Draft Agenda

Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics

7-8 September 2021, Virtual meeting

Objectives of the meeting

Quality, timely, reliable, and disaggregated data are critical for measuring the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021, the most recent flagship publication from ESCAP, highlights that 80 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators in the Asia-Pacific region lack sufficient data to track progress, while 39 indicators remain with no data. Additionally, the report indicates that disaggregated data for the region are only available for 27 indicators. Immediate and urgent action is required from the Asia-Pacific statistics community to narrow these data gaps, while at the same time the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic complicates the situation as well as creating additional data demands. Regional efforts supporting national statistical systems, such as capacity building activities, promoting and exchange of best practices, improving the coordination of multinational entities' activities, as well as developing forums fostering the sharing of knowledge and experience including COVID-19 response, and the dialogue between experts and practitioners, may be beneficial in this response.

Two years after its second meeting, the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (RSG-PSS) is being convened to review the progress of work, its structure, functioning, and means of implementation and to decide on the way forward.

The main objectives of the meeting are:

- Review the progress of the Regional Strategy and decide on future priority areas and activities, including the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath;
- Revisit the Terms of Reference for the RSG-PSS;
- Identify opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing through existing platforms (e.g. Stats Café Series and Data Integration Community of Practice); and
- Identify existing initiatives and tools by development partners that may support the implementation of the Regional Strategy.

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| 10.30 - 11.00| Connection to the meeting  
                Quick instruction on using the Microsoft Teams Platform and Mentimeter |
| 11.00-11.30  | **Session 1: Opening**  
                Chair and moderator: Mr. Chhime Tshering, *Director of National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan and RSG-PSS Chair*  
                - Welcome and opening remarks by RSG-PSS Chair (5 min)  
                - Meeting objectives and an overview of survey results, *Ms. Petra Nahmias, Chief of the Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP* (5 min)  
                - Intro/tour de table and group photo (20 min) |
| 11.30-12.20  | **Session 2: Review the progress of work, structure, functioning and means of implementation**  
                Chair: Mr. Chhime Tshering, *Director of National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan and RSG-PSS Chair*  
                Moderator: Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat, *Director of Statistical Forecasting Bureau, National Statistical Office of Thailand*  
                - Discussion on RSG-PSS progress by goals (15 min)  
                - Overview of the RSG-PSS Terms of Reference and proposed amendments, *Ms. Petra Nahmias, Chief of the Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP* (10 min)  
                - Discussion on the amendments of TOR and decision by the RSG-PSS (15 min) |
<p>| 10 min       | Break                                                                |</p>
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| 12.30-14.00 (90 min) | **Session 3: A showcase of relevant initiatives and tools by development partners**  
**Chair:** Mr. Chhime Tshering, *Director of National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan and RSG-PSS Chair*  
**Moderator:** Mr. Paata Shavishvili, *Deputy Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)*  
- Positioning household surveys for the next decade – the work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, *Ms. Haoyi Chen, Coordinator Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, United Nations Statistics Division* (10 min)  
- Planning and implementing household surveys under COVID-19, new Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI), *Ms. Gbemisola Oseni, Senior Economist and Ms. Emi Suzuki, Demographer, Development Data Group, World Bank* (10 min)  
- ADB initiatives: innovating population and social statistics in developing Asia, *Mr. Arturo Martinez, Statistician, Statistics and Data Innovation Unit, Asian Development Bank* (10 min)  
- MICS plus: a longitudinal household survey using phone interviewing, *Mr. Jayachandran Vasudevan, Regional Statistics and Monitoring Specialist and MICS coordinator, UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific* (10 min)  
- Brief introduction to relevant training courses, *Mr. Makoto Shimizu, Deputy Chief of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific* (10 min)  
- Innovation in data collection - a real-time monitoring dashboard, *Ms. Alison Culpin, Social Statistics Advisor, Statistics for Development Division, Pacific Community* (5 min)  
Q&A and discussion (30 min) |
## Day 2 (Wednesday, 8 September 2021)

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| 10.45 - 11.00 | Connection to the meeting  
Short brief on breakout group through MS Teams                                                                                     |
| 11.00 - 12.20 | **Session 4: A Panel discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on producing population and social statistics, challenges and solutions**  
Chair: Mr. Chhime Tshering, *Director of National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan and RSG-PSS Chair*  
Moderator: Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, *Director (O.I.C.), Statistics Division, ESCAP*  
Panelists:  
- Ms. Karine Kuyumjian, *Head of Population Census and Demography Division, Statistical Committee of Armenia*  
- Ms. Todgerel Sodbaatar, *Head of Social Statistics Division, Social Statistics Department of National Statistics Office of Mongolia*  
- Ms. Minerva Eloisa Esquivias, *Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority*  
- Ms. Gauri Anoja Seneviratne, *Additional Director General, Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka*  
- Mr. Benuel Lenge, *Government Statistician, National Statistics Office of Vanuatu*  
Q&A and discussion                                                                                                                             |
| 10 min       | Break                                                                                                                                  |
| 12.30 - 13.40 | **Session 5: Way forward**  
Chair and moderator: Mr. Chhime Tshering, *Director of National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan and RSG-PSS Chair*  
- Group discussion (30 min)  
  - to discuss future direction and priority areas and activities of the RSG-PSS  
  - to determine the RSG-PSS contribution to sharing of knowledge and experience on existing online forums (Stats Café and Data Integration Community of Practice)  
- Feedback from group discussions (rapporteurs, 20 min)  
- Plenary discussion and decision (20 min)                                                                                                  |
| 13.40 - 14.00 | **Other matters**  
Closing remarks by RSG-PSS Chair                                                                                                        |