I. Introduction

1. The fourth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics was held in Bangkok on 23-24 March 2015.

The meeting was attended by Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Maniruzzaman Khan, Md. Zahidul Hoque Sardar (Bangladesh), Sovorlak Khin (Cambodia), Wang Ping (China), Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Ajit Joshi (India), Adi Lumaksono (Indonesia), Phetsamone Sone (Lao PDR), Mohd Uzir Mahidin (Malaysia), Aishath Shahuda (Maldives), Badamtsetseg Batjargal (Mongolia), Teresa Dickinson (New Zealand), Bahrawar Jan (Pakistan), Tony Waisa, Romeo Moses (Papua New Guinea), Aliielua Salani (Samoa), Sook Han Suzanne Wong (Singapore), Aycan Özek (Turkey), Quang Vinh Pham (Viet Nam), Rana Hasan (ADB), Robert Morrison, Joanne Mcfadden (DfID), Allan Nicholls (FAO RAP), Tite Habiyakare (ILO), Qi He (IMF), Nilima Lal (SPC), and Grant Cameron (World Bank). A number of staff members from ESCAP Statistics Division and ESCAP Pacific Office were also present. ¹

2. Apologies were received from the following Steering Group members: Gagik Ananyan (Armenia), Jonathon Khoo (Australia), Seiji Takata (Japan), Wai Kong Edward Leslie Tang (Hong Kong, China), Jeff Cope (New Zealand, Chair of SGRPES), Moon Kwon Soon (Republic of Korea), and Tülay Korkmaz (Turkey).

3. The provisional programme for the meeting was adopted.²

4. Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Co-chair of the Steering Group, chaired the fourth meeting.

5. Feed-back on the meeting as provided by participants is reported in Annex III of this report.

II. Organization of the meeting

6. The meeting was organized in six plenary sessions and three parallel breakout discussion groups. All meeting documents are accessible at http://www.unescap.org/events/fourth-meeting-steering-group-regional-programme-economic-statistics-rpes

7. The following topics were discussed on the basis of presentations by the Co-chairs of the Steering Group and the secretariat:

¹ Please see Annex II for the complete list of participants.
² Please see Annex I for the programme of the meeting.
A. Proposal for establishment of Focal Area on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

B. Review of the implementation of the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics since the third meeting of the SGRPES

C. Development of project proposals and resource mobilization for RPES

D. Break-out group discussions and report back to plenary:
   i. Oversight of RPES implementation;
   ii. Coordination of country-level implementation of RPES; and
   iii. International trade and economic globalization statistics.

E. Proposed work plan for Phase II and next steps for SGRPES

F. Knowledge management for RPES

G. Proposed inputs for the Meeting on Collaborating to strengthen statistical institutions

III. Summary of the main conclusions

8. The recommendations emanating from Sessions D to F are provided below. The summary of the discussions in Sessions A to C, which were of an introductory nature and Session G which focused on the Steering Group’s input for the Meeting on Collaborating to strengthen statistical institutions is provided in Section IV, as proceedings.

Oversight of RPES implementation

9. The discussion on the oversight of RPES implementation focused on two main areas: (a) monitoring of the implementation of RPES and (b) technical oversight to be provided by the Steering Group during RPES implementation.

Monitoring of the implementation of RPES

10. The participants agreed that the Capacity Screening conducted by the secretariat in 2013-14 was useful and should be repeated, but it is not sufficiently comprehensive for full monitoring of Programme implementation. The Programme monitoring framework should in particular:
   - Assess the quality of the available economic statistics beyond just reporting of frequency of production;
   - Provide additional information on statistical infrastructure;
   - Focus further on economic statistics dissemination, for example by integrating GDDS and SDDS;
   - Incorporate users’ perspective, e.g. through regular users’ meetings or surveys among users.

11. Peer Reviews of national statistical systems were recommended as a comprehensive source of information on a range of institutional and organizational elements, including legal frameworks, institutional structures,
organizational arrangements (human resources, IT infrastructure, etc.) and business processes (data production, processing, dissemination and quality control), as well as domain-specific issues (data sources and methodologies, implementation of international standards and classifications, etc.).

