

TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY (TYPSS) Phase II

11th PACIFIC STATISTICS STEERING COMMITTEE (PSSC) MEETING

Tanoa Plaza Hotel, Suva, Fiji Islands
24th – 27th November, 2015

MINUTES

I. Discussions, Decisions and Actions - Day 1

AGENDA 2	DISCUSSIONS AND ISSUES RAISED	AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND ACTIONS
Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	<p>‘Gaps’ in the M&E Framework</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The TYPSS Implementation Coordinator (‘Coordinator’) briefed on Phase II M&E Framework, namely, the Planning (Workplan ‘WP’) and Reporting (Results Matrix and Assessment of Progress), and highlighted the following gaps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of timeframe and Partners and PICTs contributions in WP; Lack of Indicators of Progress for Outputs in Results Matrix; and Lack of Assessment of Progress Report to inform PSSC of Outputs and Objectives-level results. Recommendations 4.1 and 4.2 were made to address the M&E ‘gaps’. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Important to complete the matrices to assess progress; Subcommittee to consider in collecting indicators and measuring progress the following: (i) self-assessments by NSOs on progress based on own objectives, i.e. NSO Results Matrices; (ii) most recent NMDI from countries for regional-level data; and (iv) annual PIFS Reports on national statistics data; and Need for a dedicated PSSC agenda item to discuss progress towards each Objective based on: (i) Results Matrix Indicators of Progress (ii) NSOs’ self-assessment, and (iii) Coordinator’s assessment. 	<p>PSSC Agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Adopt Recommendation 4.1 and endorsed the revised format of WP 2015 – 2016 To Adopt Recommendation 4.2 and established a subcommittee of TYPSS stakeholders to assist the Coordinator to finalise the Indicators of Progress for Outputs, Baselines and Targets for the TYPSS Results Matrix. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee include AusDFAT, Statistics NZ, UNESCAP, Samoa Planner, and Samoa Government Statistician. Subcommittee will incorporate comments from the group and will recommend the completed List of Indicators, Baselines and Targets for adoption in PSSC-12 to be used from PSSC-13 onward To Task the Subcommittee to report on progress of their task and lead a detailed discussion in the next PSSC Meeting for each Objective
AGENDA 3	Increasing Engagement with Users of Statistics	PSSC Agreed:
Governance Arrangement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Coordinator briefed on alternative governance arrangements/models for PSSC as directed by PSSC-10, and highlighted: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Adopt part of Recommendation 6.1 and allowed the current PSSC governance arrangement to

