



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**Asia-Pacific Conference:  
Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics  
for Agenda 2030**

**27-28 March 2017**

**United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Concept Note**

**I. Introduction**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), is organizing the above-mentioned regional conference. The Conference will bring together a broad range of national, regional and global stakeholder institutions to engender reflections and bring forward recommendations on how collective efforts to enhance data and statistics can best support national SDG implementation in Asia-Pacific member States.

The recommendations will map out concrete steps for implementing a framework of action so that “...by 2030, national statistical systems are enabled and empowered to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of Agenda 2030.” This shared vision and the supporting collective actions, endorsed by the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in December 2016<sup>1</sup>, serves as a guide for the Asia-Pacific statistical community in identifying priorities for statistical capacity enhancement in the region and aids the process of identifying regional resources and mechanisms for undertaking capacity building collectively, at the national level.

The outcomes of the conference will directly feed into deliberations involving governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders on strengthening the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on 29-31 March 2017. Accelerating the transformation of official statistics to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires complementary, collaborative and cooperative partnership initiatives, based on a common understanding of needs of countries. The conference seeks to integrate this strategy into the Asia-Pacific Roadmap for SDG Implementation.

**II. Objectives and outcomes**

The conference design will facilitate discussions that focus on national practices, challenges,

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1. [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP\\_CST\(5\).1.Collective\\_Vision.English.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_CST(5).1.Collective_Vision.English.pdf)

and strategies to develop and implement comprehensive monitoring frameworks and indicators attuned to the national context and the requirements of national statistical systems to support the implementation of global SDG indicators.

More specifically, the conference is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- A. Recommendations of key elements of a national strategy to: 1) develop and implement comprehensive national monitoring and indicator frameworks to support SDG follow-up and review at national and subnational levels and 2) enhance national statistical production and dissemination to support the compilation of national development indicators, including where relevant, the global SDG indicators;
- B. Recommendations of effective partnerships at regional and sub-regional levels to support national efforts in the above two areas that would feed into the implementation of the statistics pillar of the Asia-Pacific Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Development;
- C. Areas of immediate country actions that require support from statistics development partners.

### **III. Conference design**

To generate the recommendations and highlight immediate support needed, the conference will cover the following topics organized around suitably designed sessions:

- Key considerations for developing an effective comprehensive national monitoring and indicator framework to support SDG follow-up and review, including SDGs in national development plans and strategies, addressing leave-no-one behind focus, multi-stakeholder engagement, etc.
- Key considerations for implementing a comprehensive national monitoring and indicator framework, including but not limited to:
  - Use of the framework and indicators for national follow-up and review of SDG implementation
  - Arrangements for preparation and dissemination of national monitoring and progress reports
  - Arrangements of data procurement
  - Sustained statistical production and dissemination underpinning monitoring and indicator frameworks at all levels
- Immediate and long-term actions at national, subregional and regional levels to achieve the above two

These topics will be addressed through a series of sessions with combination of plenary and small group presentations and discussions:

1. Plenary: Country practices in developing and implementing comprehensive monitoring and indicator frameworks for SDG follow-up and review: Issues and challenges

2. Plenary: Regional and subregional support to national efforts in data mapping, indicator development and integrating SDGs in national development plans and strategies
3. Parallel group discussions: Issues and opportunities for strengthening national efforts
  - a. Developing comprehensive national monitoring framework and indicators
  - b. Implementing comprehensive national monitoring framework and indicators
  - c. Sustained statistical production and dissemination underpinning the monitoring and indicator frameworks at all levels
4. Plenary: Pulling all together, next steps to strengthen partnership support to country efforts,

#### **IV. Participation**

The conference targets participation of a judicious mix of senior officials and experts in developing and implementing national monitoring frameworks and indicators for SDG implementation. This would include senior representatives and experts from:

- National SDG coordination entities  
*Perspectives on the use of evidence and statistical information to support national SDG follow-up and review; opportunities for legal, institutional and budgetary support for sustained statistical production and dissemination*
- National statistical offices and other institutions of national statistical systems  
*Perspectives on roles and responsibilities of national statistical systems in developing and implementing a monitoring and indicator framework; requirements for legal, institutional and budgetary support for sustained statistical production and dissemination*
- Civil society organizations, business sector and academia  
*Perspectives on the roles and responsibilities of the respective sectors in the development and implementation of comprehensive national monitoring and indicator frameworks*
- Global, regional and sub-regional organisations  
*Perspectives on opportunities for coordinated support to national efforts in developing and implementing national monitoring and indicator frameworks*

Limited funding is available to support participation by officials and experts from developing countries.

#### **V. Dates and venue**

The workshop is to take place on 27-28 March 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **VI. Working language**

English will be the working language.

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