembly to leverage SDG mechanisms and instruments, including statistics and data, to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to design and monitor appropriate response policy. Participants shared challenges, experiences and best practices in legal and institutional arrangements supporting the governance and coordination mechanisms of a sound national statistical system and promoting dialogue with national policymakers, partnership with innovative data holders, open data practices, data stewardship and communication with users. It was acknowledged that sound legal and organizational frameworks constitute the environment and prerequisite under which official statistics will remain relevant and embrace a fast-changing technological and data ecosystem. At the end of the workshop, the organizers noted the interest in country-level support to modernize statistical legislation and proposed formal requests to be sent to SESRIC and select a few target countries jointly with UNSD.

UNSD conducted its first initiation mission under the new Data For Now project in Viet Nam, 5-9 September 2022

The new Data For Now project was recently launched under the Data For Now initiative. The project is funded by the Italian and Norwegian Governments to support the Data For Now approach of strengthening capacity of countries in the use of innovative data sources, technology, and methods to support the information needed to support the 2030 agenda.

UNSD conducted its first mission to Viet Nam, as one of the participating countries, to initiate the project. The mission included several meetings with the national statistical office's (NSO) senior leadership and staff, followed by a training session for the NSO staff on the Data for Now approach and user engagement. A technical workshop was also held for representatives from the line ministries, and NSO to increase understanding of the role that data and statistics can

play in government decision making, and identify priority policy areas for Vietnam, and associated data gaps and needs. Several partners, including, the World Bank and SDSN TReNDS, GIZ presented at the workshop to share ongoing work on data innovation in Vietnam and to also share examples from other countries. The meetings and consultations contributed to securing high-level buy-in, and identifying 3 priority areas and associated data gaps that the project will focus on addressing during the 2 year timeline.

International seminar on data stewardship and the secure sharing of data Seoul (Republic of Korea), 2-4 November 2022

The International seminar on data stewardship and the secure sharing of data, was organized by Statistics Korea together with UNSD, and covered the topic of data stewardship, which promotes the sharing of data, whether public-public or public-private, allowing the regular use of relevant data for the generation of official statistics, while preserving privacy and confidentiality; and to improve the national data ecosystems through better methods and access. The program of the seminar covered data governance, equity and inclusion; and sharing and collaboration. Mr. Ko and Mr. Keping of the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) of DESA/DPIDG (in Incheon, Korea) participated in the panel discussions on data governance. The seminar also covered issues related to protection of privacy of data while ensuring its full utilization. How can we use privacy- enhancing technologies (PETs) to mitigate privacy risks and give provable privacy guarantees throughout the collection, processing, analysis and distribution lifecycle of potentially sensitive information. Moderators and panelists came from New Zealand, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada, Colombia, Malaysia, Mongolia, UNESCAP, UNPOG/DESA, SD/DESA and of course Korea.

Data Quality

Workshops

Webinar on the implementation of the National Quality Assurance Framework of Official Statistics for the national statistical system of Qatar , 28 - 29 March 2021

The Statistics Division, together with an outside consultant conducted a webinar on statistical quality assurance for members of Qatari national statistical system upon invitation of and organized by the Planning and Statistics Authority of Qatar. More than 80 participants attended both training sessions.

On the first day, the training introduced the concept of statistical data quality, the new United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework (UN NQAF) and the new *Manual* to support countries in the implementation of their national quality assurance framework. Subsequently, the new Qatar Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics was introduced which is fully aligned with UN NQAF. On the second day, the checklist for conducting a self-assessment, which was developed by the UN Expert Group on National

Quality Assurance Frameworks was presented which was followed by examples and the introduction of additional tools for quality assurance. Both days concluded with Q&A sessions. The materials of the webinar were translated into Arabic and will be made available on the Statistics Division website.

International Workshop on the implementation of a national quality assurance framework and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), 10 – 12 January 2022

This workshop was organized by UNSD in collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) through the National Bureau of Statistics of China, and with support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. A total of more than 100 participants attended this workshop, with 45 participants from 12 countries other than China. The opening remarks stressed that quality assurance including the adherence to proper statistical processes differentiates official statistics from other data and information. These efforts safeguard the role of official statistics as trusted and valued source of information. The workshop increased the knowledge of participants in the implementation of the national quality assurance framework (NQAF) and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). Training sessions on the UN National Quality Assurance Framework and its implementation, and training sessions on GSBPM were complemented by the sharing of national experiences in the form of country case studies and statements. A special emphasis was the use of assessment tools to improve data quality.

