

**Tenth Meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC)**  
**Novotel, Nadi, Fiji**  
**27-28 May 2015**

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**WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2015**  
**Meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (Day 1)**

**Agenda 1: Opening remarks**

The PSSC Chair, Mr Simil Johnson, Government Statistician, Vanuatu, opened the meeting by greeting the participants. Mr Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji led the opening prayer. The Chair then welcomed the newly appointed TYPSS Implementation Coordinator Ms Karen Komiti, who starts June 29, as an observer to the meeting.

**Agenda 2: Summary of key decisions from 9th PSSC Meeting**

The Chair cleared each agenda item by number. They were no comments.

**Agenda 3. Update on TYPSS progress during 2014**

**i. General 2014 summary snapshot – highlighting key developments**

Mr Gerald Haberkorn, Director, Statistics for Development Division, SPC, presented a paper on key developments in 2014. They included:

- Significant progress made filling data gaps in 2014, one of the four core strategic objectives in Phase 1 of the SPC Statistics Programme.
- 204 development indicators across 15 sectoral themes of SPC's National Development Indicator Database developed in 2012 in response to Pacific Leaders' request under Pacific Plan for a core set of reliable statistics.
- In area of core collections, conclusion of 2010 censuses. Pacific region only region in the world with 100% coverage, every PIC has completed their census with some having completed two.
- Gradual increase in South-South type collaboration, where SPC managed deployment from one NSO to another, most often in collaboration with an SPC staff.
- Progress made in partnership coordination, noting there was room for improvement and that appointment of coordinator was likely to help in this regard.

On the critical side, despite major achievements across thematic sectors, methodology and collections, Mr Haberkorn stated these gains were reversible because of the funding situation. He added one of the downsides of statistics collection in the region being that only two out of 15 countries managed to carry out a census on their own funding, other 13 depended either wholly or partly on development finance support. Despite laws requiring national censuses every five or 10 years, it doesn't resonate with ministries of finances; leading to a 'disconnect' on the domestic scene, he added.

Not a single country was able to carry out an economic (HIES) or socio-demographic (DHS) household survey on their own funding. He added SPC has been actively assisting countries with sourcing support from financial partners, such as via the multi-year (2 year) ADB support to a regional Household Survey fund, or bilaterally between

countries and a development partner, on the understanding that countries would be willing to cover at least 25% of the total survey budget. All countries have been able to come to the party over the last few years.

Mr Haberkorn added three HIESs were currently in operation, with another four waiting to be carried out but while governments have committed to provide 25% of the survey budget, they have not been able to attract additional support from financial partners. With HIES or other economic household surveys providing the required input data to measure poverty, rebase countries' CPI and yield valuable inputs into the compilation of national accounts, it is essential that all countries are in a position to undertake such a collection on a regular basis. Mr Haberkorn stated the World Bank had been criticized that the last update on poverty line was from 2010. He added that most countries are not in a position to conduct a HIES on a regular basis due to high costs and dwindling development financing, illustrating an important communication 'disconnect' between Pacific island governments and their development partners. He stressed that gains made in the region that could be documented and reported on may not continue if current international financial situation remains.

Mr Haberkorn stressed that it was critical to maintain momentum to sustain achievements made thus far. Priorities were identified by Phase 1: Mid-term Review and reiterated by independent design team providing advice to develop Phase 2: 2015-2017. Administration databases, particularly regarding the compilation of core economic, education and vital statistics are to be the focus of intensified efforts during TYPSS Phase-2 to revamp administrative databases and associated management information systems.

Statistics would have to be collection for key areas that dominate the sustainable development agenda 2015-2030 such as food security, environment and climate change. However, PICs have no tangible data due to a lot of statistics yet to be collected. Mr Haberkorn added the collection of these statistics to a core programme that cannot maintain the collection of social economic statistics would create an additional challenge.

There was enhanced coordination between development partners (University of Queensland, SPC, ABS, UNSW, Queensland University of Technology, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Registrar General of NZ and Pacific registrars) in improving civil registration coverage.

Mr Haberkorn stated he would address the SDG Monitoring challenge via a later agenda item. There were no comments.

## [ii. Coordinated Development Partner Report](#)

Mr Cook, Friend of the Chair, presented an integrated report using a framework that was developed for PSSC rather than separate reports from individual development partners.

## Discussion

Ms Campbell, ESCAP, stated that one of the outcomes of the CRDS ministerial conference declared this the “Asia Pacific Decade of CRDS”, which should help with advocacy in trying to get development partners and countries and ministries of health interested in PSSC work.

Mr Sharma, World Bank, stated that WB didn’t support any data collection in the Pacific in 2014; most of its work had been on the analytical side using SPC generated data. Very recently, WB started working on FSM data set, financed by ADB, with technical support from SPC. WB is using the data to come up with reports and also working with FBOS on their 2013 HIES data as part of its focus on poverty monitoring. WB has been debating internally on whether it needs to invest in data collection exercises since it is focused on poverty monitoring using data collected in the Pacific.

Mr Cook, FOTC, noted that not all members achieved results in the same parts of the TYPSS plan and that a lot of unexpected gains were made as a result of South South collaboration. He stated that the next four years will be harder; and that it was important to achieve the same parts of the plan collectively as a group. He also stated that PSSC needed to develop further as a regional statistics group and lead regional classifications. Mr Cook also acknowledged that obtaining administrative data was difficult as it means going through operational ministries.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, stated that in addition to the challenge of access, for administrative data to be of statistical use, statisticians and subject matter specialists need to be involved in the design of the collection instrument (questionnaire, form) to help ensure data collected are policy-relevant, useful for planning and monitoring, and add value to general research.

#### **Agenda 4. Governance arrangements**

The Chair, Mr Johnson, opened the discussion by stating that previous PSSC meetings had already spent a lot of time discussing governance arrangements around the PSSC as well as the role of TYPSS Coordinator. He noted that some concerns had been raised about regional meetings such as FEMM and CRGA that PSSC should be reporting to. He stated that PSSC as a whole needed to be clear of governance arrangements.

Mr Len Cook, FOTC, noted that PSSC had evolved to include a meeting of chief statisticians and planners the day before the main meeting to provide a much needed discussion on statistical issues. He noted the main meeting now covered the role of PSSC, the ways in which development partners report and interact, and the place of TWGs (established at PSCC-9) in the system. He stated the newly appointed coordinator would bring together a composite approach to the project, which would allow PSSC to become less retrospective and more forward looking. A proposal was raised on how and whether the relationship between the meeting of Pacific Statisticians and Planners and PSSC needed to be formalised. Mr Cook stated that the central aim was that members leave with a clear focus of what PSSC would be doing over the next 12 months and three years.

Mr Ipia Gadabu, Director of Statistics, Nauru and PSSC Vice-Chair, agreed with the Chair that a lot of time over the last two meetings had already been spent discussing

governance issues and that the coordinator needed to focus on the next set of priorities. Mr Gadabu stated the Meeting of Pacific Statisticians and Planners had agreed on a subcommittee (Chart A), which was presented to PSSC.

#### Chart A: Pacific Regional Statistics Governance Structures

##### Heads of Planning and Statistics - HOPS

- SPC SDD Secretariat

##### Subcommittee Pacific Stats/Planners

- SPC SDD Secretariat
- Subcommittee of HOPS
- PIFS observer
- TYPSS Coordinator Observer
- Reports to HOPS

##### Pacific Statistics Steering Committee - PSSC

- TYPSS Coordinator Secretariat
- Subcommittee of HOPS
- Partners
- Reports to HOPS and other Development Partners and other relevant ministerial meetings (e.g. FEMM) and regional bodies

##### TWGs – IT, Administrative Records, Data Utilisation, Pacific Survey Futures

- TYPSS Coordinator Secretariat
- Comprise PSSC Pacific Stats and Planner representatives and technical representatives of TA providers
- Report to PSSC

#### Discussion

Mr Perry Head, Director Fisheries and Environment Section, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, noted that PSSC was a unique hybrid organisation that fulfils an important regional role. He raised a number of questions, including who it belonged to, who its stakeholders were and where the accountabilities lay. He asked for clarity – a simple and clear way to say where PSSC sits and where it was going to send its reports. Mr Head added that a governance arrangement was needed that allows advocacy for the Pacific statistics sector to ensure PSSC is able to draw the attention of decision-makers and people who are setting regional agendas to keep statistics on the agenda. He stated that delivery of outcomes for the region needed to be supported at the higher levels appropriately. Mr Head sought clarification on the proposed subcommittee, asking whether it was a standing body and when it would meet.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, replied Pacific Statisticians and Planners including those from Australia and New Zealand would be part of the subcommittee; however there would be no members from technical agencies. PIFS would be an observer in line with high-level meetings like FEMM. Mr Gadabu explained that the subcommittee would be elected as part of HOPS and would be accountable to HOPS. The TYPSS Coordinator would attend the subcommittee as an observer to link activities between subcommittee and PSSC.

Mr Head, DFAT, asked how often the subcommittee would meet and what its primary focus would be. Mr Gadabu replied the subcommittee would meet before each PSSC.

Ms Patricia Sachs-Cornish, Chief of Staff, SPC, replied the constitution would be similar to Pacific Statisticians and Planners. It was proposed that TWGs would meet on Day 1, Subcommittee would meet over two days, followed by PSSC. The subcommittee would report to HOPS as well.