12. A complementary source of monitoring information was proposed as a regular bulletin where countries could showcase their achievements within the Regional Programme. It was suggested that priority for reporting national achievements could be given to least developed countries and/or countries that have undergone Peer Reviews.

**Technical oversight to be provided by the Steering Group during RPES implementation**

13. Members agreed that for technical oversight, research proposals by countries shall be reviewed by a group of selected experts together with the secretariat, avoiding any conflict of interest in the composition of the group. Priority shall be given to proposals from countries with special needs taking into account their capacity to absorb technical assistance.

14. It was also agreed by the Steering Group that the development/improvement of specific tools and guidelines (e.g. the template for country project proposals, the concept and functioning of the resource facility, etc.) should be taken up by a smaller group to deliberate and decide on the next steps.

15. It was recommended that the secretariat learn from FAO’s experience in coordinating the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and study the terms of reference of the Regional Coordinator, as such a position should be created given the increased funding to RPES.

**Coordination of country-level implementation of RPES**

16. The discussion on the coordination of country-level implementation of RPES focused on Peer Reviews, support for national focal points, coordination among development partners and the development of regional tools to support national implementation.

17. It was agreed that the proposed Peer Review process needed clear purpose, recommendations and actions. The Peer Reviews should be flexible, inclusive, and country-owned and make use of existing tools and experiences to the extent possible.

18. It was suggested that for improved in-country implementation, national focal points would need:
   - NSS quality assessment tools covering the entire Core Set across the national statistical system;
   - Knowledge management support (regular updates on RPES, network of regional experts, sharing of best practices through study visits and/or knowledge products);
• Advocacy tools (web-based and other materials for creating awareness among users of economic statistics and related resource requirements);
• Tools to help use and build awareness among practitioners of international standards and initiatives and of policy uses of economic statistics; and
• Sector-based tools to help integrate sector-specific components into NSDSs particularly ensuring alignment with RPES.

19. It was affirmed that NSDSs covering the entire national statistical system are best placed to improve coordination within the system and among development partners. The elaboration of an NSDS had to be a country-owned and an inclusive process but should also allow for development partners to be involved in their capacity as users and in order to facilitate coordinated support from the latter at the implementation stage.

20. It was recommended that the secretariat develop a terms of reference for a working group to review and develop regional tools for assessments and plan to support country-level implementation. These tools would then be put forward for consideration and decision by the Steering Group.

Proposal for establishing focal area on international trade and economic globalization statistics in Asia and the Pacific

21. Members of the Steering Group welcomed, in principle, the proposal by India to establish a focal area on international trade and economic globalization statistics under the Steering Group. Members agreed that the linkage between the four outputs of the Regional Programme and an initiative on international trade and economic globalization statistics could constitute a useful example of how RPES can be implemented in a specific area of economic statistics.

22. It was decided that an informal task force be created to review and finalize the proposal in light of capacity building needs for international trade statistics and alignment to the Regional Programme outputs. Members of the Steering Group would be invited to participate in this task force. It was further agreed that the formation of the task force be coordinated by India and the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP, and be open to expert-level membership from NSOs, other government agencies (e.g. central banks, etc.), and development partners. The task force shall report on the composition and tasks of the focal area to the Steering Group at its next meeting.

23. It was recommended that the task force consider incorporating the following tasks in the terms of reference of the focal area: identifying international trade statistics gaps, studying processes to capture international trade statistics and how they can be harmonized, identifying best practices to be shared, identifying existing initiatives (e.g. COMPASS project) or organizations (e.g. ASEAN/SAARC) that can be leveraged, and discussing how this proposal can support the post-2015 development agenda and means of implementation of sustainable development goals.
Proposed work plan for Phase II and next steps for SGRPES

24. It was decided that advocacy at the national level needed strengthening, including through developing advocacy tools targeted towards groups of users of statistics, organizing user-producer meetings in order to create awareness among the users of the Core Set and to generate understanding among producers of the linkage between statistics and policymaking. The Steering Group encouraged development partners to support these meetings (cost-sharing was put forward an option).