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The key issues which prompted the call for alternative arrangements, namely, the need for increased direct lines of accountability to users of statistics in Phase II, and the need for increased ownership and control by PICTs of PSSC; b. The merit of each arrangement/model, namely, the Pacific Islands Directors' Conference (PIDC), an independent PSSC, and Subcommittee of PSSC and HOPs, to support PSSC in its function in the context of the Phase II strategies and significant areas of work for PSSC; and c. The merit of each model in adequately addressing the key issues. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Recommendations 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 were made to address the key issues 3. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Model must address key issues, namely, lack of ownership and interest for statistics by major users (e.g. finance ministers for economic and social statistics), and improve NSOs' engagements; b. PSSC is still disconnected from NSDS process/mechanism which can improve control/ownership/link to users/national bodies; and there is need for PSSC to connect directly with PICTs' NSDS Chairs; c. Lack of interest in statistics at FEMM Agenda is due to lack of understanding of links/relevance of statistics to finance, and there is need for an explicit discussion on recommendations by statisticians to improve this; and d. There are existent mechanisms in Phase II Design that seek to improve engagement/links to major users: (i) Objective 5; and (ii) the Coordinator's role to marshal collective efforts of NSOs' and PSSC to achieve Objective 5. 	<p>continue, but for a period up to PSSC-12 rather than PSSC-13 as recommended</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To Adopt Recommendation 6.2 and tasked the Coordinator to examine more closely, in consultation with TYPSS PICTs and Partners, the PIDC Model to present to PSSC-12, as well as consider comments from the group 6. To Adopt Recommendation 6.3 and tasked the Coordinator to review the PSSC TOR, in consultation with TYPSS PICTs and Partners, to reflect the expanded role of PSSC proposed in the Phase II Design
AGENDA 4	Current and Future Partner Activities	PSSC Agreed:
TYPSS Partners WP Activity and Status Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Coordinator briefed on the new planning and reporting format for TYPSS Partners ('Partners'), and specifically acknowledged SPC SDD's assistance in finalizing it for use across multiple Partners. 2. Recommendation 4.1 was made to endorse the revised format for Partners. 3. <u>Individual updates from Partners on their current and future support included:</u> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To Adopt Recommendation 4.1 and endorsed the format for WP Activity and Status Report to be used by Partners to report to PSSC on their individual activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. PFTAC is currently in need of additional resources to support TA for External Sector Statistics and Government Finance Statistics; b. AusDFAT will reduce overall funding, although commitment to statistics development remains through direct/bilateral funding e.g. to SPC SDD; c. PARIS21 received funding from AusDFAT in 2015 which supported activities e.g. NSDS development in Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji; Mid-Term Review of NSDS in Samoa; regional and country NSDS Training; and regional data dissemination policy workshops. In 2016-2017, NSDS in 4 new countries will be formulated, namely Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru and Timor-Leste, subject to countries' confirmation; d. NZ Statistics will dialogue with NZMFAT on long-term funding prior to committing, however, Certificate in Official Statistics will continue; e. ABS like AusDFAT will reduce overall funding, although it will continue in current area of assistance, i.e. institutional building and leadership development particularly in Melanesia; f. SPC SDD shared on primary areas of support to NSOs, e.g. NSDS, HIES, Pacific/regional and National industrial activity classifications, facilitated south-south collaboration to support business register set-up and business statistics compilation, 2020 Population and Housing Census Planning Meeting to establish core set of census questions; completed 2015-2017 SPC SDD Plan with results framework fully aligned to SPC Corporate Plan, specifically commended AusDFAT and NZMFaT multi-year funding approach, and ADB assistance to fund 75% of HIES and HH Surveys with 25% contribution by PICTs; and g. Suggestion from Partners for Coordinator to establish a central location for Partners to link to/upload updates on its activities. 	
AGENDA 5	Maximizing use of Administrative Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPC SDD and PFTAC jointly presented on their report to FEMM Session 4: Regional Statistics Initiatives, which updated on their individual activities for strengthening statistics in the Pacific through TYPSS. 	PSSC Agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. To Adopt Recommendation 3.1 to note PFTAC's and SPC SDD's Recommendations made to FEMM in October 2015