Mr Head, DFAT, questioned the setting up of another subcommittee, stating that the statistics sector needed to speak with one clear voice to HOPS. He asked how the work of the subcommittee differed from that of the PSSC, adding more structures would crowd up the agenda and prevent people from talking about statistics. Mr Head advocated for simpler processes and clarity and suggested tasking the coordinator with a simple paper providing options to be presented at PSSC-11 in November.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, asked the meeting what types of activities the coordinator should focus on. He stated that PSSC's role is to elevate statistics in the Pacific, including reporting to high-level meetings such as FEMM and other high level forums. He added that the Chair should be present at these meetings where PSSC reports can be presented. TWGs would answer to PSSC as they were created by PSSC. Mr Gadabu added that governance issues needed to be deferred by 12 months as the Coordinator was to focus on implementing the next set of priorities and activities.

### Discussion

Mr Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics, agreed that PSSC should be looking to utilise the Coordinator to more effectively coordinate activities and lead discussions in government forums around statistics. With victory in sight, further changes to the governance arrangements looks like an unnecessary complication, he added. He also suggested that more consideration be given to the proposal and that a better coordinated meeting of Pacific Statisticians and Planners might provide a better voice at PSSC.

Mr Head, DFAT, agreed the Coordinator needed to focus on meeting national priorities. He proposed that the paper not be a major work item and offered to draft a discussion paper for discussion at PSSC-12.

Mr Cook, FOTC, added that when the concept of a meeting of Pacific chief statisticians was proposed in TYPSS, it was recognising the capability of the region. They come along to these meetings with a capacity for South South exchange, sharing ways in which they could work with development partners. The day meetings focus on statistical issues rather than how to get things done, he added. The important element of PSSC is the bridging between development partners and statisticians and the process of doing things as opposed to what needs to be done. The building up of the Pacific statisticians collective role is often crowded out by development partners. Generally there hasn't been the space for Pacific statisticians to collectively bring the leadership that was intended in terms of the decision. Mr Cook added that it was important to recognise that a large amount of success in the region had come from the interaction of chief statisticians. That engagement was quite an important element of the process and

confirmed the importance of setting up a Pacific chief statisticians and planners forum. The intention was to tie that with PSSC so that members overlap and the issue of multiple appointments is avoided. Mr Cook suggested expanding the meeting of Pacific statisticians and planners to two days and reducing PSSC to one day. He added PSSC was originally set up as a forum of the chief statisticians of the region and that would have included the chief statisticians of Australia and NZ.

Mr Laisiasa Tora, Asian Development Bank, asked for clarity on how well integrated HOPS was with FEMM, given that the FEMM agenda was already crowded.

Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC, suggested tasking the TYPSS Coordinator to produce a detailed paper teasing out the proposal submitted by the chief statisticians and planners, highlighting the role of each of the committees and the linkages to provide better clarity on what these various committees are, the linkages to regional fora and provide a bit more detail. In reply to Mr Tora's question, she stated statistics was a standing item at FEMM and that SPC/PFTAC presents a joint paper on economic statistics at the meeting, however a broader discussion on statistics would need to go to FEMM or another forum in terms of raising the profile of statistics for the Pacific. Mr Head, DFAT, stated he was happy with SPC's suggestion, adding that whatever structure was in place had to give clear instructions to HOPS.

Ms Regina Katafono, MDG Regional Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, confirmed statistics was a standing item on the FEMM agenda. She also stated there was an opportunity to bring broader statistics issues to FEMM and other PIFS ministerial meetings through Forum processes, adding that all ministerial meetings were currently under review at PIFS. She informed PSSC of a current call for proposals of papers to leaders for the Framework for Pacific regionalism that would end in June.

### **Agenda 5. ICT TWG – progress and plans**

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, presented on the progress and plans of the ICT TWG.

The working group conducted a survey of ICT capability across the Pacific NSOs in 2014, targeting 22 PICT members of SPC, with 14 responses and developed standards and guidelines matrices outlining bronze, silver and gold standards for small, medium and large NSOs. Four goals were agreed upon:

- Develop a vision for ICT in Pacific NSOs
- Build ICT capacity within NSOs and across the region
- South – South cooperation
- Identify opportunities for shared development and infrastructure.

The ICT TWG identified key issues of internet connection, power reliability and backups/disaster recovery in the work of NSOs in the Pacific. The TWG further recommended use of common software, mobile internet/cloud, development of ICT planning documents, enhancing training and capacity building opportunities and enabling legislation as necessary to advance implementation of TYPSS.

Mr Gadabu stated that further skills auditing needed to be carried out, and that needed to be compared with the SPC audit to see how effective capacity building training has

been. He noted that ICT was a big area for all countries to improve on in terms of staff capacity and infrastructure, adding the ICT TWG did not want to put forward a prescriptive proposal but encourage NSOs to take the next steps in their own time.

### Discussion

Mr Scott, PFTAC, noted that while the focus was on NSOs, that other agencies in development that maintained important databases on tax, health and so on could also be considered for involvement.

Mr Palmer, ABS, acknowledged the challenge was to provide the ITC TWG direction given there was a huge amount to do and give them concrete things to do in moving forward. He proposed a regional solution that could work as opposed to individual agencies implementing and operating systems, stating that ABS recognises it needs to be part of a global community of statistical infrastructure where it shares in investments and costs.

He suggested the ITC TWG identify a couple of regional solutions that four NSAs may be prepared to implement. Characteristics of a regional solution would include governance arrangements, sustainability of funding, clarity around rights and conditions (for e.g. for a regional backup solution: who owns the data, under what conditions it could be accessed, etc.).

He proposed embracing a new model for the regional solution, which could be cloud based: hosted by an agency such as SPC, ABS or USP and accessed by countries via the web. Alongside regional solutions, he proposed using regional tools: known good technology such as CSPRO that known agencies are using and added we should be encouraging knowledge sharing, training, and exchange of modules. Mr Palmer discouraged the use of standards; stating the focus should be on implementing things that were consistent and sustainable across multiple NSOs.

Mr Sharma, WB, stated that DFAT had asked the bank to evaluate their seasonal working programme in Samoa and Vanuatu, where a completely paperless survey was conducted using tablets. The bank plans to draw lessons learned from the experience later in 2015, which it will share with the ITC TWG.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, agreed with the regional solutions and tools recommended by ABS but requested that other specialist tools currently utilised by NSOs such as SPSS not be ruled out. He added utilising ICT solutions would i) reduce the current burden on smaller NSOs conducting paper surveys; ii) enable NSOs to share their limited knowledge with bigger agencies; iii) a cloud based collective database could fast-track NSOs who have limited capacity in certain areas.

Mr Palmer, ABS, asked the meeting to identify a couple of high priority areas to task the ICT TWG to focus on for a shared regional solution that could be used as an example to build on.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, suggested the following:

- administrative databases
- tax (as mentioned by PFTAC)
- CRVS (currently being heavily invested in)

- Education Management Information Systems (current problem of five or six IT systems in use, narrow it down to one regional system).

Mr Scott, PFTAC suggested data back up was ‘low hanging fruit’ and good progress could be made very quickly with a couple of pilot cases to address technical and legal protocol issues. He added that a more difficult but worthwhile area would be finding common standards on transitive software and how to get most out of the collaboration. He cited the example of the tax people, who have substantial software needs but find software packages prohibitively expensive to buy and maintain. Mr Scott suggested pooling together might allow a regional solution.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, stated SPC already had a dedicated data backup system in place that backs up country censuses and household surveys. He noted that most government statisticians at PSSC would be attending a Data Dissemination Policy Workshop hosted by Paris21 the following week, which would also be attended by USP, SNZ, ABS.

Mr Palmer, ABS, agreed with the data backup suggestion for the shared regional solution, noting it should come with explicitly defined governance structures. He also stated the ITC TWG be mindful of trying to get solutions such as CRVS that require getting other government agencies to cooperate, which often creates another level of difficulty. Mr Palmer suggested the WG look at turning Fiji’s successful business register software into a multi-user software on the web.

Mr Cook, FOTC acknowledged that in general implementing multi-user systems in the areas of data collection and dissemination was easier than for data management. Adding to the comments on business registers, he suggested the WG consider address registers, citing the success Cook Islands has had in the area. Mr Palmer, ABS, agreed that the address register would be a good candidate, and that it would be of interest to a number of other agencies in countries. Mr Cook added the common practice of using Excel for data and for data management was a risky one as the information is often lost when staff leave. He suggested guidelines on how to integrate simple data management tools with the use of spreadsheets. Mr Palmer, ABS, added that IMF country desks organised and managed their own data extremely poorly on DMX (Data Management for Excel). The solution was to put the data on the database and spreadsheet on the front end, allowing people to use the tool they had the skills to while the data got stored in a proper data management environment with some consistency around labelling and management. Mr Palmer stated the solution could be used more widely in PICs.

## **Agenda 6. Administrative Data Working Group**

Ms Taggy Tangimeatua, Government Statistician, Cook Islands, presented the draft TOR of the Administrative Data for PSSC endorsement. She explained the goal of the TWG is to provide advice and recommendations on administrative data use and matters such as standards, priorities for investment in systems and possibilities for shared infrastructure, development of ICT skills, and modalities for South-South Cooperation.