25. It was stressed that coordination of the implementation of the Regional Programme needed to be strengthened with topical, sub-regional and national initiatives as follows:

- The implementation of RPES had to be coordinated with topical programmes, such as the implementation of the 2008 SNA and a possible trade focal area. It was further emphasized that topical programmes could be designed and implemented in a way to ensure that their capacity building components reflect the four Regional Programme outputs.

- Coordination with sub-regional initiatives needed strengthening and regular flow of information between regional and sub-regional initiatives had to be ensured. It was recommended that selected Steering Group members act as sub-regional focal points, particularly in the case of the Pacific, ASEAN, CIS, and SAARC.

- Coordination at the country level needed strengthening through ensuring a regular information flow and consultations among the Regional Programme national focal points and the members of relevant international working groups from the same countries, e.g. ISWGNA, UBCG, etc.

26. It was agreed that the Coordination Committee should develop a list of regional guidelines and tools to be adapted/developed for RPES implementation. The secretariat was tasked with drafting terms of reference for a working group for the development of tools/guidelines as advised by the Coordination Committee.

27. Steering Group members agreed to submit their CVs to the secretariat for consideration in the development of regional guidelines and tools and/or delivery of technical assistance.

28. It was agreed that the Coordination Committee and the secretariat would develop the regional monitoring framework in light of the deliberations at the fourth session of the Committee on Statistics and propose a format and modality for the submission of detailed information from countries on the national implementation of RPES, e.g. case studies.

29. It was suggested that the following two meetings of the Steering Group be organized in January 2016 and 2017.
30. Based on the above decisions the secretariat would work on elaborating the work plan for Phase II and circulate it for comments by the end of May 2015.

Knowledge management for RPES

31. The Steering Group agreed that an online statistical bulletin, as the one presented in the meeting, would serve the purpose of regular information sharing as well as monitoring. A regional bulletin could include website links to national statistical bulletins and other information on economic statistics at the national level.

32. The Steering Group supported further development of the concept of the online statistical bulletin bearing in mind that it should be capture a sufficient amount of information without overburdening the national statistical systems.

IV. Summary of discussions

33. This section summarizes the discussions in Sessions A to C, which were of an introductory nature and Session G which focused on the Steering Group’s input for the Meeting on Collaborating to strengthen statistical institutions is provided in Section IV.

Proposal for establishing focal area on international trade and economic globalization statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Presentation/document: Focal Area on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

34. This session, which constituted an introduction for the discussions of Group 3 during the Break-out Session was presented by Mr Satyabrata Chakrabarti of the Economic Statistics Division, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India. The main objective of this proposal was the improvement of international trade and economic globalization statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The proposal’s programme of work had five main components: (i) Micro-data linking of trade and business statistics; (ii) Compilation of external trade indices; (iii) Development and implementation of standard quality reports on international trade statistics, including balance of payments trade in goods and services; (iv) Reducing bilateral trade asymmetries and promoting reconciliation studies in trade in goods and services; and (v) Implementation of statistical data and metadata exchange standard (SDMX) for international trade statistics.

35. The following points were discussed after the presentation of the proposal:

- The Steering Group recognized the several challenges of compiling trade data within countries and between a country and trading partners.
- In relation to collecting international trade data according to the destination and origin of goods, the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework and guidelines were highlighted as crucial. Confidentiality of the data was pointed to as an important issue, especially when attempting at matching trade micro-data with that from business registers.
Data collection for trade in services and compilation of related
statistics were underlined as prominent challenges. It was further
emphasized that the availability and structure of data differed from
sector to sector and that there was no common methodology that could
be applied to all sectors.

Concerns were raised that the proposal may not be well-aligned with
the agreed objectives of the Regional Programme and that international
trade statistics was a narrow area which had not been identified as a
substantive priority under RPES.

Concerns were raised that the members of the Steering Group might
not be the right group of experts in this particular area.

