



THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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Invitation

**to the UNSC Side Event organized by the International Statistical Institute on
Wednesday, 9 March 2016, 8:15 – 9:30 am, Conference Room (TBC)**

To: Heads of National and International Statistical Offices and Statistical Agencies

Dear Colleague,

I am writing on behalf of the President and the Executive Committee of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to invite you to an open meeting on:

Official Statistics and Partnerships on Sustainable Development Data: A Panel Discussion

This meeting will be held as a Side Event at the UNSC in New York on Wednesday, 9 March 2016 from 8:15-9:30 am in Conference Room (TBC). The announcement of the meeting can be also found at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/side-events/>

The panel will consist of:

Ms. Albina Chuwa, Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania

Mr. Johannes Jütting, Manager, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)

Mr. Sanjeev Khagram, Professor, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

Mr. José Rosero Moncayo, Executive Director, National Institute of Statistics and Census Ecuador (INEC)

Ms. Linda Peters, Global Manager, Statistics, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

Moderators:

Mr. Pedro Silva, President, ISI; IBGE - National School of Statistical Sciences

Ms. Irena Križman, Vice- President, ISI; Former Director General of the Statistical Office of Slovenia.

“The visionary Global Goals were agreed to by 193 member-States of the United Nations in 2015.

A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders”. The UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) will review and agree on the [Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#) at the 47th Session of the UNSC. There are many activities in place among official statisticians who in cooperation with the stakeholders are preparing the global indicators framework. See more at: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>.

Most of the data is expected to be produced by the National Statistical Offices and their partners in the National Statistical System. The private and non-profit sectors will also play an important role. It is crucial that all initiatives at the global, regional and national level, which can strengthen the institutional and professional capacity of the producers of statistics, can be well coordinated.

The official statistical community is facing new challenges and many of them go beyond their current legislative, organisational and political settings. In addition to strengthening the coordination role of the NSOs, new data communities emerging from private, civil society and government sector have to be included in the production of statistics in general and for measuring the SDGs implementation in particular.

In addition to the PARIS21, a key partnership appreciated by member countries, new partnerships and initiatives have been established to help organise resources, new tools and new innovative ways of data production and dissemination. They play an especially important role in developing countries where NSOs and NSS are relatively weak concerning resources and their position among the fast emerging and mostly better-resourced data communities.

One of the global initiatives is the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD). Over 70 governments, civil society groups, companies, international organisations, and expert networks from all corners of the world joined forces in the historic launch of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data in New York City on Monday, 28 September 2015.

In cooperation with other global partners as UNSC, the GPSDD, whose champions are coming from different sectors and across the world, can contribute to the process of bringing together all concerned with data at the global, regional and national level. More information on GPSDD is available at <http://www.data4sdgs.org/>.

The International Statistical Institute as one of the champions of the GPSDD would like to offer an informal platform to discuss the issues concerning the global, regional and national partnership in strengthening the position of official statistics to enable them to harness the data revolution to successfully meet the Post-2015 agenda.

The ISI believes that the statistical community needs to jointly discuss and develop strategies to address these issues.

I do hope you will accept our invitation to join the meeting and contribute to the discussion.

The ISI's motto is "Statistical Science for a Better World." It will be wonderful if we can partner with you to accomplish the goal of building a better world through Statistics.

For organisational purposes, may I kindly ask you to confirm your participation by sending an email to the ISI Director Ada van Krimpen, co-organiser of the panel, at Director@isi-web.org.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irena Križman".

Irena Križman,
Vice-President, ISI

Enclosure:

Appendix I: Some of the discussion topics for the session

Appendix II: Information on the ISI

Appendix I: Discussion Topics

- Most of the data on SDGs are expected to be produced by the National Statistical Offices and their partners in the National Statistical System. Cooperation, coordination and communication with the wider data community are crucial. How the data ecosystems have been defined and organised at the national level? What are the main challenges? What is the role of the NSOs? Why should NSOs continue to play a leading role in producing statistics for policymaking?
- NSOs are supposed to play a central role in national data ecosystems. Do NSOs have a legislative power, appropriate tools, organisation and resources to partner with other data producers? What are the concrete experiences of the countries? How to include other data communities in the production of official statistics? Who will check whether other producers will comply with international statistical standards? How the UNSC SDGs implementation process concerning statistical monitoring and reporting has contributed to reach out to other partners?
- PARIS21 is a key partnership, appreciated by member countries and partner of the GPSDD. What are the experiences of PARIS21 concerning the partnership among different data communities at national, regional and global level? What can be the role of NSOs in developing and monitoring national development plans?
- What can be the role of a multi stakeholder partnership in building and developing institutional and professional capacity of statistical producers? What is the role of the governments, the civil society and the private sector in the global partnership to reduce the development data poverty? How can NSOs benefit from and work with GPSDD?
- GIS tools, modelling and data integration are some of innovations which have already been implemented in many NSOs. How has the partnership between official statisticians and private sector at national and regional level been organised? Who are the initiators? Who are the coordinators? What are the results?
- How can the different partnerships for statistics best work together? How to find the synergies among them?