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<p>5.1 FEMM Report</p>	<p>Maximizing use of Administrative Data</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPC SDD and PFTAC jointly presented on their report to FEMM Session 4: Regional Statistics Initiatives, which updated on their individual activities for strengthening statistics in the Pacific through TYPSS. 2. A common challenge encountered by both agencies highlighted in particular the need to maximize the use of administrative data, in recognition of resource constraints in NSOs, by examining/revising legal constraints to enable access/sharing of administrative data (e.g. annual income tax and value added tax data), following the example of developed countries (e.g. Australia). 3. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <p>Future FEMM Approach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Need for a consolidated report from PSSC, rather than 2 reports; b. Recognized that PSSC is better positioned to report on Policy issues rather than Activities with the aim of capturing attention, similar to Disaster Risk Insurance agenda capturing attention in the last FEMM; c. Need to enhance the statistics ‘space’ at FEMM to highlight the relevance of statistics to economic policy and planning; d. Suggested Approach I: PSSC provides single report, clarifying its role, highlighting statistics issues, with NSOs sensitizing individual Ministers on issues prior to FEMM to encourage interventions; e. Suggested Approach II: A side-event similar to previous FEMM WB Side Event on Disaster Risk Finance, where statisticians can demonstrate immediate/direct connection of statistics to needs of politicians, economic, financial, private sector officials; the same way Health officials demonstrate immediate connection of NCD issues to economic costs of PICTs; f. Suggested Approach III: Identify 10 big issues of FEMM and relate how TYPSS will address them better in next 2 – 3 years with graphic illustrations; g. Noted there is already demand for statistics from SDGs, and FEMM is the regional forum to further promote this. <p>HOPS 2016 Meeting</p>	<p>PSSC Agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. To Adopt Recommendation 3.1 to note PFTAC’s and SPC SDD’s Recommendations made to FEMM in October 2015 9. To PSSC coordinating a single report from TYPSS Partners to FEMM from hereon, to replace the previous practice of individual reports from SPC SDD and PFTAC submitted to FEMM; and tasked the Coordinator to support the Chairs and Vice-Chairs and involving TYPSS PICTs and Partners to develop the paper
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<p>5.2 Webpage Development</p>	<p>h. Noted that due to SPC 2016 budgetary constraints, there is no HOPS 2016, however, offer from SPC SDD was acknowledged, to support 3 additional statisticians to attend PSSC-12 to form HOPS Committee to meet also; and</p> <p>i. Noted proposal to align PSSC-12 to FEMM 2016.</p> <p>Stand-alone webpage for TYPSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Coordinator presented options to improve communications and advocacy of statistics work as tasked by PSSC-10, namely, a TYPSS Communications Strategy and Plan, and Website. 2. Recommendation 4.1 and 4.2 were made to action these. 3. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. General support for a web presence, however more cost-effective options are available e.g. Wikipedia and Google, to achieve advocacy and communications purpose and target audience, or as intermediate measure before a website; b. Proposal to engage a Partner with existing infrastructure to host a website with its own domain name and direct links to participating websites (e.g. CRVS at SPC), and mirror that model; c. Acknowledged offer from SPC SDD to connect the Coordinator to colleagues who developed the CRVS website for a 6-7 day job and cost-savings; and d. Proposal to draw from expertise available in TWG IT and TWG Data Utilization in recognition of different audiences and information needs, to develop the Communications Strategy and Plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. To Adopt Recommendation 4.1 and tasked the Coordinator to work with existing TWGs such as Data Utilization, and IT to assist her in finalizing the Communications Strategy and Plan for PSSC to be presented to PSSC-12 11. To task the Coordinator to work with SPC SDD to develop and host the TYPSS website, following the example of Pacific CRVS www.pacific.crvs.org
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AGENDA 6	Key Considerations for Administrative Data	PSSC Agreed:
6.1 Administrative Records TWG Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chair of the TWG Administrative Data briefed on the policy and legal frameworks which define mandates for NSOs, but which don't facilitate access to administrative data. Specific options to address these include: (i) TA influencing the NSDS process to facilitate this; and (ii) MOUs between NSOs and data providers. 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Need for a standardised framework with country action or implementation plans fed into NSDS processes noting this mechanism has improved links and relationships between NSOs and key stakeholders; and b. Need to establish and regularly monitor MOUs between data provider and NSOs as a standard practice. 	<p>12. To Note recommendations 5.1 and 5.2 refer to Recommendation 16 and 17</p>
6.2 Data Utilization TWG Report	<p>Next Steps for TWG Data Utilization and Dissemination ('DUD')</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chair of the TWG DUD shared its TOR endorsed previously by PSSC-10, and Concept Paper intended to map out the group's purpose and future activities. 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urgent need to: (i) speed up deliverables by all TWG, (ii) establish time-bound or 6-monthly outputs and outcomes, and (iii) circulate TWG papers more widely for TYPSS Stakeholder inputs; and b. Need to improve data dissemination in general, and specifically for NSOs to disseminate data more widely and in a timely manner, recognizing also that parliamentary protocols and clearances can delay or obstruct the release of national, particularly sensitive data. 	<p>13. To Note the Draft Concept Paper and Next Steps to finalize the Paper before PSSC-12</p>
6.3 IT TWG Report	<p>Key Progress by TWG IT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chair of the TWG IT briefed on the group's progress generally against PSSC-10 tasks to all TWGs. Specific future activities for the group include the development of a strategic plan, hosting a workshop for PICTs on ICT, and 	<p>14. To convene a subgroup to formulate a core set of principles to guide the ICT Strategic Plan and Regional Catalogue</p>

(New Agenda Item on)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chair of the TWG Data Administrative Records shared information on regional activities to improve the collection and compilation of gender statistics. 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognized that past statistics collections did not accurately reflect women's participation in the workforce, and there was need to revise surveys' questions, e.g. in the next round of Population Census, to allow a secondary round of questions to capture information on informal employment by gender; and b. Noted there is already mainstreaming of gender into statistics work with revisions to entire statistics collection and dissemination process; what is needed also is capacity building of gender focal points, to better contribute advice and improve integration (e.g. in TWGs). 	<p>TWGs, but taking into account the need for capacity building</p> <p>17. To Note UNMDI set of Indicators are available and updated on NSO websites and taking into account comments from the group</p>
AGENDA 7 Pacific Statistics Standards and Classification	<p>Importance of common regional methodologies and adherence to regional/international standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPC SDD Director highlighted key examples of regional harmonization of systems, standards, and classification, namely, the DHS, HIES, and adoption of common core set of census questions/modules; and 'regionalizing' international standards, to harness the benefits which include: improved data quality, data comparability between counties, and efficiency gains in data processing, analysing and reporting, and facilitating South-South Cooperation. 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Need for countries/NSOs to provide collective leadership, recognizing FEMM is a key forum which hasn't yet recognized this as an issue to address b. Noted the poor example set by Kiribati NSO in reverting to previous census core questions given investments of AUD5million to support the common core set of census questions/modules; and c. Noted the Ongoing Challenges and Key Messages for support from NSO Heads, PICT Governments, Ministers of Finance, and Partners. 	<p>PSSC Agreed:</p> <p>18. To Note the Ongoing Challenges and Key Messages</p>
AGENDA 8	Common Systems and SDGs	PSSC Agreed:

<p>Common Systems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friend of the Chair ('FOC') presented generally on common systems for PSSC to effectively lead the region's development of SDG indicators and TYPSS such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. adoption of common tools and solutions to harness benefits from a mix of collaborative initiatives such as South-South Cooperation, collective reflection forum, effective TWG modalities; and mapping out investments from Development Partner around planned statistical operations. 2. He also shared on forms of regional statistical cooperation that influence the focus on common systems, including, inter alia: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the mandate of regional bodies to engage in statistics; leadership, governance and management to drive regional statistical cooperation; resource mobilization schemes and Partners' support; an approach to strengthen institutional and human resources of regional and country statistical systems; capacity building strategies to ensure relevance and responsiveness; the need to consider regional statistical strategies as well as recognition of UN's role in regional statistical cooperation 3. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognition that the Caribbean region faces very similar issues, it has a highly-effective standing committee of statisticians funded from Government budget to meet every 6 months and is well-supported by the European and Caribbean Statistics – this was the basis for the PSSC model; b. Noted-PARSIS21's offer to help facilitate south-south cooperation and learning on common systems and tools that could be cross-applied between Pacific and Caribbean in support of SAMOA PATHWAY for SIDS; c. Recognized that sharing of statistics e.g. between ABS and NZ, is a powerful enabler and champion for the use of standards and classifications, noting also the issue of sovereignty, and the need for central hosting of solutions d. Recognized that TWGs are in dire need of resources to support its needs for capacity and direction, e.g. in the form of an intensive workshop, to address the current start-stop pattern and snail-pace; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. To Task a small group of NSO representatives to compile a paper exploring the scope of areas from the list presented, of where PSSC should have oversight for (<i>cannot action the agreement as tasking is not done</i>)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Recognized that the PSSC model is a successful one, with further potential to build capacity in the region; f. Proposal for PSSC to decide common systems listed by FOC that are relevant, and make explicit decision to develop them based on what can be done, and include in the next meeting agenda, a discussion on common solutions. To action this, a suggestion was to task a small group of NSOs to examine and increase the scope of solutions; and g. Need for PICTs to compile a list of its weaknesses in the context of commons systems, and Partners, a list of assistance to address these. 	
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II. Discussions, Decisions and Actions - Day 2

AGENDA 10	DISCUSSIONS AND ISSUES RAISED	AGREEMENT/DECISION AND ACTIONS
10.1 Pacific CRVS (BAGS representative)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BAGS representative updated on the current status of work on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in the region, highlighting recent national political commitments to CRVS improvement and tasks for NSOs. Best practice tools for legislation and IT, and current opportunities for raising CRVS profile and improving sector linkages were also highlighted. 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognized that the Pacific region is an example worldwide in coordinating Governments and Partner to progress CRVS, e.g. ESCAP Asia-Pacific ministerial meeting; b. Recognized that CRVS reporting is an additional burden on NSO capacity, with limited technical and financial support, and noting that country-led registrations are core government processes. Also noted that SPC SDD had put forward a funding proposal to the Canadian Government under its \$100m Global CRVS Facility with the World Bank which is currently on hold; c. Recognized that Census and CRVS should be complimentary data sources, noting the difference in Life Expectancy figures between the 2 is due to 	<p>PSSC agreed:</p> <p>20. To Note the Recommendations to NSOs</p>