Review of the implementation of the Regional Programme on Economic
Statistics since the third meeting of the SGRPES

Presentation: Progress Report in Implementing the Regional Programme for
the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

36. This session was presented by the secretariat to provide the background and a
review of RPES implementation status. The third meeting of the Steering
Group was held in October 2013 and since then the group was reconstituted
to include two representatives of Central Banks in the membership. At the
fourth meeting 11 participants attended the Steering Group meeting for the
first time.

37. The secretariat briefly presented the main elements of the Regional
Programme, the Core Set and the progress made in the first phase of RPES
implementation (2010-2014).

38. The following points were made during the plenary discussion:

- The activities of Phase II of RPES implementation should be linked
  with sub-regional initiatives.

- Countries were encouraged to undertake a thorough assessment, or a
  Peer Review to assess statistical capacity, especially in a way to feed
  into the revisions of NSDSs and similar national statistical plans.

- There was a need to strengthen the mechanism of coordination among
  the economic statistics producers at the national level in order to
  accelerate Programme implementation.

Development of project proposals and resource mobilization for RPES

Presentation: Progress Report in Implementing the Regional Programme for
the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

39. This session was presented by the secretariat as an introduction to the
discussions of Group 2 and 3 during the Break-out Session. The presentation
aimed at triggering discussion on how to support national implementation at
the regional level, given that (i) information for national capacity monitoring
was lacking, (ii) guidelines for national economic statistics development
plans were not clear; and (iii) a common approach to link the Regional Programme with statistical output-oriented programmes did not exist. In addition, the following questions were also raised: (i) how to collect information on the institutional and organizational elements of capacity that affect economic & other statistics; (ii) how to improve the monitoring of domain-specific technical capacity; and (iii) how to monitor the quality of economic statistics.

40. The following points were discussed at plenary:

- The World Bank commented on the coherence between the Regional Programme and the SDGs implementation given that the SDGs put more emphasis on economic statistics compared to the MDGs.
- UNSD noted that from the global perspective, capacity building remains a priority at the regional level while research and developing standard classifications should be undertaken at the global level. UNSD also underlined the importance of linking trade micro-data and business statistics in the context of the global value chain analysis.

**Proposed inputs for the Meeting on Collaborating to strengthen statistical institutions (24 March)**

Presentation: *Proposed input for the meeting on Collaboration to Strengthen Statistical Institutions*

41. The inputs of the Steering Group for the above meeting were organized around the following two questions:

i. How can the objectives of RPES be suitably represented in a national statistics development plan, such as NSDS?

ii. How can monitoring strategies of RPES contribute to the Committee’s monitoring of statistical capacity development in a broad sense?

42. The Steering Group proposed that an overall monitoring framework for the goals of the Committee:

- Serve the purpose of monitoring regional capacity building initiatives;
- Capture quality of statistics (not just the frequency of production);
- Capture the assessment of statistical infrastructure; and
- Incorporate users’ perspective e.g. through regular users’ meetings or surveys among users.

43. The Steering Group also proposed that general monitoring tools, such as Peer Reviews and sector assessment/diagnostic tools, especially with an emphasis on dissemination (GDDS/SDDS) be used to provide the required monitoring information.
Annex I. Programme of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics

Monday, 23 March 2015

09.00 – 09.30 Opening and round of introductions
Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Co-Chair of SGRPES
Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP Statistics Division
All participants

09.30 – 09.50 Agenda and the expected outcomes of the fourth meeting of SGRPES
Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Co-Chair of SGRPES
National Statistical Office, Mongolia

09.50 – 10.20 Introduction of the Proposal for Establishing Focal Area on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Co-Chair of SGRPES
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India

10.20 – 10.40 Review of the implementation of the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics since the third meeting of SGRPES
Nixie Mabanag Abarquez, ESCAP Statistics Division

10.40 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 11.20 Development of project proposals and resource mobilization for RPES
Zeynep Orhun Girard, ESCAP Statistics Division