### **Comments**

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, added that administrative data is not only currently underused but they are also ‘undercollected’. He recommended a bullet be added under the mandate on identifying the barriers to the collection of administrative data.

Mr Cook, FOTC, noted the breadth of topics raised in the draft TOR and suggested the TWG focus on a single topic area of one of those broad topics areas. Mr Palmer, ABS, endorsed the idea, suggesting it would be easier to track progress, which could be easier to build on.

Mr Haberkorn noted that massive investments were pouring into the CRVS Decade globally, led by the Canadian Government and World Bank. Additionally, a Global Fund for Education was being set up to boost education quality with a multi-million dollar grant. He asked how PSSC was going to ask countries, which have many priorities, to prioritise between education and civil registration. He also stated that priorities being dictated by availability of funds was not helping PSSC.

Mr Palmer, ABS, noted a distinction in prioritising the work of the TWG and the overall statistical programme, which would continue other work.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, noted that an administrative database that is immediately useful to other users was tax. He stated the ability of NSOs to access and use the data (both income tax and value added tax) meant countries could make progress quickly. He also agreed with Mr Haberkorn’s point from an earlier discussion that administrative databases are constrained in their usefulness due to missing details and suggested the TWG look at what tweaks could be made to a potentially valuable database to make it useful for other purposes.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, suggested the TWG compile a list of different types of administrative data sources and a couple of countries with best practices.

Ms Marie Wau, A/First Assistant Secretary, Policy & Budgets Division, PNG suggested the TWG membership include a national planner.

Mr Galvin, SNZ, asked the TWG take note that accumulating different types of administrative data (for e.g. gather business data from multiple sources) to gain a more comprehensive view could create particular issues around privacy and management of large databases.

PSSC endorsed the TORs for the Administrative Data TWG.

### **Agenda 7: TWG Pacific Survey Futures – progress and plans**

Mr Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji Bureau of Statistics led the discussion on the draft TOR and work plan of the Pacific Survey Futures TWG which was presented to PSSC. PSF TWG membership includes Fiji (Chair), SPC, USP, and WB. PSSC acknowledged current approaches to survey practises were not sustainable with increasing cost constraints and proposed considering innovative approaches to be adopted. The meeting noted that the consideration of hybrids would be helpful in ensuring cost-effective and sustainable survey approaches.

The Chair left during the session to return to Vanuatu, handing the meeting over to Vice-Chair, Mr Gadabu of Nauru.

### Comments

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, stated that a WB funded paper presented at the UN Statistics Commission in March with particular reference to the post 2015 SDG agenda made reference to a core point: the increasing cost of household surveys and increasing time lapse between surveys because of the costs, with a suggestion to come up with a different survey instrument. With WB funding, a multi-development indicator “hybrid” survey was developed by SPC-SDD and tested in Vanuatu four years ago, combining essentials of HIES to get information for CPI, national accounts, poverty estimates, as well as most current MDG-related social development and health-related indicators from DHS surveys; all estimates of VHS then combined to compute most of the population based MDG indicators for goals 1 to 6. A comparison on expenditure across standard consumption items between the Vanuatu Hybrid Survey and the HIES conducted 18 months earlier, showed almost identical patterns with minimal gaps between recorded values. With all up running costs at around one-fourth of the costs of the combined DHS and HIES, such multi-development hybrid surveys would provide not only for much cheaper data collection, but with costs down, could allow for more regular monitoring of development progress.

Mr Waqavonono, Fiji, stated the main objectives of HIES for Fiji were CPI and updating formal sector contributions to GDP, adding that the analysis of poverty was a by-product. Fiji could accept the hybrid survey as an alternative data collection tool if it could provide updates of the information usually obtained via HIES and DHS.

Ms Malilinga Pisila, Principal Sector Planning Officer, Samoa recommended prioritising activities according to national priorities. She added that mainstreaming statistics could be a way forward in the absence of specific funds for statistics work.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, suggested the PSF TWG and Administrative Data TWG work together on areas of overlap and recommended not conducting surveys for which answers already existed in the administrative databases or were not going to be used to save on cost.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, gave an example of standard demographic health survey and economic household survey costs from work carried out by SPC: the average total cost (including SPC technical support) for the three most recent DHS (Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu) amounted to US\$535,000, and to US\$280,000 for the most recent HIES (Nauru, FSM, upcoming Cook Island). It seems imperative, given the costs of these collections, that survey outputs (databases and results) are put to maximum use by informing policy, providing evidence base for planning and generating research, and not merely supplying the indicators that could be generated more regularly at a fraction of the costs from functioning administrative databases or other types of surveys.

Mr Galvin, SNZ, noted that the TOR listed ways to collect information as efficiently as possible, adding that PSSC trust the TWG to do the sifting and that the list would shrink into something more manageable once they were given the opportunity to do so.

Mr Cook, FOTC, raised the point that there was a much tighter linkage between administrative data and survey data.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, stated that costs in surveys depended on the sample size, adding the TWG look at cost effective methodologies for the region.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, clarified that his earlier average DHS/HIES survey cost examples were for national samples, urban/rural split only. The cost for splitting it further at the provincial level for a bigger country like Solomon Islands would be in the millions.

Ms Tangimeatua, Cook Islands, stated that certain island countries have transport as the highest cost and reducing the sample size or number of questions on the questionnaire doesn't have any impact on costs. She added countries are looking at administrative data in the absence of funding, citing CI as an example. It has looked at import data for consumer basket of goods (food only, not services) with no further breakdown of consumption between private households and tourists. Ms Tangimeatua added countries have been addressing the collaboration and coordination of surveys, stating CI has conducted two censuses at the same time to reduce costs.

PSSC endorsed the TOR and work plan of the Pacific Survey Futures TWG.

### **Agenda 8. TWG data utilisation – proposal**

Ms Wau, PNG, led the discussion on the draft TOR for the Data Utilisation TWG that was put to PSSC for endorsement. PSSC welcomed the TOR provided by the TWG and noted that its vision was for all PICT official statistics users to effectively access and maximize use of statistical data to meet policy, research, and management decisions with adequate resources. PSSC endorsed the TOR for the Data Utilisation TWG.

#### Comments

Mr Tora, ADB, acknowledged the TOR provided 'fertile ground' to foster sharing of good practices and experiences in terms of institution arrangements, coordination and other practical arrangements to maximise data utilisation. He noted that the dialogue around data utilization was needed between users and producers as it was a longstanding issue. He also asked that planning colleagues share in the TWG forum some of the good experiences they've had in managing this work given dwindling resources.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, stated there was a loop: administrative data group collecting data from various agencies for other purposes; some of the data could be fed back to the suppliers to illustrate the value of the data they're collecting. For e.g. in the healthcare field, governments are having a difficult time with NCDs partly due to a lack of information, however there is a lot of information potentially available if users were able to get administrative data, turn it into good analysis and feed it back to the ministries.

Ms Wau, PNG, responding to ADB's question on prioritising what data should be collected from a planner's perspective. She stated planners referred to higher goals from

MDGs to SDGs, respective country visions, National Development Plans, Sector Plans, Managing Foreign Aid Policies and M&E Frameworks when prioritising data collection and surveys.

Mr Manoj Pandey, USP, stated that from a data user point of view, clear mapping between administrative data, household surveys and census would be preferable as it would enrich the data and possibly be cost-effective in some instances. He added that the data dissemination and selection points be the same for all countries for easier comparison. Mr Pandey noted there was a lot of difference between the data collection period and dissemination, which was disappointing for users.

Mr Palmer, ABS, asked the TWG to consider adding something around developing course material to help consumers of data. ABS runs successful workshops and seminars on turning data into information that cover how to find data, understand its scoping limitations, how to apply some basic statistical techniques; how to write a story and present data in a sensible, easy to consume way. He suggested USP might look at developing a module that encourages developing end user skills that could be applied in a number of courses. Mr Palmer also recommended measuring the use of Pacific data in the media through simple indicators and finding ways to increase usage.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, suggested having basic statistical literacy for people in different lines of work would be beneficial.

### **TYPSS Coordination and prioritisation**

Acknowledging that the objectives of the TYPSS Phase 2 objectives remain relevant, the PSSC agreed to the following actions:

- Tasked the TWGs to consider the collection of data in the areas of gender, climate change, food security, disaster risk, disability and environment as necessary and urged the NSOs to communicate with sectors that are collecting data to include these in their statistical collections;
- Requested the coordination unit to work with USP and the TWGs to identify skills gaps drawing on the previous work of SPC SDD and NSO national capacity assessments;
- Increase efforts to improving monitoring and evaluation in a simplified manner to demonstrate results and highlight key achievement in implementation of TYPSS;
- Incorporate into the Coordinator's workplan for the first six months collation of country and TA provider M & E data, improved PSSC reporting; and sustaining a realtime online calendar of regional statistics activities
- Tasked the TWGs to make recommendations to PSSC common definitions and standards in their areas of responsibilities;
- Develop a paper on governance arrangements based on the discussions during the session on governance PSSC recognised and commended all development partners for their continued support and commitment to the implementation of TYPSS.

### **Agenda 9. TYPSS coordination and prioritisation**

Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC, opened the discussion by asking PSSC to discuss and identify some of the areas of priority for the coordinator to work on and the second Phase of TYPSS.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, Vice-Chair requested ‘Coordinator flesh out the proposed governance mechanism proposed by Pacific statisticians’ be added to Point 7. He then led a discussion of the TYPSS Phase 1 Mid-Term Review Recommendations.