	<p>methodologies. Also noted that in Samoa there is no significant variance between vital statistics and Census, and that Fiji is using vital statistics data in its Census for greater accuracy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Need for higher-level sector representation on CRVS Committees for greater influence, noting that capacity/capability building of stakeholders must be undertaken given that economic statistics is the traditional area of interest, which has contributed to communications/decision bottlenecks from Health; e. Acknowledged the work of BAGS at improving collaboration between Health and Statistics especially with timely production of relevant statistics; f. Noted the 2014 Status Report of CRVS in PICTs and that countries producing regular vital statistics have updated NMDIs; and g. Noted the request for assistance on a CRVS module at the USP Official Statistics Course in partnerships with BAGS and SPC SDD. 	
10.2 Pacific Planners and Statisticians Issues for PSSC-11	<p>Pacific Statisticians and Planners Decisions and Actions 24/11/15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chair of the Pacific Statisticians and Planners made the following comments further to its Decisions and Actions from its meeting on 24 November 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. BAGS representative to report to PSSC-12 on status of CRVS in the Pacific; b. PICTs are strong on civil registrations, and others weak on vital statistics; c. Need for TYPSS Partners to harmonize and consolidate a list of their assistance on CRVS to reduce burden of assistance on NSOs; and d. Pacific Statisticians and Planners Decisions and Actions to be annexed to the PSSC-11 Meeting documents. 	<p>PSSC agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21. To Adopt the Recommendations made by Pacific Planners and Statisticians and tasked BAGS representative to provide a report to PSSC-12 on Status of CRVS in the Pacific Region 22. To Note the need for NSOs to consolidate a list of NSOs' needs on CRV, noting in particular that some are strong on Civil Registrations, and others weak on Vital Statistics 23. To Note the need for TYPSS Partners to harmonize and consolidate a list of their individual assistance on CRVS, so as not to burden NSOs with assistance 24. To Annex the Report by Pacific Planners and Statisticians Meeting to PSSC-11 Records

