Meeting objectives and an overview of survey results

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In 2016:

- The Committee on Statistics endorsed the Implementation Plan of the Regional Strategy to Improve Population and Social Statistics and agreed to establish a Regional Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the Regional Strategy to achieve its vision, “the countries of Asia and the Pacific have the capacity to produce, disseminate and use the core set of population and social statistics by 2030”, and Goals:
  
  - **Goal 1**: Enable policy environment and maintain demand and support
  
  - **Goal 2**: Improve availability and quality of disaggregated statistics
  
  - **Goal 3**: Enhance data accessibility, analysis, interpretation and use
Background (cont.)

In 2017:

➢ The **Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (RSG-PSS)** was established; consisted of representatives with senior management and technical responsibilities in population and social statistics from 28 member states and ten international agencies.

➢ The RSG-PSS first met in August 2017; the meeting shared good practices, identified priority issues and specific modalities to advance the Implementation Plan, and developed its work plan for all three Goals.

In 2019:

➢ The RSG-PSS met in July 2019, reviewed work progress, decided on two priority activities under each Goal, and supported trialing of the Communities of Practice.
Objectives of the meeting

- 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)
- Identify existing initiatives and tools by development partners that may support the implementation of the Regional Strategy
How well does the RSG-PSS functioning meet your expectations? What do you recommend for improving the functionality and coordination of the RSG-PSS?

• Most respondents who addressed this said that the RSG met expectations and/or functioned well
• A couple of suggestions for more frequent meetings/review – once or twice a year, also include virtual space for communication between meetings
• Varying suggestions for improving functionality. Included:
  - More emphasis on capacity strengthening
  - Expand communities of practice
  - Make sure in touch with country needs
  - Sharing and exchange of knowledge of recent developments
  - Coordination between countries and development partners
What do you suggest as the future direction of the RSG-PSS? Should the RSG-PSS prioritize its strategic function and delegate technical role to task forces or communities of practice?

- General agreement that strategic focus is the way forward, some very strong (one dissent)
- Need to take into account COVID19