

INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

Raj Mohabeer

Session 5 Topic: Statistics in Development Policy and Planning at National and Regional Levels

Intervention/discussion:

1. Do existing regional development policies and programs in your region include statistical development or statistical capacity building as one of its means of implementation?

IOC does not involve in statistical development. We have limited actions focussed on some key sectors not on NSS. E.g RTTP, MESA, SEGA, Child rights, IOC-UNCTAD on SIDS work.....

2. To what extent is statistics recognized as an integral part of policy formulation and development planning and monitoring? Provide concrete examples of your region's practice.

For IOC, this is key and e.g RTTP v/s IOTC, MESA, v/s MOI SEGA, Child Rights v/s Ministry of Child Rights, etc, Observatory of ICT being developed.

There is also plan to identify and select indicators to measure the performance of programmes under IOC's Space and Regional Infrastructure domain of intervention

3. Both the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway specifically include a section on the need to provide support to strengthen statistics in SIDS. What are IOC's plans to ensure statistics would be an important component of development policy and planning? Provide concrete examples of its operationalisation.

No plan yet. This can be the 1st attempt.

4. What discussions have taken place, if any, on the IOC government's priorities in terms of SDG reporting and SAMOA Pathway implementation that would impact statistical activities in your country?

A Message of the IOC was delivered in Samoa and plans are being developed for its implementation. We have to discuss with key International Institutions. IOC-UNCTAD is working on the steps.

5. How does your region address competing priorities in terms of statistical reporting for national and regional use? Provide concrete examples of activities or strategy to address the issue.

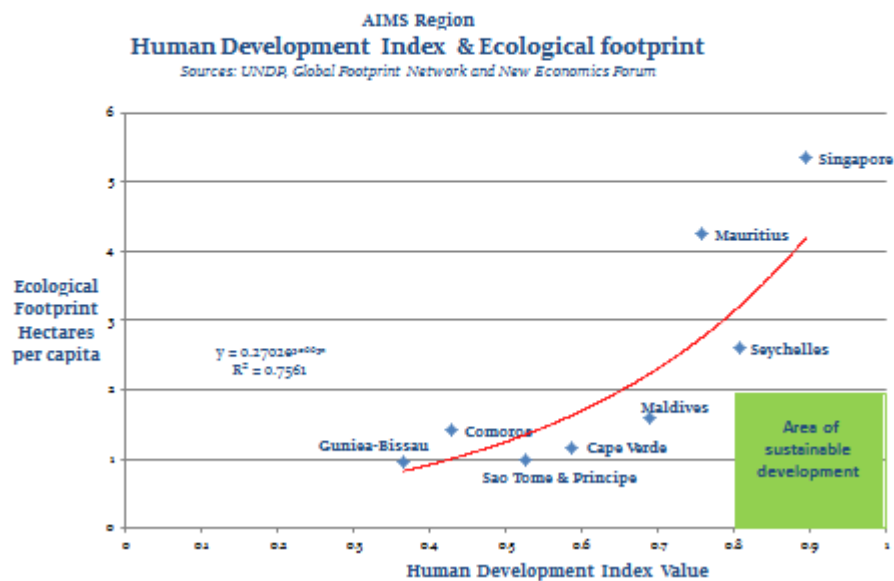
Far behind the Pacific and Caribbean regions

Relationship between policy and statistics as it relates to better governance and increased accountability of governments:

1. **Mechanisms** in place to ensure integrity of statistics for policy use and guaranteeing independence of statistical institutions from political interference, particularly when an NSO is a unit or branch in one of the government Ministries:

- National: As far as I know there is no mechanism except the internal existing democratic process and its evolution.
- Regional: E.g RTTP v/s IOTC, MESA, v/s MOI SEGA, Child Rights v/s Ministry of Child Rights, etc, Observatory of ICT being developed; other Regional Blocks such as COMESA, SADC, IOTC,.....

- E.g evolution of tuna resources: no individual country has the statistics. There is clearly a need for regional level without national level ...
 - Another e.g – climate change – there is no model for CC in IO region. Nor for e.g the impact of CC on Agriculture –. Now that we are talking more and more micro CC, we have to recognise that the SIDS do not have the technology nor the capacity for innovation of technology? so we have to rely on external capacity for a long time to come. So, the issue of access to innovation and technology is key to statistics.
 - International: IOC not so involved in the International process; but there are e.g the Moody Indicators, Transparency International, etc...
2. **Strategies** for supporting statistical institutions in delivering relevant statistics for policy use, development planning and program monitoring:
- National: Not too knowledgeable about the National level
- Regional: Only in the context of the above-mentioned projects but with limited prospects for capacity building
- International: Not aware of any
3. National/regional government's **priority areas in the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway** that are likely to impact national statistical system's work in the next 15 years
- National: Don't think there is any attempt to impact the NSS work. It will surely be the contrary
- Regional: Nothing started yet. Focus will surely be on the general implementation and less on NSS
- International: OECD's work should be included as ISDS
4. **How** to get the National level deliver on the statistics needed to inform these priorities:
- National: Limited and modest initiatives. The national strategy will be oriented towards requesting funds from IC.
- Regional:
- a. Regional priority setting on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity and complementarity demonstrating regional value addition
 - b. Developing linkages between Regional priorities with National priorities
 - c. Select regional indicators and prepare periodic reports on implementation.
 - d. Partnership with International initiatives together with.
- International:
- e. Focus on the end objectives (achieving the set objectives of the SDGs/Samoa Pathway) for the use of the statistics and not on the statistics themselves. E.g



- f. Prepare periodic reports on implementation linking with National and regional reporting
- g. Support the establishment of linkage with R&D, with research institutions and the NSS
- h. UNSDESA to take the lead with the support of IOC to establish coordination among the AI SIDS
- i. UN should come up with a major Support Programme for implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs with clear indicators for results to be achieved and M&E. The Programme should have a 3-pronged approach (national, regional and International levels implementation) ...
- j. Another project to provide an assistance for review and improving RSS, NSS on the basis of achieving better as compared to the others, accessing additional resources such as Climate Fund, etc but this should be done in a way so that the projects are being formulated by the countries with a multidisciplinary approach and involving all key stakeholders, including learning by doing.
- k. Establish a Working Group on the prioritisation of indicators so that these reflect the National and regional Priorities.
- l. OECD to establish an Observatory for the application of the Busan Declaration
- m. Support the establishment of a programmatic approach instead of project approach at national as well as regional levels
- n. Promote strategic partnerships and collaboration in statistics.
- o. Identification capacity, skills and data gaps
- p. UN to address the Regional Institutional Framework/Coordination mechanism for AIMS – or rather AI