<p>10.3 SDG Indicators (Inter Agency Expert Group - Oceania representatives)</p>	<p>SDG Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The IAEG representative shared briefly on the comprehensiveness of the SDG Agenda, Goals and Targets, compared to MDS, aimed at stimulating action over the next 15 years starting January 2016 for the betterment of humanity in terms of prosperity, peace and partnership. All Goals cover the 3 pillars of sustainable development, which are also stressed in the SAMOA PATHWAY. Goal 13 in particular stressed climate change with indicators linked to developed country actions to reduce impact on settlement in the Pacific region in particular. Other Goals with particular relevance to PICTs are Goals 14 and 15 which emphasise the importance of oceans and ecosystems. 2. The SPC SDD Director shared on regional work undertaken by SPC at the request of PSIDS UN-based ambassadors, to feed into the UN Open WG discussions, and provide regional input on ongoing SDG-IAEG discussions, including inter alia: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Process of identifying Indicators began 1.5 years ago with 4 CROP Agencies convening to assess from a technical perspective, Indicators, Goals and Targets; process included matching 62 Regional Headline Indicators of 62 against 82 Global Headline Indicators; b. Most important challenge for the region relate to Goals 13 and 14 where there is need for the region to propose substitute/additional/relevant indicators from a regional perspective i.e. number of casualties occurred due to climate change, number of countries developing sustainable environment plans, number of CCF sustained due to reduced climate change impact etc.; c. CROP Agencies will convene early in 2016 once final Global list of 'green' indicators are known (post United Nations Statistics Commission meeting 4 – 11 March) to identify regional monitoring and reporting priorities. 3. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> PICTs preparations for SDGs monitoring and reporting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Noted the neglect by UN to determine PICTs' prior readiness in capacity and resources to inform on SDGs, as well as inform government of these needs; 	<p>PSSC agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25. To endorse assistance offered by PARIS 21 and expanded on by SPC SDD, and supported by UNDP to undertake an assessment exercise across the Pacific and Caribbean regions, on the capacity and readiness of NSS to undertake the task of reporting on SDG Indicators to be completed by May 2016, before the list of Indicators are finalized in September 2016. 26. To include SDG discussions as an agenda item in PSSC-12
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	<p>b. Opportunity now to communicate NSOs readiness and for PICTs to decide how it would report, noting that NSDs/NSS processes are already underway;</p> <p>c. Noted that Samoa has begun its process via fortnightly sector consultations led by Ministry of Finance and NSO, identifying information available and determining country's ability to respond to SDG needs. Process includes localizing SDGs to benefit Samoa and aligning SDG needs to existing M&E Framework for ease of data sourcing;</p> <p>d. Consultation workshop led by the Prime Minister's Department and included Partners in Vanuatu discussed the SDG replacing the MDG under the theme 'the nation we want', as well as parallel reporting obligations (e.g. ICPD);</p> <p>e. In Fiji, SDGs are included in the NDP draft scheduled for release in December, with improved indicators for monitoring compared to past plans;</p> <p>f. There was no assessment on the readiness of Cook Islands to report on SDGs however, there is need for one for NSS i.e. Planning and NSO. Currently, NSDP goals are aligned to SDG which reduces the burden on NSO and NSS;</p> <p>g. SDG indicators have not been finalised yet in PNG, however, proxies from MDGs and available data are being applied. In addition, 2016 DHS will examine how questionnaires and modules can accommodate SDG indicators;</p> <p>PICTs' readiness to undertake SDGs monitoring and reporting</p> <p>h. Noted the offer from PARSIS21, supported by UNDP, and expanded on by SPC SDD to approach Pacific and Caribbean statisticians to assess statistical capacity and readiness of NSS to undertake SDGs, timed for the September finalization of the List of Indicators. Said meeting would involve 39 SIDS to assess capacity and readiness of NSS, availability of data and additional collection requirements, and its links to national policies and priorities;</p> <p>i. Need also, after the assessment of capacities by NSO, for UN Cluster and CROP Agencies to assess their own individual capacity to fill the 'gaps' identified by NSOs in terms of technical assistance and financial resources, and map out how it can provide their support in a coordinated way;</p> <p>Feedback from UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on SDG Indicators</p>	
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	<p>j. Recognized that producing/disseminating data for 169 Targets is challenging across Asia Pacific, not just for PICTs, but also High Income countries which could only produce ½ of the indicators and Middle Income countries only ¼;</p> <p>k. Need to explicitly determine regional policy priorities and regional indicators to achieve SDGs;</p> <p>l. Need to explicitly involve policy and planning community, (e.g. through sensitization workshops) in recognition that said ministries are part of the SDG process;</p> <p>m. Noted that in capacity readiness issues, 2 of the 169 Targets are specifically on statistics development, and of the 2 Indicators monitoring the 2 Targets, 1 monitors SDG data, so there is inherent need to compile data for that Indicator; hence need to consider capacity measures in the context of diagnosing strengths of NSS and use that for advocacy purposes;</p> <p>n. Recognized that the SDGs is an opportunity to show how statistics can support decisions and policies, and need to jointly consider as statistics community how it contributes to the measurement and compilation of SDG data, noting the importance now placed on statistics development in the SDG Targets, whereas it was traditionally taken for granted in the past;</p> <p>Explicit discussion in PSSC Agenda on TYPSS contribution to SDG indicators</p> <p>o. Need to consider balance between qualitative and quantitative measures/indicators in the context of NSO capacities and resource constraints in a focused discussion specifically on SDG Indicators at PSSC-12; discussion would assess capacities of PICTs, what can be shared, what is out of reach, and examine how SDG reporting requirements influence the current and final phases of TYPSS;</p> <p>Consistent and comparable data</p> <p>a. Recognition that one of the greatest achievement of SDGs was increasing users and including disability data thereby expanding scope of users e.g. NGOs, noting also the need to map demand from all types of users, in addition to mapping capability;</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Need to keep data consistent e.g. noting data on MDGs for poverty and hunger were not; and data collection by ADB, WB and UNDP measured poverty differently rendering them incomparable; c. Noted there are moves to converge said agencies' data for consistency and comparability, e.g. SDG baseline are the MDG figures, also that ADB and WB in the Pacific have comparable data, specifically, WB has adopted the UNDP 2009 measure for basic needs poverty line; 	
10.4 Agriculture Statistics	<p>Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics Planning and TYPSS framework</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPC LRD's Agricultural Statistician provided a brief overview of the outcomes of the workshop 'Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fishery Statistics' held in October as well as an update on developments on agricultural and fishery statistics in the Pacific, including sharing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Resources that could be used in the framework of TYPSS; b. Need to build on NSDS process and ensure agencies are using NSOs' work; c. Inclusion in its TWGs, NSOs, e.g. Vanuatu Statistician and Chair of PSSC, Cook Island and Samoa representatives of NSOs; d. Need to harmonize standard collections and use of IT with focus on Agriculture and Fisheries Sector; e. Inclusion of agriculture questions in HIES, and Population and Housing Census, based on the rationale that a regional approach would help smaller islands (e.g. Kiribati), collect greater quantity without additional surveys, unlike bigger countries with capacity to undertake annual agriculture survey; f. Seeking suggestions from PSSC on how to align with TYPSS, and collaboration ideas to obtain buy-in for the Pacific Agriculture and Fisheries Strategy 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognized that Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics is already aligned with TYPSS with the inclusion of NSOs and PSSC Chair in its TWGs; b. Need harness readily available data (e.g. Census), to develop a model that would estimate number of villages/population that undertake fishing, instead of undertaking surveys; 	<p>PSSC agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. To Invite the Agriculture Statistics representative to be part of the Subcommittee developing the Indicators on Progress in the TYPSS Results Matrix, to ensure alignment of indicators and measures of results 28. To Note the need to incorporate Agriculture, Gender, Climate Change as per PSSC-10 Decision, in TWG work 29. To Note the need to align reporting of Agriculture Statistics with TYPSS reports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Noted that new technologies such as satellite and mobile phones and innovative technology for geographic tracking, can be used in place of traditional models, especially for agriculture statistics in the Pacific; d. Noted other mechanisms to link with TYPSS such as being part of PSSC reporting, and joining TWGs similar to PSSC intention for Gender and Environment specialists, as well as join the Subcommittee for Results Matrix; e. Noted that in NSDS reporting work by PARIS21 promotes cohesiveness of reporting including for agriculture and fisheries, rather than separately; 	
AGENDA 11	Country Capacity Support Plan	PSSC agreed:
11.1 Skills Audit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Coordinator briefed on the Skills Audit undertaken by SPC SDD to initiate a discussion on revising the Audit, to inform a Long-Term Training Strategy for Statistics Professional Development which would include an NSO Country Support Plan, South-South Cooperation Plan and a Database of Statistics Experts 2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. General resistance for another skills audit, particularly in the context of informing classroom-style training, and in recognition of the need to embrace a different approach, such as: priority areas for training are identified, scalable training models are developed, scalable training models are developed to deliver focussed training and development via distance-learning modes; b. Noted the idea from USP to collaborate with UNSIAP on modules to address the identified priorities, particularly given SIAP's success in e-training programmes with PICTs, and in light of very high costs of training in Pacific; c. Need to examine further the following: (i) required skills to produce specific products such as National Accounts, BOP, etc., (ii) retaining knowledge locally within NSOs and reduce NSO vulnerabilities due to staff turnover, and (iii) examine capacity deployment in context of NSO size to determine between supplementation, substitution or training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 30. To Adopt the Recommendation by the Coordinator to revive the TWG Training to be chaired by USP or SIAP 31. To Adopt the Recommendation by the Coordinator to task the TWG Training to develop a NSO Country Capacity Support Plan, working with NSOs; 32. To Note that there is Coordination Unit available to support the Plan; 33. To Adopt the Recommendation by the Coordinator to task the TWG to develop a Database of Statistical Experts; 34. To Adopt the Recommendation by the Coordinator to task the TWG Training to present on the Plan and Database at PSSC-12.
11.2 Degree Programme	Official Statistics Programme update	PSSC agreed:

