UNECE CES Steering Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

**Task Group on Statistical Capacity Development for SDGs (TGCAP)**

Statement of Purpose

5 February 2018

This statement of purpose (SoP) proposes a new subgroup of the UNECE CES Steering Group on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SG), as agreed upon the second physical meeting of the SG in December 2017 in Poland.

The primary objective of the TGCAP is to improve the UNECE regional coordination of capacity development for SDG statistics. The proposed actions of the TGCAP may include (but are not limited to):

* Facilitate the sharing of experience and extant tools for developing statistical capacity relevant to the SDGs (such as identification of good practices, building partnerships, national self-assessment);
* Assess and describe the national needs and demands of capacity development for the UNECE region;
* Assess regional progress on producing Tier 1 indicators;
* Identify gaps with reference to SDGs (in global indicator use, thematic areas);
* Identify potential soft skill and hard skill gaps;
* Identify organizational readiness
* Identify principles to govern the identification of regional priorities; for example
  + inclusiveness of countries (focus on wide participation)
  + scope of statistics reported (ensure a balanced reporting of statistics across economic, social and environmental domains)
  + commonly set (all tier 1 indicators)
  + expansion of reporting (focus on tier 2 indicators)
  + methodological development needs (focus on tier 3 indicators)
  + thematic areas of particular interest to the region (in particular within SDGs) to be further discussed or to bring to the attention of specific existing UNECE technical/expert groups
* Discuss and propose regional priorities and country demand for capacity development based on demand and with reference (but not limited to) SDGs;
* Assess and describe current financing and other resource re-alignment mechanisms best suited for identified priorities; and
* Identify mechanisms to link capacity development efforts with policy making needs and mechanism to promote actions in order to reach relevant/ mechanism to reach relevant audiences (e.g., HLPF events).

The subgroup should lead coordination and promote these activities within the UNECE region. To accomplish its objectives the TGCAP should work closely together with existing bodies or persons active in this field. The regional programme from UNECE, the HLG-MOS from UNECE, PARIS21 with its initiative “Capacity Development 4.0” or the HLG-PCCB is working in this field. It is not necessary to start from scratch; however, it is necessary to see the topic capacity development through a SDGs lens related to the UNECE region.

Based on this SoP, a request to express interest will be distributed to CES members (both within and outside of the SG). The (co-) lead(s) will be decided by the SG co-chairs by February. The (co)-lead(s) will draft the ToR to be submitted for approval by the SG (and, as necessary, by the Bureau; similarly, a work plan will be prepared by March. The specific classification of the task group (as a task force or task team) will be discussed with SG co-chairs and UNECE CES. The task group is anticipated to contribute to sessions at the UNECE CES Second Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs in 2018 April and prepare guidance materials, among other activities.