### Recommendation 1

Mr Haberkorn stated that anything in addition to existing country priorities would mean something else would have to go as they were experiencing a no growth area in terms of activities, budgets and staffing. He added there were currently no statistics on climate change and disaster risk, which would require getting measurement and collections systems in place. This raises the question ‘What of things that countries are currently doing as an extension of Phase 1, which would have to be curtailed or streamlined?’ A mid-term recommendation was to intensify and expand administrative databases on education, health and CRVS which is listed in R1. The increase of new thematic and sector activities cannot be accommodated at the regional level at the status quo. He stated that endorsing something and not being able to deliver was not appropriate at the start of Phase 2.

Mr Head, DFAT, noted there was a considerable body of statistical work being carried out in other sectors and recommended communicating with the bodies in those sectors that were beyond the financial scope of the statistical community to be engaged with on a daily basis. He suggested communicating with them to get them to provide their statistics in a beneficial form for everybody. Mr Head added that DFAT was providing financing for updating economic indicators within the broader fisheries sector (inshore and offshore), stating it would be the best statistics for the area in a cost effective way. In the offshore tuna section, there is a large variety of information being captured on a regional basis under the auspices of the Western Pacific Fisheries Council and FFA. Mr Head endorsed Mr Haberkorn’s comments, stating it was impractical to meet the new demands of SDGs, coming on top of MDGs, to have 100 new indicators to be responsible for.

Mr Haberkorn noted that FFA, SPC Fisheries and SPREP have agreed on a core set of indicators for inshore/offshore fisheries which is on the NMDI website. It was the most popular database when built in 2007, however it is the same data in 2015. He thanked DFAT for funding the update after eight years, adding more regular updates were needed to allow for better fisheries monitoring.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, stated it was important for countries to discuss with other data producers and stakeholders to see if they were capable of producing the extra set of indicators, adding sometimes the reality is that no such unit exists to create this information. There is a possibility to piggyback on surveys by other agencies who can put in their own resources to pay for the material and have a joint collection system at the national level which address a range of indicators. He stated the development of hybrid surveys could produce a range of indicators in a more cost effective way.

### Recommendation 2

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, noted that the previous session on the Data Utilisation TWG was related to R2.

Mr Sharma, WB, stated that generally demand needs to come from the planning departments rather than the statistics departments, adding policies needed to be evidence based.

Mr Cook, FOTC, suggested R2 would develop in two ways: i) through large initiatives that PSSC develops such as systems, census access tools; and ii) via a whole eclectic range of activities in countries. He suggested the Coordinator select three or four individual case studies out of the work reports that are referred to for a brief presentation at upcoming PSSC meetings.

### Recommendation 3

Mr Pandey stated USP was currently revising its undergraduate OS programme and based on the report, they were working on implementing some of the latest dissemination methods. Three out of eight undergraduate courses teach dissemination methods in detail. OS101 introduces dissemination and the different ways to disseminate; OS201 deals with use of information technology; OS303 developed with ABS teaches information dissemination using ICT and commercial systems. USP plans to implement these courses by end 2015.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, noted that dissemination (whether via website or other means) has some cost whilst also noting that there was a need to conduct data analysis training, which requires time and money. He suggested PSSC discuss funding for these activities at some point. He acknowledged USP could do a certain amount but noted that PSSC was discussing improving understanding and use of statistics within government ministries amongst specialised users. He noted it was desirable to have people trained but asked how it was going to be done. An additional point Mr Scott raised was the demarcation of responsibilities between the Data Utilisation TWG and the Coordinator, and which of the two should be conducting the skills audit.

Ms Wau, PNG stated that some skills assessments were done in process of formulating NSDSS, resulting in a fair idea of capacity gaps. She added individual TWGs could prioritise skills gaps and find ways to bridge those gaps in capacity through SS engagement.

Mr Pandey stated that USP courses were still behind on data analysis, with only one course OS301 dealing broadly with data analysis tools. He hopes to have a course specialising in data analysis in the master's programme, in addition to an applied econometrics course. He added that USP will be organising a 40-hour workshop next month focusing on tabulation, graphical and reporting writing skills using Excel data, which will be the basis of the post-graduate diploma and master's course. Mr Pandey stated that collected data wasn't very relevant unless it could be analysed. Consultations with NSOs indicated USP start with Excel.

### Recommendation 4

Ms Tangimeatua acknowledged that the NSDS process was a successful one for Cook Islands. Its development raised the demand for NSO services in areas such as gender, which is thought to be an easy sector to deal with. While population census data is already desegregated by sex, the process helped uncover a whole raft of information that could be better utilised. Working together with providers of data also brought closer collaboration among the agencies. Ms Tangimeatua added that the NSO was able to step back and let the sectors drive the process. Cook Islands is currently tying the NSDS in with the NSDP, the country's overarching development plan.

Mr Haberkorn provided an update on NSDS by country:

- Samoa – completed and endorsed by cabinet two years ago
- Vanuatu — stalled due to Cyclone Pam
- Cook Islands – completed
- Tonga — temporarily suspended
- PNG — unsure
- Solomon Islands — delayed
- Fiji – work begins August
- Tuvalu – work begins December

Ms Wau stated that work on PNG's NSDS did not start until 2013, adding that it is currently in its fourth draft and being workshopped with NGOs and churches as part of the last consultation for partners before going to Cabinet in June (tentative).

Mr Gadabu stated Nauru was working on its document but that it wouldn't be a fully-fledged NSDS. The document would look at generating key indicators for the country for policy development and strategic planning.

#### Recommendation 5

Mr Head, DFAT, stated that with the Coordination Unit now in place, PSSC needed to show what was being achieved regionally in a simple and coherent way. He recommended using M&E on a regional basis to advocate for the sector and demonstrate what PSSC is doing is valuable to the donor community.

#### Recommendation 6

Mr Gadabu noted there was general consensus that R6 has already been achieved. He stated that the Coordination Unit would develop and coordinate the M&E data to assist PSSC reporting and to sustain the online calendar of regional statistical activities.

#### Recommendation 7

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, stated that part of R7 was endorsing definitions and trying to delineate what PSSC could endorse versus what HOPS could endorse. She suggested that this be captured in the governance arrangements that were discussed in earlier sessions. A broader discussion on endorsements ensued and the meeting agreed PSSC would provisionally approve a process for standards and classifications that would later be endorsed by HOPS.

#### Recommendation 8

No comments

#### Recommendation 9

Mr Cook, FOTC, suggested that the next meeting the Chief Statisticians Meeting become two days and PSSC become one day based on earlier governance-related discussions. Mr Gadabu suggested this be looked at when discussing the agenda for PSSC-11.

#### Recommendation 10

No comments

#### Recommendation 11

Mr Head, DFAT, stated that the statistics sector should not belong to any one donor and that relevant donors should be encouraged to contribute to its development, adding DFAT would continue to be a part of the picture.

ESCAP requested wording for R11 and 12 be changed to reflect broad commitment of all donors and technical partners that have committed to TYPSS.

Mr Haberkorn sought clarity from Mr Head, DFAT, on its commitment to statistics, citing a recent 20% cut in its aid budget from \$5b to \$4b. Mr Head, DFAT, requested an out of session discussion, stating details would be available the following week.

Mr Sharma, WB, stated a three-year commitment geared to providing analytical support after data has been collected.

Mr Tora, ADB, stated its regional technical assistance facility, had provided about \$2m in the past, and that the bank was in the process of securing additional funding from the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction for Phase 2 support.

Mr Jason Symons stated that MFAT's commitment to PSSC and TYPSS was on-going, primarily through SNZ and that there was no particular change in that area.

Mr Haberkorn noted previous ADB support and asked if countries could expect to be able to draw on ADB support for upcoming survey work. Mr Tora replied he would need to get back to him.

#### Recommendation 12

Mr Haberkorn noted that SPC work under R12 was funded by DFAT support and continued funding would be clearer after the following week.

#### **Agenda 10: South-South engagement**

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, presented a list of SS projects for 2014/2015:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Provided by</i>	<i>Provided to</i>
1. EMIS	CI Min. of Education, SPC SDD	CI NSO, Min. of Education
2. International Merchant Trade Statistics	Tonga NSO	Kiribati NSO
3. Data Analysis & Report Writing	Dept. of Education, Pohnpei	Chuuk Dept of Education
4. Business Statistics	Fiji Economic Statistics Division, SPC SDD	PNG, Vanuatu, Tonga NSOs
5. DHS Training	Vanuatu NSO	SI NSO
6. Business Statistics	FBOS	Tonga Dept. of Statistics
7. CRVS	Registrar, CI	Tuvalu

### Discussion

Mr Haberkorn thanked DFAT for providing SS funding dedicated to economic statistics of \$50k per year over three years (2014– 2016). He stated there would be a new series of SS engagements in 2016 dealing with 2020 World Round of Census. Five censuses are coming up in the region and SPC SDD will be relying on PNSOs such as Fiji and Vanuatu for support, asking to take one of their experienced census/survey managers to attach to one of the smaller countries from two weeks prior through to the duration of the census. Samoa’s census commissioner was attached to Tuvalu last year.

