**Concept note: Training in Open Data and Interoperability Standards  
within the context of the UNSD-DFID project on SDG Monitoring**

The project on “Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals,” launched in 2017 by the Statistics Division with support from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), aims to make the Sustainable Development Goal indicators available to the broadest possible audience and to strengthen the capacity of countries in the compilation and use of the indicators. One of the main activities of the project is to support the participating countries in the creation or upgrading of national data and metadata platforms.

In January 2018, the UN Statistics Division hosted a Conference on National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms that resulted in a set of comprehensive principles and guidelines for the development of platforms for the reporting of SDG indicators. These principles and guidelines underline, among other things, the importance of integrating open data principles and data interoperability standards in the establishment of national platforms for the SDGs.

The value of national SDG data and metadata platforms is greatly increased by the incorporation of open data principles and data interoperability standards. These principles and standards allow users to seamlessly access, integrate, analyze and use SDG data for decision making. Thus, building on the outcome of the Conference, the United Nations Statistics Division has worked closely with various partners in multiple initiatives to further refine the implementation of open data and interoperability for SDG data reporting.

As part of these efforts, open data principles and interoperability standards are being incorporated into the capacity-building activities organized in the context the UNSD-DFID project on SDG reporting. In particular, UNSD is working with partners and identifying synergies with related initiatives in order to introduce open data and data interoperability principles, standards and best practices into the training workshops and technical assistance missions held at national level. These topics will also be included in the set of e-learning materials being developed to assist countries in implementing their national SDG data and metadata reporting platforms.

Related activities

A pre-event organized by Open Data Watch in collaboration with the UNSD and other partners at the margins of the International Open Data Conference 2018 allowed representatives from national statistical offices and other stakeholder groups to discuss how to ensure that national reporting platforms for the SDGs integrate the principles of open data and interoperability. In particular, participants identified common challenges and practical solutions across the three cross-cutting areas of open data, interoperability, and national reporting for the SDGs.

At the second UN World Data Forum, held in October 2018 in Dubai, the collaborative on data interoperability, jointly convened by UNSD and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals (GPSDD), launched a Data Interoperability Guide, which provides a roadmap for enhancing data interoperability in the field of sustainable development, with the aim to improve the integration and reusability of data and data systems. The Guide is structured around five areas needed to scale interoperability, namely: (1) Data management and governance; (2) Canonical data and metadata models; (3) Classifications and vocabularies; (4) Standardized interfaces; and (5) Linked open data.

Also at the second UN World Data Forum, the Center for Open Data Enterprise (CODE), UNICEF, and the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), held a session on national data platforms for SDG reporting, which brought together countries, solutions providers, and international agencies to share their experiences with SDG reporting platforms and discuss how principles and guidelines from the international community have shaped their approaches.