Global seminar - Building a culture of quality in national statistical offices, 6 July 2022

The Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks hosted a virtual global seminar on building a culture of quality in national statistical offices. The event discussed the importance of a shared and understood culture across the organisation to effectively manage quality, the main challenges in building a culture of quality and lessons learnt in specific country-contexts. Presenters included the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadistica (DANE) of Colombia and Statistics Canada. The seminar was organized by the ONS. A short series of presentations was followed by a panel discussion in which the presenters responded to questions of the attendees. The seminar was attended by more than 80 participants.

Workshop on the Implementation of a National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics in countries of the Africa Region Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-9 December 2022

The workshop took place in Addis Ababa on 6-9 December 2022 with a total of 15 participants from 12 developing countries. The objective was to train participants from national statistical offices on quality assurance and its implementation throughout the national statistical system and support the development of additional guidelines on quality assurance. It provided an overview of the contents of the Manual and the United Nations National Quality Assurance

Framework, reviewed and discussed the implementation of quality assurance in participating countries, reviewed the "Roadmap" for implementation and discussed quality assurance in the case when new and administrative data sources are being used. The sharing of experiences throughout the workshop will support the development of additional guidance or tools for using new and administrative data sources.

Expert Group meetings

21st Meeting of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks, 5 May 2021

The Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks conducted its 21st meeting via WebEx on 5 May. Thirteen countries and 4 international and regional organizations attended the meeting with a total of 24 participants. The meeting reviewed the relevant discussions and decision of the Statistical Commission session held in March 2021, which approved the programme of work for the next two years and the updated terms of reference of the Expert Group. The meeting reviewed recent progress in the work of the Expert Group, recent activities of the secretariat and activities and progress in the implementation of national quality assurance frameworks in countries and on regional level, noting a very high level of engagement and advancement. The Expert Group discussed its priorities for 2021 and 2022. It identified the completion of a roadmap for countries, the development of task-specific quality assurance checklists, quality assurance of new data sources and input to the discussion on data stewardship as topics and tasks that should be addressed as priorities. Several members expressed their interest to join subgroups on these issues. It was also agreed to integrate the substantive work with outreach activities where appropriate. The next meeting is expected to take place towards the middle of June.

22nd meeting of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks, 29 June 2021

On 29 June 2021, the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks conducted its 22nd meeting via WebEx. Eleven countries and 3 international and regional organizations attended the meeting with a total of 24 participants. The meeting discussed and approved the concept notes on the following four topics which will be the focus of work over the next 18 months: (i) Development of a Roadmap for the implementation of the national quality assurance framework, (ii) Development of additional checklists for quality assurance, (iii) Data stewardship and statistical quality assurance and (iv) Quality Assurance of "new" data sources. The meeting also agreed to a timeline of work and the next steps. There will be an informal discussion on the first two topic in the second week of July. The next meeting is scheduled for 24 August 2021.

24th meeting of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks, 9 December 2021

On 9 December 2021, the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks conducted its 24th virtual meeting via Teams. Nine countries and five international and regional

organizations attended the meeting with a total of 23 participants. The meeting was organized as two short seminars. The first seminar discussed a roadmap for countries towards the implementation of their national quality assurances framework (NQAF). The second seminar discussed the development of additional checklists for quality assurance. The two seminars provided further input to initial drafts for a roadmap for NQAF implementation and for a guidance document for the development and use of additional checklists to support quality improvements at different institutions and for different statistical outputs. The next meeting of the Expert Group is tentatively scheduled for February 2022.

25th meeting of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks, 17 May 2022

On 17 May 2022, the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (EG-NQAF) conducted its 25th meeting via Teams. The meeting discussed and approved the workplan of the Expert Group for 2022, including conducing a seminar on culture of quality assurance in July. Experts also approved conducting a follow-up survey on the implementation of national quality assurance frameworks (NQAF) in countries and the plan for the release of a roadmap for NQAF implementation for testing. On the issue of additional quality checklists/quality assurance of administrative and new data sources it was agreed to request countries to share their practices in the UN NQAF survey. The meeting also concluded that the Expert Group should follow the discussions on data stewardship and see whether it can contribute at a later stage. Ten countries and six international and regional organizations attended the meeting with a total of 26 participants.