11.20 – 11.35 Presentation of the break-out groups and the issues to be discussed
Marko Javorsek, ESCAP Statistics Division

11.35 – 12.45 Break-out groups sessions
Group 1: Oversight of RPES implementation
Group 2: Coordination of Country-level implementation of RPES
Group 3: International trade and economic globalization statistics

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch

13.45 – 15.00 Group discussions continue

15.00 – 15.20 Coffee break

15.20 – 17.30 Plenary Discussion
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08.00 – 08.45</td>
<td>Proposed Work Plan for Phase II and next steps for SGPRES &lt;br&gt;Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Co-Chair of SGRPES</td>
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<td>08.45 – 09.10</td>
<td>Knowledge Management for RPES &lt;br&gt;Elena Nyanenkova-Lowry, ESCAP Statistics Division</td>
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<td>09.10 – 09.45</td>
<td>Proposed inputs for the Meeting: Collaborating to Strengthen Statistical Institutions &lt;br&gt;Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Co-Chair of SGRPES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.45 – 10.00</td>
<td>Closing remarks &lt;br&gt;Co-Chair of SGRPES and ESCAP Statistics Division</td>
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Annex II. List of Participants for the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics

MEMBERS

BANGLADESH

Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Joint Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Dhaka

Mr Maniruzzaman Khan, Senior Assistant Secretary (Development Section-1), Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Dhaka

Mr Md. Zahidul Hoque Sardar, Director, Census Wing and Project Director, GIS Project, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Dhaka

CAMBODIA

Mr Sovorlak Khin, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Statistics, Phnom Penh

CHINA

Ms Ping Wang, Director, National Bureau of Statistics, Beijing

INDIA

Mr Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Deputy Director General, Economic Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, New Delhi

Mr Ajit Joshi, Adviser, Department of Statistics and Information Management, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai, India

INDONESIA

Mr Adi Lumaksono, Deputy Chief Statistician for Production Statistics, BPS - Statistics Indonesia, Jakarta

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Ms Phetsamone Sone, Director General, Department of Economic Statistics, Lao Statistics Bureau, Vientinae

MALAYSIA

Mr Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Senior Director, Department of Statistics, Selangor

MALDIVES

Ms Aishath Shahuda, Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Male
MONGOLIA

Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Senior Vice Chairperson, National Statistical Office of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar

NEW ZEALAND

Ms Teresa Dickinson, Deputy Government Statistician and Deputy Chief Executive (Architecture, Design and Programme Governance), Statistics New Zealand, Wellington

PAKISTAN

Mr Bahrawar Jan, Deputy Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mr Tony Waisa, Manager, National Accounts Statistics, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby

Mr Moby Moses, Economic Statistician, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby

PHILIPPINES

Mr Romeo S. Recide, Interim Deputy National Statistician for Sectoral Statistics Office, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City, Philippines

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Andrey Tatarinov, Director, Department of National Accounts, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Moscow

SAMOA

Mr Aliielua Salani, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Apia

SINGAPORE

Ms Sook Han (Suzanne) Wong, Deputy Director, Singapore Department of Statistics, Singapore

TURKEY

Mr Aycan Özek, Deputy Director, Central Bank of Turkey, Ankara

VIET NAM

Mr Quang Vinh Pham, Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office, Hanoi
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Mr Allan Nicholls, Regional Coordinator, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Mr Tite Habiyakare, Senior Statistician, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

Ms Qi He, Advisor, IMF, Washington, D.C.

WORLD BANK

Mr Grant Cameron, Manager, World Bank Group (DECDG), World Bank, Washington, D.C.