<p>on Official Statistics</p> <p>11.3 Training on Certificate in Official Statistics</p>	<p>1. The USP Official Statistics (OS) Programme Coordinator briefed on key challenge, recent developments and future plans, including, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shortage of teaching staff, low student enrolment, special training for NSOs' immediate needs, and current delivery mode; b. Collaboration with ABS, PARIS21, SPC SDD, and UNSIAP on recent events, including Workshops in Data Visualization and Communication in the Pacific, Data Analysis and Report Writing, and OS Postgraduate; and c. Plans to design and start OS Postgraduate, and closer collaboration with NSOs, PSSC Partners, and TWG members. <p>2. <u>Comments from participants included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognized that each OS Programme course could consist of 2 flexible units, to allow students to choose units based on need and interest, leading to progressive system of qualifications dependent on completed units; and b. Noted the OS Programme courses will go online in 2016 and that practical components can be delivered via supplementary workshops. <p>Training on Certificate in Official Statistics</p> <p>1. Statistics New Zealand representative briefed on the progress and results of the National Certificate in Public Services since PSSC-10, a course which supports using official statistics in evidence-based decision-making by Pacific nations for Pacific nations, through practical workplace-based projects where course candidates use data to analyse or recommend decisions. Update included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In Samoa and Tokelau, a high overall completion rate is expected by end of 2015, with plans to approach the owners of selected projects for international publication, and identify candidates with an interest in and expertise in teaching, to deliver the course elsewhere in the Pacific; and b. In Fiji, the course commenced in November involving at least 10 agencies, with vast majority expected to complete the certificate in middle of 2016; c. Initial discussions already with Cook Islands for certificate start in June 2016. <p>2. <u>No comments from participants</u></p>	<p>35. To Partially Adopt Recommendation 6.1 and tasked the TWG Training to examine further the idea of sponsoring students, thereby generating demand and income to sustain a teaching position for USP's proposed course in the Official Statistics Programme and report to PSSC-12;</p> <p>36. To Adopt Recommendation 6.2 and will engage with USP Official Statistics Programme on statistical training, data analysis and other technical assistance;</p> <p>37. To Adopt Recommendation 6.3 and invited USP OS Coordinator to be a member in PSSC TWGs;</p> <p>38. To Accept the Offer from ABS and SPC SDD to report on a Concept Note on training course resourcing and report to PSSC-12.</p>
<p>AGENDA 12</p>	<p>Update on Recent Statistical Developments in Pacific</p>	<p>PSSC agreed:</p>

