



The establishment of a Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training

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The development of data and statistics is one of the priorities for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs have generated an increased demand from countries for technical assistance and capacity development activities, including training, to respond to the new and unprecedented data requirements. The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017, prioritizes statistical capacity building as a key area for fulfilling the data needs that meet the scope and ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, and provides a framework for its planning and implementation. Extensive methodological work is in progress to meet data requirements for new topics and emphasis on administrative and non-traditional data sources are gaining grounds. Such new sources and methods are likely to generate even greater demands for training from countries over the next few years. There has been a long-felt need to optimize and harmonize the training offerings of various institutions, including ensuring their compliance with internationally adopted statistical standards in order to maximize their outreach and also ensure that these are delivered in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. It however, cannot be overstated that the supply of training has to be commensurate with the priorities and needs of the countries that are the ultimate beneficiaries. All this will require a coordinated and collaborative effort among all relevant and key institutions to develop a full understanding of countries' training needs. The presentation will describe a new partnership across these institutions established through a global network to be known as GIST (Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training) that will help in the coordination and harmonization of training in a systematic and sustainable manner. Such network would perfectly align to one of three guiding principles of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which recognizes the crucial role of cooperation among countries, regional organizations, and other international organizations and stakeholders in supporting countries' plans and efforts in capacity building. The GIST is to facilitate a mechanism for the members of the network to collaborate in the delivery of trainings on official statistics in an harmonized and standardized manner as well as to improve effectiveness of these trainings through maximizing their outreach.

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