Mr Palmer, ABS, asked if PSSC could engage the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) or use more people from NSOs to provide training. He stated they were trying in SIAP to get people to leave the classroom and deliver more of their workshops and seminars across videoconferencing so people do not have to travel as much. While noting that it might be ambitious, he suggested trying to build a community of trainers and presenters within the region. Mr Haberkorn replied that it wasn’t about training per se but about providing the national census commissioner of Tuvalu, for example, an extra hand from an experienced census commissioner from a larger office. Basically making use of regional statistical expertise during their downtime in-between census and HIES periods.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, brought up secondments, which had been discussed during an earlier session. He stated that for activities such as survey taking, there was only a limited period of time. However, he noted there was expertise in national offices with a particular set of skills in areas that require longer periods of time, which he asked the Meeting to consider as well.

Mr Gadabu, also made reference to a case study that featured in the IT TWG report, which highlighted a FBOS staff setting up business registers in PNG and Vanuatu. He stated that this would be a good working model to improve ICT in the region. Mr Gadabu also noted that PSSC was not aware of all SS activities in the region as some are bilateral and others between NSOs. He also suggested sharing experts from other larger agencies such as national accountants or balance of payments experts, which may require longer-term secondments (a month or longer). Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, replied that the work carried out by Rajnesh was part of SS, it occurred before 2014.

**THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2015**  
**Meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (Day 2)**

**Agenda 11: PSSC process**

*PSSC Chair to lead HOPS Communications, leadership links*

Led by: Mr Gadabu, Nauru

Mr Gadabu opened the discussion by stating that the PSSC reports to HOPS, communicating outcomes and recent progress. He asked whether PSSC should be reporting to regional and global leaders at other high-level meetings such as FEMM, and UN forums. Mr Gadabu stated there was a need to develop communications strategies between all relevant agencies, and regional and global meetings to better advocate PSSC's position as well as TYPSS' activities and achievements.

Mr Cook, FOTC, noted that reporting to HOPS was currently conducted on a three yearly basis but with the coordinator now in place, whether more regular reporting was possible. He acknowledged that previous meetings had discussed there was some obligation of the PSSC to report to back to their membership and that individual PSSC members were reporting back to the specific constituencies.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, stated that with the coordinator reporting to PSSC during its six-monthly meetings, the information could be shared with HOPS although not for endorsement. He asked PSSC to consider how frequently this should occur and what sort of input would be required from HOPS.

Mr Gadabu raised the issue of sharing information with other high level meetings, stating that FEMM has a standing item on statistics on their agenda.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, asked if the decisions from the meeting could be made public.

Mr Tora, ADB, noted that HOPS meets every three years and asked whether there was a link between PSSC and the annual FEMM.

Mr Gadabu stated the coordinator would take the lead role in developing the Communications Strategy. He noted that PSSC was the regional coordinator for TYPSS and while it reported regularly to HOPS, other high level meetings should consider recognising its activities.

Mr Tora stated there was a 'sequential mismatch' between PSSC and FEMM. He suggested making the most of the standing item for national statistics on the FEMM agenda to report on the progress of the TYPSS and to highlight PSSC and NSO responsiveness to the needs of finance ministries.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, stated that PFTAC and SPC have been reporting to FEMM on their respective economic statistics technical assistance and capacity building support programs separately for seven years, and jointly for two years and will continue

to do so. He also suggested that any PSSC reporting on statistical development outcomes to ministerial meetings are perhaps best delivered by the Chair of PSSC, or the agency contributing to these developments in the first place.

Mr Scott, PFTAC stated that with more PICs developing national statistics strategies, it would be useful to provide feedback to ministers on their implementation. The coordinator could provide feedback on progress made to highlight the importance of statistics. However, he noted that reporting to ministers on NSSs would be broader than just economic statistics and that there may be other fora such as the Health Ministers Meeting where the TYPSS coordinator could be providing feedback.

Ms Katafono, PIFS, stated that statistics was a standing item at FEMM and PSSC could highlight high level issues such as the financing of statistics without going into too much detail or technical work. She noted that finance ministers are responsible for budgets and financial plans. She stated that PIFS was open to addressing the agenda more flexibly.

Mr Cook, FOC, noted that a lot had been achieved halfway through ‘this big regional statistics development programme’. He stated it was important to periodically prepare what PSSC does to recognise the value that has been put in and the nature of how Pacific Statistics has been changing. He added PSSC could now report on achievements.

Mr Head, DFAT stated that the FEMM agenda was already too big with too many things. However, he endorsed the idea of a paper being formulated by the coordinator with the objective of it going to FEMM 2016 highlighting progress and identifying financing issues so that finance ministers could endorse the need for that to be prioritised as one of the regional agendas.

Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC, noted that given the difficulty in getting papers to FEMM, the paper to be developed by the TYPSS coordinator would need to fit with the standing agenda item on statistics. She noted that the FEMM agenda was already quite crowded and ‘closely guarded by the bureaucrats at PIFS, making it virtually impossible to add additional agenda items’. She agreed with DFAT’s suggestion to raise the profile of PSSC within CROP. The meeting has tried to raise the profile of PSSC with the Director-General of SPC in order to get it on the CROP Executives Agenda. She added having statistics discussed at a number of CROP sectoral working groups would be another opportunity to increase advocacy around statistics.

She suggested tasking the coordinator to explore other opportunities and avenues for communications lines at other regional fora, citing the Pacific Heads of Health Meeting, which is convened by SPC. Ms Sachs-Cornish offered her help in writing the paper with the coordinator in consultation with other PSSC members.

Mr Remengesau, Palau, noted that while SPC/PFTAC reported to FEMM; FEMM outcomes have not gone far enough. While it recognises the efforts of SPC/PFTAC, there was no mention of funding support. He added that the FEMM outcomes document needed to be clearer on funding, noting that if finance ministers recognised the importance of statistics for national planning, additional funding to support the development and enhancement of statistics was required.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, stated that the discussion was not about additional items for the FEMM agenda but rather how PSSC as a group could report to ministers on statistics issues. The current SPC/PFTAC format is a written report on achievements and a joint PowerPoint presentation. He added the Coordinator could help broaden out prospective communications, such as an overview of statistics information relevant to finance ministers.

Mr Remengesau, Palau, stated they needed to continue updating the status of TYPSS, with PSSC Chair delivering the presentation to FEMM as an option.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru noted the Coordinator would put the paper together, and either she or the Chair would present at high-level meetings.

### **Agenda 12: Summary of DAY 1 Key Discussion Outcomes**

Ms Sachs-Cornish presented the Key Discussion Outcomes from Day 1 of PSSC-10. There were no comments from the Committee.

### **Agenda 13: Statistical Training – progress**

The University of the South Pacific and Statistics New Zealand reported to PSSC on the progress both organisations have made with statistical training and building official user capability in the Pacific. The meeting congratulated USP on being one of the few institutions globally that offers a programme in official statistics.

#### **i. USP to advise progress on degree programme in official statistics**

Mr Manoj Pandey, Course Coordinator OS Program, USP presented on the progress of degree programmes in official statistics at the university. The university has been offering an undergraduate OS course since 2007 and began offering an undergraduate degree course in OS in Semester 1, 2015 with 164 enrolments. A postgraduate course in OS (PG Diploma and Master) has been approved; the courses are under discussion and are likely to be introduced by 2017.

PSSC learnt that the OS programmes have recently been redesigned with assistance of international experts with years of experience working in organisations like ABS and UNESCAP. The revised course is inline with the growing demand for OS, statistical users, statisticians and data analysis experts in the region. Courses are being offered in different teaching modes including face-to-face, distance and flexible learning, and online to make them more accessible to working officials and students. The revisions include more Pacific examples and more applied coursework (data collection projects, data analysis using Software like SPSS, R, CSPro and Excel). Students will be able to specialize in any one of the areas of economic statistics, survey methods and, social and demography statistics.

Mr Pandey told the meeting that the university was facing a number of challenges in the delivery of its programme.

- There is a risk the OS program will be removed due to low student enrolments in recent years. Although the numbers have increased temporarily, they are still under the threshold.
- Potential employers have expressed concerns about the current programme, saying courses are not useful to address skill needs. There's an absence of practical components, knowledge of mathematical statistics and software knowledge.
- Few jobs for OS graduates in the region.
- A general lack of awareness of and interest in OS in the region.

Mr Pandey put a number of requests to PSSC including i) closer cooperation with other organisations on course development, funding and training; ii) attachments and internships with NSOs for students; and iii) assistance with set up of infrastructure: data labs, OS library, software procurement and online materials.

### Discussion

Mr Tideswell, SNZ, responded to a number of issues raised by Mr Pandey.

- He stated that there was a move to away from SPSS to R, and cited the example of government agencies in NZ moving to R by 2018 as much as possible. Internationally, very large agencies and billion dollar companies are using R, it has gained traction around the world, he added.
- Regarding staffing issues, Mr Tideswell stated that in NZ, an honours paper in statistics is delivered to 40 to 60 students using distance technology as collaboration between presenters from five different universities and SNZ. The combination of academics and practicing official statisticians with the appropriate skills and background seems to work very well.
- Regarding the issue of critical mass to deliver courses in the Pacific, he recommended exploring opportunities to deliver to broader international markets (such as China, India) and to bring students from wealthy islands in the Pacific to help boost numbers.