<p>12.1 Report from Addis Ababa meeting</p>	<p>1. SPC SDD shared inter alia, on the impact the MDGs have had on statistics across the Pacific, noting achievements, remaining challenges and acknowledging financial and technical support towards the achievements. Update included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MDGs has stimulated demand for reliable/timely statistics, collections of core economic and demographic data, regional core development indicators and routine collection of social statistics, and influenced NSDS processes and data sharing, and prompted regional strategies to strengthen NSOs and NSS; b. MDG experiences recognized the need to increase linkages with key stakeholders, prior dialogue on objectives and indicators with PICTs and NSOs, importance of strong ownership by governments, and commending specifically the assistance of Partners for EMIS and CRVS programmes; c. There is recognition that data and evidence are core to discussion to guide and monitor the Post -2015 Development Agenda, and that administrative databases and associated management information systems are also integral to sustain evidence-informed decision-making and good governance; d. There were no pledges of additional development finance to support SDG agenda solutions at the meeting, however, Canada's contribution of 100m is dedicated to CRVS in the Global Financing Facility; Bloomberg Philanthropies and Australia's 4-year assistance of 100m for private-public partnership will aid 20 developing countries; and WB establishment of a 300m fund over 5-years will support Household economic surveys in IDA eligible countries; e. Noted that in the Pacific, the most pressing issues for programmes under TYPSS are financial shortfalls in regional CRVS and regional Household survey programmes, although funding is secured for EMIS regional technical support facility until 2017. a. Noted that following are future planned programmes and estimated budgets: Regional CRVS program 2016-2020 estimated annual costs of USD 2.7m; Regional Household Survey Program 2015-2018 estimated annual cost of USD 1.4m; and Additional SDG data collection challenges. In light of these 	<p>39. To Note for information</p>
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	<p>figures, there is opportunity for SIDS to make a case for greater recognition of its unique development challenges.</p> <p>2. <u>No comments from participants</u></p>	
AGENDA 13 Other Matters	<p>1. Request from the Coordinator to note that any TWG formed by PSSC need to brief PSSC of final report and intention to cease TWG, and requested TWG HIES, who had notified it had ceased its tasks, through SPC SDD representative to forward the group's final report to the Coordinator;</p> <p>2. Request from the PSSC Chair to forward all matters relating to PSSC to the Coordinator;</p> <p>3. Request from TYPSS Partner for TWG to provide substantive report in PSSC-12.</p>	<p>PSSC agreed:</p> <p>40. To Adopt Request by the Coordinator to send TWG HIES Final Report to Coordinator</p> <p>41. To Note that future TWG should formally advise PSSC of closure of any TWGs and present a Final Report</p> <p>42. To Note that any correspondences relating to PSSC should be sent circulated to Coordinator</p> <p>43. To Task each TWG to present Progress Report to PSSC-12</p>
AGENDA 14 2016 Calendar of PSSC Meetings and PSSC-12 Draft Agenda	<p>1. <u>No comments from participants</u></p>	<p>PSSC agreed to:</p> <p>44. To endorse PSSC-12 block-out dates on 1st and 2nd week of July 2016, to be finalized when FEMM dates are finalized</p> <p>45. To endorse PSSC-13 block-out dates on 3rd week of November 2016</p> <p>46. To adopt Recommended Standing Agenda Items for PSSC-12 and PSSC-13: i) PSSC-11 Activity Items from PSSC-11 and ii) TYPSS Partners Activity Report</p>