26th meeting of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks Virtual, 22 June 2022

The Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks conducted its 26th meeting via Teams. The meeting discussed its upcoming seminar on "Culture of quality assurance". It reviewed a draft of its second survey on the implementation of quality assurance in countries. The first survey was conducted in 2017. The survey will also request countries to share information about their national practices. An additional item for information was the status of work on the Expert Group's roadmap for the implementation of a national quality assurance framework. The Expert Group also reiterated its conclusion on the issue of data stewardship to follow the discussions and to see at a later stage whether it can contribute. Twelve countries and 3 international and regional organizations attended the meeting with a total of 25 participants. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 September 2022.

27th meeting of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks Virtual, 6 September 2022

The Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks conducted its 27th meeting via Teams. The global survey on the implementation of quality assurance had been sent out to countries at end of August and the expert group discussed the follow-up process. It also reviewed the status of work on the Roadmap for the implementation of a national quality assurance

framework which has now been shared with countries for review and testing. A further topic was the possible work of the Expert Group on the topic of quality assurance in the use of administrative and new data sources and on the topic of data stewardship and quality assurance. It was agreed to review the feedback of countries in the global survey on the use of different data sources and to further follow the discussions in other groups on data stewardship. Eight countries and 5 international and regional organizations attended the meeting with a total of 19 participants. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 November 2022.

Other long-term projects

Data For Now workshop covering three thematic areas Senegal, 28 April 2021

A second thematic area workshop was conducted in Senegal under the *Data For Now* initiative. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD), with opening remarks from ANSD's Director General and UNSD. The participants representing various partners, including members of the national statistical system, and international agencies, provided input on priorities identified under three thematic areas (sustainable management of land, water and forests; climate change; and urbanization and cadastral data), brainstormed activities, data sources and methodologies related to the priority indicators, and discussed next steps. The last workshop in the series is planned in the second week of May.

The Data For Now initiative held a series of inspiration workshops to expand its support to countries, March/April 2021

The [Data For Now initiative](#) hosted a series of inspiration workshops to expand support to countries through projects funded by Norway, with other donors joining soon. The workshops provided an overview of the initiative, and showcased examples of how countries are working on some of the core ideas of the initiative, such as prioritizing data production based on country's needs, use of innovative data sources, methods and tools, engaging with a wider set of partners and improvement of the IT infrastructure to facilitate integration of innovation approaches. The role of the Resident Coordinator Offices (RCO) in national coordination of UN activities and overview of data-related work was also highlighted. The workshops were held on 31 March, 7 April, 14 April 2022. Each workshop was attended by more than 50 participants from countries, RCOs, and core team members with presentations from Ghana, Colombia, Norway, Uruguay, Gambia, and Palestine amongst others.

Data For Now in Bangladesh – poverty measurement workshop, 14 June 2021

A workshop on poverty measurement and data was held in Bangladesh on 14th June as part of the *Data For Now* initiative. The workshop, which was chaired by the Director General of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and facilitated by UNSD and the UN RCO, identified a

need for annual estimates of monetary poverty at the sub-district level, something which is currently only available every five years, in order to better inform and target policy responses. Workshop participants included the Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) from the Prime Minister's office, as well as representatives from many line ministries, the private sector and other national and international partners. Through the workshop, participants identified a wide range of traditional and non-traditional data sources that could be used in the annual estimation of poverty. They include social protection, education, banking and other administrative data, surveys from government and non-government sources, satellite and remote sensing data, and telco and other commercial data sources. Through the DESA-wide project, supported by the UN Peace and Development Fund, UNSD will be supporting BBS and in-country partners over the coming months in developing the skills and capacity to make use of new data sources and assess their quality, as well as developing capabilities in relevant statistical/data science methods, in order to work towards the objective of annual disaggregated poverty estimates.

Workshop on the New G20 Data Gap Initiative Workplan, 13-14 April 2022

The workshop presented the 14 recommendations to the G20 focal points consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and National Statistical Offices. The 14 recommendations are organized according to 4 policy areas: climate change, household distributional information, fintech and financial inclusion and access to private administrative data and data sharing. The recommendations are designed to fill in the data gaps for policy making. Within the climate change policy area, UNSD is leading the recommendation on the energy accounts and co-leading on the recommendations on greenhouse gas emissions and national carbon footprints, government climate impacting subsidies and mitigation and adaptation of current and capital expenditures which will be generated using the SEEA. The objective of the workshop was to obtain comments on the recommendations before they are submitted to the G20 meeting in June for adoption. It is expected that this initiative will provide impetus to data compilation and collection not only in the G20 countries but also worldwide.