Mr Alessio Cangiano, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, USP, responded to Mr Tideswell and also raised a few issues.

- The university is currently not doing anything to expand its outreach to other regions, which many universities around the world are doing. Fees for international students are 4 to 5 times as high as for national and regional students.
- The OS programme also faces constraints regarding software licensing. USP has some institutional licenses that are within limits to staff but not given to students. Unlike other universities, students cannot buy student licences. The programme has IT labs but faces logistics challenges such as old equipment that is not well-maintained and expired software licences. In spite of these practical issues, the programme is moving towards freeware software such as R and CSPRO, which was introduced this year.
- Mr Cangiano noted that the development of the courses as well as the course delivery was a learning process for them. He added that none of the teaching

staff had worked in an NSO, that they're all academics and therefore miss important parts.

- He noted there was a need to develop further expertise on software training and requested opportunities for training of trainers to participate in and learn from others.
- Mr Cangiano stated that even though NSOs weren't using it, SPSS worked well pedagogically at the undergraduate level because it allows students to learn the process of statistical analysis with a very user-friendly statistical environment.
- Regarding learning resources, he noted that OS is a non-academic subject and currently has no textbook, making sourcing of learning resources and teaching more difficult. He acknowledged finding increasing online resources such as UNFPA courses for advanced demographic training, but stated it is still challenging. He asked PSSC to recommend resources for consideration. USP added that the OS programme was using the 2008 SPC Data Analysis and Reporting Manual, which while a useful free resource, was dated with examples that were no longer relevant. Mr Haberkorn, SPC, intervened, saying an updated edition was published in 2013.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, recommended the broader term 'data and analytics' over OS, which he considered 'off-putting to attract young people to something that could be very exciting'. He stated that most of the current courses under OS could also be offered under 'data and analytics'. He added the market is looking for young, dynamic, versatile people who know data, data analysis, IT, etc. Mr Pandey later responded that changing the programme name was not a simple matter and would require going through university bureaucracy.

Mr Haberkorn stated there was potentially a market in the 16 Caribbean countries, where nothing similar was offered in statistical training. USP could potentially target fee paying students online as part of the SIDS alliance pathway sharing of resources.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, recommended solidifying the undergraduate programme and postponing the postgraduate programme at this stage. He also offered internships during the university's break for students to work with statisticians at SPC SDD and train on 'what real statistics is all about' and 'how large databases are analysed'. He added that most of the Pacific NSOs had expressed many years ago that USP students could use statistics from their own countries for research purposes and that there were many possibilities for collaboration.

Mr Palmer, ABS, acknowledged that while data science was popular at the moment, OS was something in addition to that. He stated that units that told people about OS, how they are produced, the sources, applications, frameworks, things that make people productive would be preferable. He acknowledged the challenge would be to not misrepresent the course but to ensure those elements were covered.

He stated there were a lot of people they would like to train at the ABS. Whilst acknowledging that USP had earlier stated that international students were not a target market; he stated the challenge was how to embrace a student body that is 'location agnostic' and apply those modules in a very modular way that allows people to progress from a undergraduate certificate over a period of time unit by unit. He suggested USP could draw on the agencies that PSSC members sit in to provide mentoring and support;

and to co-teach with those institutions. Mr Palmer cited a recent success the ABS had training 90 people via online course delivery, stating this was the future of course delivery.

He offered to work with USP on the computer labs and associated issues, stating they had some leverage with vendors. Mr Palmer stated that it did not make sense to not give student bodies access when selling statistical software, adding the model is increasingly cloud based to give people a broad range of access to services.

Mr Palmer also noted that ABS was currently the only official statistical agency currently linked to the UPS OS Programme's Facebook page; he suggested every agency resolve to link to USP's OS FB page to foster the impression that international members had an interest in the USP OS programme's student body.

Mr Head, DFAT, asked whether USP was collaborating with UPNG or other universities in the region. Mr Pandey, USP, responded that he was unsure of the university's rules and regulations concerning collaboration since PNG is not a USP member country. However, he acknowledged that PNG could potentially be a good market with a significant number of students.

Mr Cook, Friend of the Chair, acknowledged that the course, designed with the help of world expert Mr Dennis Trewin, was 'extraordinarily good'. He stated there were world experts in close proximity in universities in Australia and New Zealand in particular aspects of OS such as survey design and that there was a huge goodwill in those universities to support this programme. He noted that there has been a massive build up, even in Australia and NZ, in the concentration of training in key elements of OS, often focused on survey design. Mr Cook also stated the absence of textbooks was not serious given there were really good journals in OS. He recommended identifying a 'literature access group' of a dozen people who could help identify the top 100 articles in the last 40 years.

Mr Remengasau, Palau, asked whether forecasting was part of the more advanced degree and whether including financial programming had been considered. He stated that one of the things they use all the time is a simple spreadsheet in Excel. Mr Pandey, USP, replied that the undergrad course does not have anything in terms of forecasting but the Applied Econometrics course at the master's level does.

Ms Wau, PNG, stated it would be good for Mr Pandey, USP, to join the DU TWG. She stated that PNG had not completed its National Population Policy (2015-2024) Volume II, and that the NSO requires assistance to carry out detailed data analysis. The first volume was launched in February. She also acknowledged that the post graduate OS programme would be good for PNG in addressing the current skills gap and stated that they could push for PNG students to attend the course and make up the shortfall.

Speaking on financial programming, Mr Roger, PFTAC stated that it was not econometrics or time series analysis but rather economic analysis. It's an illustration of how you pull together a great range of official statistics into one coherent framework, he added. Even if there's no course in that, it's a wonderful way of illustrating the power of statistics if you harness it right. It's sort of the end use. If you're trying to motivate students, it is a nice way to illustrate that you've pulled these statistics from various

sectors: monetary sector, government financial statistics and you've got a powerful tool. It could be demonstrated as a selling point rather than a course itself.

## **ii. SNZ to advise progress in certificate in official statistics**

Mr Andrew Tideswell, SNZ, informed PSSC about its National Certificate in Public Services (Official Statistics), a tertiary level course being delivered in Samoa that comprises four taught units and a work placed based project that applies to decision making. He stated that the Samoa Bureau of Statistics had been vital in the successful start of the programme. The Tokelau National Statistics Offices have been equally supportive. Currently, 23 candidates from a range of agencies including Tokelau National Statistics Office, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Samoa Audit Office, Office of the Electoral Commission, Scientific Research of Samoa, Samoa Qualifications Authority, Ministry of Finance and others are enrolled in the course.

Candidates had proposed a rich range of topics to examine such as: assessing the effectiveness of public service training, assessing the distribution of breadfruit varieties, and economic growth factors for Samoa, among others. PSSC learnt that two units have been taught with two more to go. The first unit was an analysis of the legal and ethical issues in collection of and use of data in a public service context.

The second unit delved into the interpretation of and drawing conclusions from descriptive statistical information. Mr Tideswell noted that through delivery of the course, SNZ has identified staff who have an interest in and expertise to teach the course elsewhere in the Pacific and that informal discussions have begun with them and their managers. He added that technical staff in other PICs could be identified to carry on the delivery of the course in the Pacific.

## **Discussion**

Ms Malilinga Pisila, Principal Sector Planning Officer, Samoa commended SNZ on their work. However, she raised the issue of "communication channels", stating that whilst the course initially worked with managers to identify candidates, once the course had started, it was difficult for managers to track staff progress. (The current learning module doesn't allow managers to have access to their staff's progress.) Ms Pisila asked that the communication channel be kept active, "not only for the technical providers but also the focal points: the local NSOs, managers and participants" to ensure the success of the implementation of the project. She stated this emphasizes ownership of the programme and helps moves the course from a theoretical approach to a more practical one, which helps participants understand their role and how they can apply statistics in their daily operations.

Ms Pisila also raised the need to look at logistics and funding arrangements when getting started. In the case of Samoa, a few statistics people helped champion it, which got things moving.

Ms Pisila was originally scheduled to present on the progress of the certificate course in Samoa, however she declined stating that the invitation should have been extended to the focal point, Statistics Samoa. She requested that PSSC take note of this in future when requesting progress reports of a technical nature when looking at case studies, which are important in the implementation of TYPSS.

Mr Kele Lui, National Statistician, Tokelau thanked SNZ and Statistics Samoa for allowing Tokelau to attend, stating they were very fortunate to be given five spaces to

attend. However, despite enthusiasm and interest from various departments, they were only able to send three (one each from stats, environment and economic development). Mr Lui touched briefly on South-South Engagement, saying Tokelau is probably the smallest in the whole region and needs a lot of help from around the table and the region. He stated that were very fortunate to be in second two-year arrangement with Statistics New Zealand and currently working on another shorter term arrangement where Tokelau could tap into expertise and resources. Mr Lui recalled highlighting this experience at the previous day's meeting of Pacific Statisticians and Planners, saying it was a very beneficial experience for Tokelau. Mr Lui requested PSSC to consider an arrangement for short-term technical support between smaller and bigger NSOs in the form of SS Engagement.

