CONCEPT NOTE FOR SIDE EVENT

Towards a Sustainable Policy Monitoring System Beyond 2030: Lessons from the SDGs

Statistics Division
Thursday, 3 December, 11:00-12:00
Meeting Room A, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Indicator development sits at the intersection of statistics and policymaking, yet it is too often owned by neither. One of the central questions in policy monitoring is where the focus should be, and ultimately, what should be monitored. Amid rising expectations for an increasing amount of timely, granular, and high-quality data, this is perhaps the most consequential question a national monitoring system can ask. No country can measure everything. The choice of what to focus on is therefore the point at which policy priorities and statistical capacity must meet, in line with the commitments made in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind[1].

Since 2021, ESCAP and the Republic of Korea, through two successive projects under the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, have explored these questions through work on indicator development. The projects have examined how countries can strengthen policy monitoring

[1] ESCAP/CST/2018/7 Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

systems and ensure that monitoring frameworks remain relevant, practical and responsive to policy needs.

A decade of SDG monitoring has taught us many things. The global indicator framework has brought once-marginal issues into national monitoring and has encouraged greater alignment in national statistical systems' outputs, with national statistical offices increasingly recognised as leaders across the wider data ecosystem. But a list of indicators alone is insufficient. Coordination mechanisms, metadata, quality assurance, reporting arrangements, and dissemination channels are the puzzle pieces that enable the most appropriate indicators to be produced consistently, understood correctly, and used more readily in decision-making.

This side event brings together country experiences from across Asia and the Pacific to consider what a decade of SDG implementation has taught the statistical community about policy monitoring, and how the capacities built over that decade can be sustained and further developed, as attention turns to what comes after 2030.

Organizers

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Ministry of Data and Statistics of the Republic of Korea (MODS).

Programme

Time	Agenda
11:00–11:08	**OPENING SESSION** Opening remarks by Ms. Rachael Beaven, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP Welcome by Mr. Soonpil Yang, Director-General, Bureau of Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Data and Statistics of the Republic of Korea (MODS)
11:08–11:15	**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION** Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Nia, Head, Statistical Data Management Unit, Statistics Division, ESCAP Raise key questions/highlights to prepare for group discussions that follow.
11:15-11:45	**GROUP DISCUSSION** Moderated by Mr. Christopher Ryan, Statistician, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific Around each table, participants will discuss recurring challenges and emerging priorities in policy monitoring. Suggested topics include: • Aligning national development plan monitoring with SDG monitoring;

Time	Agenda
	• Coordinating data production across institutions; • Monitoring sub-national progress and leaving no one behind; • Communicating evidence effectively through different mechanisms. Groups will be facilitated by representatives from selected countries. Each group will have 2-3 minutes to report back to the plenary on: • One challenge • One successful practice • One recommendation
11:45-11:55	**OPEN DIALOGUE** Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Ni, Head, Statistical Data Management Unit, Statistics Division, ESCAP
11:55-12:00	**CLOSING** Closing remarks

Online registration here or via QR code.

Event website:

For information, please contact Mr Dayyan Shayani, Statistics Division, ESCAP, at dayyan.shayani@un.org with a copy to stat.unescap@un.org.

Event website: https://www.unescap.org/events/2026/cst10-side-event-towards-sustainable-policy-monitoring-system-beyond-2030-lessons-sdgs