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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Statistics

**Eighth session**

Bangkok and online, 23–25 August 2022

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports brought to the attention of the Committee**

**Report on the working group on Sustainable Development  
Goal data and statistics of the Regional Collaborative  
Platform for Asia and the Pacific\*\***

*Summary*

The present information document is a report on the working group on Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific. The document builds on previous reports of the precursors of the working group, the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific.

The Committee on Statistics may wish to take note of the report.

**I. Introduction**

1. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific brings together all United Nations entities working on development for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, with the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as Co-Vice-chairs. The Regional Collaborative Platform replaces the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific.

2. The Regional Collaborative Platform comprises four issue-based coalitions, four means of implementation groups, four networking groups, two country support groups and a secretariat.<sup>1</sup>

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\* ESCAP/CST/2022/L.1/Rev.1.

\*\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/regional-architecture/background>.

3. The working group on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) data and statistics is one of the means of implementation groups. As such, it produces and maintains quality control of regional data and statistics products; and ensures coherence and complementarity of regional support on data and statistics to countries. The working group replaces the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

4. The working group is co-chaired by ESCAP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with membership covering Asia-Pacific offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO), UNDP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Pacific Community (SPC) and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

5. The working group meets approximately once every quarter. A summary of its activities since the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics is presented below.

## **II. Activities of the working group**

6. Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics is one of the key areas of technical support to United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams. In August 2020, the working group reached out to 24 Country Teams in the region and established regular contact and information flows. This allowed for flexible and rapid response and sharing of information between the regional and national level.

7. The working group launched a Sustainable Development Goal statistics clinic series to enhance the capacity of Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems. The introductory clinic in November 2021 focused on the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework, Goal monitoring in national development planning and the specific needs of Country Teams on Goal data and statistics. The second clinic in the series, on Goal decent work and related indicators and ILOSTAT, was held in March 2022. The clinics held so far saw a combined audience of around 160 participants. Further clinics on migration statistics, gender statistics, food and agriculture statistics, and the Goal 4 indicators are planned for later in 2022.

8. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA),<sup>2</sup> the working groups on data and statistics of all Regional Collaborative Platforms and FAO organized a virtual seminar series for data officers and economists at Resident Coordinator Offices and members of data-related groups of Country Teams in May and June 2022.<sup>3</sup> The series provided the

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/>.

<sup>3</sup> See [www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/events/detail/en/c/1506880/](http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/events/detail/en/c/1506880/).

opportunity for participants to develop their knowledge and skills on supporting the improvement of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring at national level, and helped them to provide better evidence and actionable insights to accelerate progress on Goal implementation. Around 70 participants from 27 Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams in the region attended the series.

9. The working group also provided technical support to Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in the development and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, for example in Indonesia to map its Goal data and statistics capacity; in the Maldives to develop the SDG progress and data ecosystem components of the SDG roadmap; and in Thailand to review the Goal indicators in the common country analysis.

10. The regular Asia-Pacific Stats Café series continued to facilitate the exchange of practices and advice between United Nations entities and national statistical systems.<sup>4</sup> Since the seventh session of the Committee, 58 cafés were held, of which 21 involved two or more members of the working group. Over this period, the series brought together an audience of over 6,500 participants,<sup>5</sup> exploring a wide range of topics aligned to country priorities and requests for assistance such as measuring the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, disaster-related statistics, gender data, big data governance and partnership, and the use of geospatial data. The series has led to further demand for technical assistance by national statistical systems. Its format has allowed for better reaching out to junior and mid-level staff in national statistical systems and engaged a much larger number of countries than face-to-face events.

11. The Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway<sup>6</sup> continued to be enhanced as a consolidated window on data and analysis on the Goals at regional, subregional and country levels. Users are now able to access additional features including country Goal profiles,<sup>7</sup> visualizations of country comparisons,<sup>8</sup> Goal data availability<sup>9</sup> and SDG investment trends.<sup>10</sup> The National SDG Tracker<sup>11</sup> allows countries to produce SDG progress assessment dashboards using their own data, indicators and national target values. It is implemented in collaboration with national statistical systems and Resident Coordinator Offices in Brunei Darussalam, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, the Philippines, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu.

12. The annual Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report coordinated by ESCAP continues to mobilize contributions from across the United Nations development system. The 2021 edition of the report<sup>12</sup> benefited from analysis by ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP and UNFPA of the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the achievement of the Goals

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<sup>4</sup> See [www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics/stats-cafe](http://www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics/stats-cafe).

<sup>5</sup> Participants often attend multiple events so there is some element of double counting in this number.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://data.unescap.org/home>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/country-sdg-profiles>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/country-comparison>.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-data-availability>.

<sup>10</sup> See <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-investment-trends>.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://data.unescap.org/stories/national-sdg-tracker>.

<sup>12</sup> Available at [www.unescap.org/kp/2021/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2021](http://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2021).

in the region. For the 2022 edition,<sup>13</sup> these entities were joined by IOM, UN-Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in providing input on the risk of widening disparities in the region due to the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations.

### **III. The way forward and conclusion**

13. Going forward, the working group will continue to support Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in their efforts to strengthen national statistical systems; to facilitate the exchange of practices and advice between United Nations entities and national statistical systems; and to issue, expand and maintain regional knowledge products.

14. The working group is currently exploring how it can best support Country Teams in supporting national statistical systems in improving the quality of national indicator frameworks, ensuring that these frameworks are aligned with the Goals, and improving the data flow between the national and global levels to ensure that data discrepancies between them are minimized.

15. The working group is also currently working with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to ensure that the regional offer of data and statistics-related events are fully reflected in the global calendar of statistical events,<sup>14</sup> also with a view to foster coordination, collaboration and minimize duplication.

16. The Committee may wish to take note of the report.

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<sup>13</sup> Available at [www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2022](http://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2022).

<sup>14</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/calendar/>.