SNZ noted that Samoa was the first country and that there is always room for improvement. He stated that every participating NSO was consulted and agreed to a design document for the project itself, which includes a section on MOUs. He stated that in terms of managers following progress, each of the candidates have been enrolled in SNZ's Aqua Learning Management System, where candidates can send assignments, receive comments and communicate with the assessors. One of the managers from Samoa Bureau of Statistics has been enrolled as a manager in the Aqua Learning Management System and is able to follow progress of the people that she manages, not others, which is not something done in education systems. He stated other managers were welcome to contact SNZ.

#### **Agenda 14: Subject reviews Sustainable Development Indicators**

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, provided a brief update on the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals/targets and indicators, which currently stand at 17 goals, 169 targets, and 320+ indicators on monitoring, TYPSS implementation, NSOs and their development partners.

The MDG platform is now successfully established with national collections feeding into the Regional MDG database and regional reporting to PIFS. This in turn feeds into global reporting such as UN specialist agencies and the UNSD Global MDG database. Mr Haberkorn noted this should augur well for developing and maintaining the SDG platform.

However, he noted that PSIDS (and most other developing countries) would not be able to monitor 320 indicators, let alone collect the underlying statistics due to three compelling reasons:

- Most of the data for new goals/targets and associated indicators are not yet collected (at least not on a regular basis)
- Between 2000-2015 (MDG period), most PSIDS have not been able to conduct a census with their own budget, and no PSIDS has been able to undertake a HIES/DHS without external finance.
- Given the current financial climate, NSO domestic budgets and international development support remaining at current status as likely best-case scenario, the situation for large-scale additional data collections 'looks grim'.

He suggested a manageable scenario would be to:

- Accept the total number of SDGs (17).
- Accept that 169 Targets and indicators are unworkable both from a global development financing support for implementation, as well as monitoring.
- Agree on a limited set of targets/associated headline indicators (between 2-4) all countries can commit to for global monitoring. However, this should not allow countries (political/regional groupings) to opt out of the difficult challenges. Members of the SDG Inter-Agency Expert Group on indicators would raise the above at its inaugural first working group meeting on 1-2 June to review the feasibility of coming up with a shortened set of a limited number of (2-4) headline indicators for all SDGs.
- Preliminary attempts at prioritising from a strictly technical/professional angle of what targets/associated indicators are most feasible, suitable and relevant, involving key technical divisions at SPC, Forum Secretariat and SPREP, as well as some interdisciplinary/agency working groups (CC-DRM, NCDs-Food Security, Marine Sector Working Group, involving SPC, SPREP, FFA, PIFS) came up with a first cut of 62 target/indicator combinations.

#### **Agenda 15: Standards and Classifications**

Led by: Mr Jonathan Palmer, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Mr Palmer submitted a proposed text on standards and classifications following a discussion on the subject earlier in the meeting. He made changes to the text following inputs from the Committee. The following is the final version of the text, which was endorsed by PSSC.

Standards and standardised approaches are a powerful tool to promote data integration and efficiency.

As the overarching body tasked with oversight of the implementation of TYPSS, PSSC has the authority to recommend appropriate statistical standards for use in the Pacific region. Standards will be 'provisionally endorsed' by the PSSC, with final endorsement by HOPS.

Proposals should be circulated to members two months in advance of discussions of PSSC to ensure adequate time for consideration. The PSSC Coordinator should be informed of proposals and can assist with consultation.

Proposals for Pacific statistical standards can be submitted by a PSSC member for consideration, either during or out of session. A standard will be provisionally endorsed by PSSC on consensus of PSSC members.

International standards that apply to the Pacific do not require PSSC or HOPS endorsement.

## **Agenda 16: Financing Statistics in the Pacific**

During the session, financing partners highlighted the need for a paper providing a snapshot of what is provided collectively and nationally, which would provide information on financing gaps building on work already carried out by SPC. The paper should consider categorisation of funding and how it is spent.

Mr Tora, ADB, stated that as the bank develops its next phase of support to PSSC, ADB management and the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction, which finances its TA, have asked the following questions: What are countries themselves doing to fund their work programmes, especially as there is a clear need for this to be done? And how are TA providers mobilizing support?

He asked whether there was a sustainable financing framework being developed under PSSC or elsewhere that recognises there is a level of prioritisation that needs to be made given dwindling resources but which highlights that funds going towards these priorities have resulted in tangible outcomes.

He suggested that the PSSC or the TYPSS Coordinator work with NSOs to produce such a framework, stating ADB would be happy to provide background information on the financing it has provided over the past few years. He stated that the information would not only help with prioritisation but also reassure donors that PSSC is well aware of where performance gaps lie and where the greatest needs are.

Mr Head, DFAT, endorsed the idea, requesting a succinct paper for November that shows what is currently being provided against what is needed (minimum and best case scenarios). The paper would highlight the financing gap, which would be useful for advocacy work within the donor systems. Mr Head added that the strategic document would help illustrate that PSSC understands what's happening within the statistics sector and what the key needs are.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, raised a concern that waiting until November may be too late due to the 3rd Global Financing Conference for Development being held over 13-16 July in Addis Ababa, when the final pot of money for development including SDGs (not only stats) will be decided. He stated that some members had already identified varying levels of budgets (minimum, desirable, ideal) that could be brought forward immediately.

Mr Sharma, World Bank Stated there was some internal debate within the bank on whether it has an obligation to fund countries that it 'hounds for data'. Currently, WB doesn't fund surveys directly. He asked PSSC what a meaningful system might be that they want, to cost that out, factoring in a future situation where countries would be able to fund these completely or decide whether that time may never come. He proposed looking at funding modalities as well as any cost saving measures such as modifying surveys or combining surveys through better timing.

Mr Roger, PFTAC, stated there were many ways to look at how to account for expenditure and funding gaps and that it might be useful to come up with a categorisation of funding (such as sectoral spending or spending by function) that is useful for financial partners. He cited Mr Haberkorn's earlier example where NSOs were spending 90% of their budgets on salaries and nothing on software or hardware. Another option was to look at how much was being spent on TYPSS objectives. He

stated that if DFAT and ADB could get together and agree on what is useful to them, NSOs could start to pull that information together; otherwise the results could be quite disparate if they were to go by each NSO's thoughts on funding.

Mr Head, DFAT, stated that Mr Haberkorn's SDD draft for FfD in July would be useful in the interim. However, a more inclusive document that includes the needs of NSOs and looks at financing of the sector as opposed to just programme financing should be presented at PSSC in November or next year.

Mr Haberkorn, SPC SDD, replied that a number of costing schedules for a couple of surveys namely CRVS and Economic Collection would be ready by mid June. He stated the documents for the FfD in July would go to the Pacific Ambassadors including the Chair Tonga, who will be present at the Forum in Addis Ababa.

### **Agenda 17: Meeting dates, place, agenda PSSC 11**

Led by Ms Patricia Sachs-Cornish, Chief of Staff, SPC

The members discussed the draft agenda for the next PSSC meeting (Annex B).

They deliberated on an appropriate month and week to hold the next six-monthly meeting of PSSC, which Ms Sachs-Cornish stated would fall in November. SPC would be able to provide support to PSSC-10 in late November as it has a meeting of its governing body, CRGA, in early November. Mr Haberkorn, SPC stated that November would be ideal to review progress in 2015 and prepare for 2016, adding many people are on leave in January in the Southern Hemisphere. In addition, SPC SDD is committed to international meetings in February, making March too late to meet. Mr Pandey, USP, stated that the third week of November would be preferable due to many international staff travelling during the fourth week of November (airfares increase from the first week of December). The Committee tentatively settled on the third week of November.

Mr Cook, FOTC, asked whether the meeting of Pacific Statisticians and Planners could be extended to two days (Day 2 and 3) following a meeting of the TWGs on Day 1, and PSSC-11 be reduced to one day on Day 4. Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC stated that PSSC-11 discussions could extend to two days with the Coordinator producing papers that will require PSSC endorsement. Mr Head, DFAT, recommended PSSC-11 remain at two days at this stage as there would be many things to discuss.

Mr Scott, PFTAC, stated he would not be able take four days off to attend the meeting and that the proposed schedule with the TWG meetings brought forward to the start would mean having to hang around on Day 2 while only the Pacific statisticians and planners met. Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC, stated the TWG meetings were brought forward to assist them with their reporting to PSSC. Following the discussion, the TWG meetings were shifted to after the meeting of the Pacific representatives.

Mr Head, DFAT, suggested that a consolidated list of where we are for Phase 1 and 2 be added under the agenda item Report from TYPSS Coordinator on Work Plan. Given the additional work, Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC, stated the Coordinator wouldn't need to

write all of the papers herself; she could commission others. There could be others within PSSC that could also provide support.

The Vice-Chair, Ms Tangimeatua, stated the Chair, Mr Johnson, had requested PSSC consider Vanuatu as a destination for the next meeting. Ms Sachs-Cornish replied that Fiji, and in particular, Nadi has proven to be the most cost-effective destination to hold the meeting. Another Pacific location, such as Vanuatu, would incur additional cost as it would mean flying many PI participants into Nadi, then taking an additional flight. She also noted that Nadi may be the most favourable option for development and financial partners due to the frequency and availability of daily international flights to and from key destinations. The Vice Chair asked that the location be kept open and that the Coordinator take a look at the costing.

### **Agenda 18: Clearance of Key Decisions Document**

Ms Sachs-Cornish, SPC, presented the draft Key Decisions Document. PSSC members reviewed and discussed each decision and action item (Annex A) and Ms Sachs-Cornish made changes as the Committee approved them.