Appendix II: Information about the ISI



THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE *Statistical
Science for a Better World*

www.isi-web.org

Join the International Statistical Institute as an Institutional Member

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) welcomes national, regional and international statistical agencies (or institutes) in official statistics to become institutional members. Institutional membership in the ISI provides many benefits as described below.

ISI: A Brief Profile

The ISI is a non-governmental organization with a long history and consultative status in the United Nations. It provides a platform for official statisticians at all levels and from across the world to get together and discuss issues of mutual interest in a constructive and supportive environment. These include state-of-the-art practices and innovations as well as issues dealing with professional ethics. Our professional meetings and virtual networks provide an opportunity for free discussion of challenges, problems, and constraints faced by organizations.

In addition to official statistics, the ISI family includes seven other international Associations, covering survey statistics, statistical education, business and industrial statistics, environmetrics, statistical computing, statistical theory, and probability. The ISI family has around 5,000 individual members from over 140 countries, and provides international linkages with statistical professional societies nationally and worldwide.

The ISI organizes many different activities to benefit members and promote the statistics profession worldwide. Examples of these activities are given below:

Conferences:

Our flagship event is the biennial ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC), attended by more than 2,000 participants from all over the world. The scientific program is designed to appeal to the general audience. It includes numerous sessions and panel discussions related to official statistics. The last WSC in July 2015, hosted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) was very successful. The next WSC will be held in Morocco in 2017. You can find more information at <http://www.isi2017.org/>.

The ISI and its Associations also organize many regional and specialized conferences around the world. Examples include the conferences organized by the International Association for Official Statistics (2012 in Kiev and in

2014 in Vietnam; the next will be in Abu Dhabi in 2016), and the ISI Regional Statistics Conference in November 2014 (hosted by the Central Bank of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur).

Statistical Capacity Building:

The ISI has been involved in statistical capacity building in developing regions through various initiatives such as:

- a) Regional workshops for high-level official statisticians in Senegal, Ethiopia, South Korea, Tanzania and Cameroon (forthcoming);
- b) Workshops in applied statistics and environmetrics in Benin, South Africa and India;
- c) A virtual mentoring program for young statisticians;
- d) Securing funding from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) administered by the World Bank and other sources to support participation of statisticians from developing countries in ISI and Association Conferences.

Professional Ethics:

In 2010, the ISI Council adopted a 'Declaration of Professional Ethics' aimed at disseminating shared values and practices that can help statisticians in making ethical judgments and decisions. These have been very helpful to official statisticians as well as other practitioners. The ISI also provides support or makes interventions in specific cases of professional ethics as appropriate.

Publications:

The ISI and its Associations publish a variety of publications that are available free of charge or at reduced prices to members, including the *International Statistical Review* (an expository journal) and the *Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*. On-line proceedings from the WSCs and other conferences are also available.

Value and Benefits of ISI Institutional Membership

- ✓ Enjoy all the benefits of an ISI elected member: The Head of an organization with ISI institutional membership (such as the President, Director General, Director, or Chief Statistician) or his/her representative is entitled to the benefits of individual membership.
- ✓ Get reduced rate (50% discount) for all staff members from your organization joining the ISI as regular members.
- ✓ Network with statisticians, statistics organizations and anyone interested in Statistics from across the World.
- ✓ Participate in a variety of conferences, workshops and meetings dedicated to Statistics and its applications, and enjoy reduced registration fees; receive reduced rates for two participants for the ISI WSCs.
- ✓ Contribute to, and benefit from, statistical capacity building initiatives for developing regions.
- ✓ Collaborate with a community of statisticians who support, advocate, and promote ethical practice in Statistics.
- ✓ Get access to ISI family's journals and other publications that disseminate state-of-the-art developments in the field, at reduced subscription rates. Receive a free hard copy of the *International Statistical Review*.
- ✓ Enjoy the prestige of belonging to a vibrant, yet traditional Statistical Society and contribute to activities such as the highly successful International Year of Statistics that was celebrated in 2013.

We hope you will join the ISI and partner with us in promoting the Statistics Profession worldwide!

Currently, the ISI has around 100 institutional members from national statistical offices (also called ex-officio members). These members are an indispensable part of the ISI and play a crucial role in the ISI's mission 'to promote the understanding, development, and good practice of statistics worldwide'. We invite you to join us today!

You can join by filling in the membership form or you can send an email expressing your interest in ISI membership to Ms. Ada van Krimpen, ISI Director, at Director@isi-web.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to the ISI family. We will be happy to give you more information by email or in person.

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For more information about the ISI please visit our website at www.isi-web.org.