TYPSS

TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY Phase II

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Report on Workshop on Agenda 2030 and SIDS:

Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Readiness

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I. Introduction/Background

The common focus for the development of official statistics in the Small Island Developing States involved in the SAMOA Pathway is simple and stark. The regional leadership of SIDS countries responsible for developing official statistics could gain considerably by an organised approach to sharing thinking, systems, expertise and experiences.

This was discussed at the workshop for SIDS countries of May 20-21 organised by PARIS21. The key findings are presented below.

I. Introduction/Background

There are significant differences in SIDS regions in the nature and extent of economic and political integration, which is more apparent in Caribbean than in Pacific and AIMS. This has resulted in the Caribbean states having a stronger user base in economic statistics, while the Pacific experience in regional harmonisation of population statistics appears more extensive than in the other regions.

Economic and political integration sharpens the focus by the users of statistics not only on the scope but also the timeliness, harmonisation and reliability of statistical measures, and their accessibility.

I. Introduction/Background

Information and communications technologies have become a powerful basis for leveraging off work of others. Technology has improved considerably the statistical collection and dissemination processes (e.g., use of PDA for surveys, admin-based data sharing, and data capture using innovative tools, GIS mapping).

There is a need to share activities that keep SIDS abreast of opportunities from low cost tools and their evolving enhancements into estimation and derivation of recognised measures. This necessitates constant surveying of opportunities that could be shared between SIDS, and there is an urgent need for this to be done now.

IIa. Articulate a regional development pathway, and its fit with external agenda

- *Make transparent the tensions between the global view of what statistics to collect and how it should be used for policy versus national view of what relevant statistics to collect to inform existing national concerns*
- *Reconcile the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs*
- *Determine the collective place and interests of SIDS for regional advocacy*
- *Institutionalise co-ordination among ministries in establishing statistical needs and priorities*
- *Lift the continuity/sustainability/predictability of funding for statistics*
- *Broker capacity supplementation in SIDS, for those countries and areas of statistics where capacity development is impractical because of size.*

IIb. other Issues/Challenges

Shift resources from sources to analysis

- *Transform operational processes*
- *Extend statistical sources particularly to administrative records*
- *Develop and share standards for MOUs, legislation, policy agreements*
- *Strengthen quality assurance practices*

Speed up the capacity to harmonise statistical sources

- *Adaption of international statistical standards facilitates integration and comparisons at detailed level*
- *International standards bring local legitimacy to statistics*

Lift share of data accessible by users

- *Deliver statistics in ways relevant to users, extend analysis*

Iic. other Issues/Challenges

Increase analysability of statistical sources, especially by subnational area

- *Increase geospatial identification, in order to shift the boundary towards generating more subnational statistics, enabling local community information to be integrated with official statistics and frameworks*
- *Link national research institutions to NSOs*
- *Draw on partners' support within the country*

Make sure people know what exists

- *Deepen reach into decision-making contexts*
- *Co-ordination among ministries in establishing needs*
- *Develop case studies of significant applications of statistics to policy and community actions (Vanuatu cyclone)*

Extend the legal authority to embrace all dimensions of job

- *Advocacy for trust*

III. Key Recommendations

1. Note the common focus of development initiatives of SIDS countries

2. Note the need to frame the objectives of TYPPS in terms of the SAMOA pathway and the SDGs

3. Note that collaboration with the Caribbean and AIMS countries will sharpen the focus of PSSC activity

4. Agree that the November TYPPS summarise progress against the broad objectives of the paper