Only minor changes were made to the draft decisions and action items. Other specific changes to the draft decisions involved:

- a. Acknowledging the CROP coordination process in the area of “Subject Reviews Sustainable Development Indicators” by inserting “CROP” in the following statement: The Pacific work in this area is supported by key technical divisions of SPC, PIFS and SPREP supported by interdisciplinary/CROP working groups.
- b. Specifying that under “Financing Statistics in the Pacific”, an intent paper would be provided by SPC SDD to financial partners that are members of PSSC for their input prior to the 3rd Conference on FfD.

Following insertion of the requested changes, the Committee agreed in principal to the finalised PSSC-10 outcomes.

### **Agenda 19: Closing of PSSC**

The Vice Chair, Ms Tangimeatua, concluded the meeting by acknowledging the participation of the attendees. She noted that the TWGs would meet the following day.

## 10th Pacific Statistics Steering Committee Meeting

Novotel Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

25th – 29th May 2015

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND KEY DECISIONS**

The Pacific Statistics Steering Committee met on 27 and 28 May 2015 in Nadi, Fiji Islands. The Meeting was attended by Heads and representatives of statistics from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Guam, Nauru, New Zealand, Tokelau and Vanuatu. Representatives of Planning Departments Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa also participated. Development Partners in attendance were from Asian Development Bank, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, University of the South Pacific and the World Bank.

The Meeting welcomed the newly appointed TYPSS Coordinator, Ms Karen Punivalu, who will commence duties on the 29th of June 2015.

#### **Update on TYPSS progress during 2014 year**

- Participants were appraised of the key highlights and achievements for 2014 that included:
- During Phase 1 of TYPSS, 15 PICTs targeted under TYPSS, have completed at least one census including its report as well as a comprehensive demographic analysis; 4 have completed DHS Surveys and 5 PICTs have completed HIES;
- Through the Brisbane Accord, a number of agencies collaboratively have raised the importance of Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) which includes a growing regional commitment to improve CRVS;
- An increase in the sharing of skills and resources through South South Cooperation over the year;
- Improved timeliness in the production of national accounts;
- Enhanced partner coordination and cooperation.

#### **Governance arrangements**

The meeting discussed the need to further clarify governance arrangements for the PSSC in order to further advocate the recognition of statistics as a key area for managing development results. They recognised a proposal from Pacific Statisticians and tasked the TYPSS coordinator to expand on this proposal and bring a paper to the

November meeting. The paper would provide for clear roles and responsibilities for the various groupings and make clearer linkages between them and the various regional forums such as the Forum Economic Ministers meetings, and other sectoral meetings.

### **TWG IT - progress and plans**

PSSC acknowledged the work of the working group and noted progress made in identifying key issues of internet connection, power reliability and backups/disaster recovery in the work of NSOs in the Pacific. The TWG further recommended use of common software, mobile internet/cloud, development of ICT planning documents, enhancing training and capacity building opportunities and enabling legislation as necessary to advance implementation of TYPSS. The meeting agreed that NSOs review existing legislation that enables the vision of PICTs to produce more timely and high-quality statistics, through improved coordination, effective sharing and dissemination via the technological solutions in the region's digital society. PSSC endorsed the TORs for the TWG – IT.

### **TWG Administrative Data - progress and plans**

PSSC noted the goal of the TWG Administrative Data to provide advice and recommendations on administrative data use and matters such as standards, priorities for investment in systems and possibilities for shared infrastructure, development of ICT skills, and modalities for south-south cooperation. PSSC endorsed the TORs for the TWG Administrative Data.

### **TWG Pacific Surveys Future - progress and plans**

PSSC recognised that current approaches to survey practises was not sustainable with increasing cost constraints and welcomed the approach proposed by the TWG in considering innovative approaches to be adopted. Consideration of hybrids would be helpful in ensuring cost – effective and sustainable survey approaches. PSSC endorsed the TORs of the TWG – Pacific Survey futures and the workplan presented.

### **TWG data utilisation – proposal**

PSSC welcomed the TORs provide by the TWG and noted that its vision was for all PICT official statistics users effectively access and maximize use of statistical data to meet policy, research, and management decisions with adequate resources. PSSC endorsed the TORs for the TWG – Data Utilisation.

### **TYPSS Coordination and prioritisation**

Acknowledging that the objectives of the TYPSS Phase 2 objectives remain relevant, the PSSC agreed to the following actions:

- Tasked the TWGs to consider the collection of data in the areas of gender, climate change, food security, disaster risk, disability and environment as necessary and urged the NSOs to communicate with sectors that are collecting data to include these in their statistical collections;

- Requested the coordination unit to work with USP and the TWGs to identify skills gaps drawing on the previous work of SPC SDD and NSO national capacity assessments;
- Increase efforts to improving monitoring and evaluation in a simplified manner to demonstrate results and highlight key achievement in implementation of TYPSS;
- Incorporate into the Coordinator's workplan for the first six months collation of country and TA provider M & E data, improved PSSC reporting; and sustaining a real-time online calendar of regional statistics activities;
- Tasked the TWGs to make recommendations to PSSC common definitions and standards in their areas of responsibilities;
- Develop a paper on governance arrangements based on the discussions during the session on governance
- PSSC recognised and commended all development partners for their continued support and commitment to the implementation of TYPSS.

### **South-south engagement**

The Meeting noted a number of opportunities that have been provided for South South technical assistance in the areas of Education Management Information Systems, international merchandise trade statistics, data analysis and report writing, business statistics, DHS training, and CRVS.

Participants agreed to continue further opportunities for south south cooperation bearing in mind pressures these may place on NSOs already limited capacity.

### **PSSC Communications**

PSSC discussed the importance of communicating the work of statistics and improving advocacy for statistics and agreed that a systematic approach should be taken to engage non PSSC member NSOs during the period between HOPs meetings. They further recognised the need to communicate the work of the PSSC with other regional fora such as the Forum Economic Ministers as well as those of Health and education ministers. They noted further opportunities arise through the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and its associated working groups. The meeting agreed to the following actions:

- PFTAC and SPC to incorporate a report of the work of PSSC to FEMM with support from the Coordinator;
- That presentations to such meetings be made by the PSSC Chair supported by the TYPSS Coordinator;

- Tasked the Coordinator to work with the Chair to develop a comprehensive paper on the intent of the agenda item.

### **Statistical training – progress**

PSSC welcomed progress made in building official statistics user capability in the Pacific by Statistics New Zealand and the enhancement of the University of the South Pacific's official statistics programme. The meeting congratulated USP on being one of the few institutions globally that offers a programme in official statistics.

### **Subject reviews Sustainable development indicators**

PSSC noted the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals/targets and indicators which currently stand at 17 goals, 169 targets, and 320+ indicators on monitoring, TYPSS implementation, NSOs and their development partners. They recognised the ongoing work of the interagency technical experts group to reducing the number of targets and indicators that all countries can commit to for global monitoring. The Pacific work in this area is supported by key technical divisions of SPC, PIFS and SPREP supported by interdisciplinary/CROP working groups.

### **PSSC Endorsement of Pacific Statistics standards and classifications**

Recognising that Standards and standardised approaches are a powerful tool to promote data integration and efficiency, and noting that as the overarching body tasked with oversight of the implementation of TYPSS, PSSC agreed that it has the authority to recommend appropriate statistical standards for use in the Pacific region. They further agreed that standards will be 'provisionally endorsed' by the PSSC, with final endorsement by HOPS.

PSSC agreed that proposals for Pacific statistical standards can be submitted by any PSSC member for consideration at least two months in advance of the meeting. A standard will be 'provisionally endorsed' by PSSC on agreement by consensus of PSSC members.

PSSC tasked the TWGs to bring forward appropriate proposals for standards that should be developed in consultation with members.

### **Financing Statistics in the Pacific**

Acknowledging that financial resources are necessary to the implementation of the TYPSS, PSSC sought to identify available resources required to support NSOs and TA providers for statistics work. PSSC tasked the TYPSS Coordinator to develop a paper that provided a snapshot of what is provided collectively and nationally, which would provide information on financing gaps building on work already carried out by SPC. The paper should consider categorisation of funding and how it is spent.

In the context, of Financing for Development, a shorter intent paper to be provided by SPC SDD to financial partners that are members of PSSC for their input prior to the 3rd Conference on FfD.

## **Meeting dates, place, agenda PSSC 11**

PSSC agreed to meet during 3rd week of November 2015 in Nadi or Port Vila tbc.  
Agreed programme and agenda items include:

- Day 1 Pacific Planners and Statisticians
- Day 2 Technical Working Groups
- Day 3 & 4 PSSC
  - Report from TYPSS Coordinator on Work Plan
    - Consolidated list of where we are at for Phase 1 and 2
  - Governance Arrangements
  - Technical Working Group Reports
    - TWG IT
    - TWT Data Utilisation
    - TWG Administrative Records
    - TWG Pacific Surveys Futures
  - Pacific Statistics Standards and Classifications
  - Communications Strategy for PSSC
    - Including reporting to FEMM and other regional fora, such as CROP Executives and CROP Working Groups, health and education ministerials
  - Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
  - Financing for Statistics in the Pacific

**TENTH PACIFIC STATISTICS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
(Nadi, Fiji, 25-29 May 2015)

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