__________________

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Mr Rana Hasan, Director, Development Economics and Indicators Division, ADB, Manila

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Ms Nilima Lal, Economic Statistician, SPC, Noumea Cedex

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OTHER ENTITY

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DfID)

Mr Robert Morrison, Deputy Programme Manager, DfID, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Ms Joanne Mcfadden, Statistics Adviser, DfID, Glasgow, United Kingdom
## SECRETARIAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Anisuzzaman Chowdhury</td>
<td>Director, Statistics Division (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Rikke Munk Hansen</td>
<td>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section (EES), SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Yanhong Zhang</td>
<td>Officer-in-Charge, Population and Social Statistics Section (PSS), SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Christopher Ryan</td>
<td>Regional Advisor on Statistics, Office of the Chief, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Eric Hermouet</td>
<td>Statistician, Statistical Data Management Unit, Office of the Chief, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Aaron Beck</td>
<td>Statistician, PSS, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Daniel Clarke</td>
<td>Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Zeynep Orhun</td>
<td>Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Tanja Sejersen</td>
<td>Statistician, Office of the Chief, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Teerapong Praphotjanaporn</td>
<td>Statistician, PSS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Marko Javorsek</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Christopher Sean Lovell</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, PSS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Sinovia Moonie</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Jonathan Marskell</td>
<td>Consultant, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Elena Nyanenkova-Lowry</td>
<td>Consultant, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Nixie Mabanag Abarquez</td>
<td>Statistics Assistant, EES, SD</td>
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## ESCAP PACIFIC OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jillian Campbell</td>
<td>Statistician, EPO, Suva, Fiji</td>
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### Annex III. Feed-back provided by participants on the fourth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics

#### 18 evaluation forms completed

### I. Organization of meeting:

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<th>1. Duration of the meeting</th>
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### II. Content of meeting:

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<tr>
<th>3. Did the meeting achieve its objectives? <em>(Please select as many as applicable)</em></th>
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<th>No</th>
<th>Please provide your comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda item 1: Review status of the implementation of RPES in Phase I</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda item 2: Review and make recommendations on the general approach taken to developing project concepts and resource mobilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda item 3: Review and make recommendations on the activities and roles proposed for the Steering Group in the implementation of RPES taking into consideration the post-2015 agenda and other related initiatives</td>
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<td>Agenda item 4: Make recommendations on the development of the work plan to cover Phase II of the Regional Programme (2015-2017) and the next steps for SGRPES</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Agenda item 5: Form a common position for SGRPES that will be presented at the Meeting</td>
<td>16</td>
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Collaborating to Strengthen Statistical Institutions on Tuesday, 24 March

4. Please provide your comments

- The meeting was very well structured and well conducted. The involvement of the ESCAP secretariat and Statistics Division was thorough and was visible throughout. While this was the first time that I had attended the SGRPES meeting, I did not find any difficulties in participating in discussions, due to excellent documents provided in advance.
- We need presentation from member countries to present the development of economics statistics, especially related to SNA 2008.
- I think the meeting went well, and meeting all its objectives within a short time frame.
- ESCAP Secretariat did a good job for this meeting to prepare the documents and arrange the meeting facilities and logistics. The participants got change to discuss the work plan and the next steps for SGRPES, and shared information of economic statistics in different countries.
- The participant's country appreciates the arrangements made by UNESCAP.
- All the activities of the meeting were perfectly prepared and objectives were achieved.
- As a new comer as a participant to the SGRPES we are very supportive of the development plans and goals put forward for the implementation process on statistics in the Asia and the Pacific Region. The participant's country supports this reform agenda on improving the statistical systems in the country and at the sub regional level. We would like to assure you that we have started the implementation process in the domains of the core data indicator sets that are part of the post-2015 development agenda.
- Very fruitful discussion.

5. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the improvement of this meeting?

- We want to see more of the development partners in the sub-region and the region responding to our needs in relation to TA in capacity building and other relevant areas. There are lots of projects started but we always end up with incomplete projects. This is one area where we want to see improvements. The reform our NSO has taken will address these issues. There are in house issues in the country to sort out first. And we want to assure you that we are dealing with them. But we thank all our sub regional and regional development partners for their continuing support. We support you all.
- Since countries vary in their capacity and knowledge level, therefore, ESCAP need to utilize the capacity of the developed systems of the region for the improvement of the under developed member countries.
- Well organizing.
- Please send all documents of the meeting, including the presentations, on the website of ESCAP.
- All well done.
- Overall the meeting is well prepared.