Cross Regional Forum
SDG implementation: What is needed in terms of data, institutions and funding?

4-5 December 2017, Room BB 2
OECD Boulogne Conference Centre, Boulogne-Billancourt, France

Forum Guide
Session 2 – SDG institutions and country experiences
4 December 2017

**Topic:**
This session will focus on the institutional mechanisms that are required for effective delivery and monitoring of the SDGs with a particular focus on the role of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

**Objectives of the session:**
In today’s global landscape, governments face increasingly complex economic, social and environmental challenges. How can governments get organised to reach the ambitions embodied in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals? Achieving progress on the Goals will require governments to work across policy areas. Multiplying the complex equation of complementarities and trade-offs across the whole spectrum of policy areas covered by the SDGs implies a need for prioritisation and negotiation involving all parts of government as well as the private sector and civil society. In addition, the SDGs are also a ‘foreign policy’ issue, requiring significant involvement from the diplomatic and development communities. In short: delivering on the SDGs is a formidable governance challenge and requires effective institutional mechanisms to achieve the agreed outcomes.

The objective of the session is to bring together participants from different regions in order to share experiences and ideas, and to identify good practices in the institutional set-up for the co-ordination that is required among different agencies within countries that are responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs and the special role NSOs play in it. In addition, the session will explore how existing institutional structures, political environment, and social and economic development of a country play in setting up the institutional structure for SDG implementation.

The session will begin by sharing initial results from the work that the Public Governance Directorate (GOV) of the OECD is currently undertaking, reviewing in depth the institutional mechanisms in a number of countries. This will be followed by presentations from four countries on their own institutional set-up for the implementation of the SDGs, the role that NSOs play in it and the initial challenges and opportunities that they face in using these institutional mechanisms for the delivery of the SDGs.

**Presentations and discussion:**

**Chair:** Zsuzsanna Lonti (PARIS21)

1. **Public Governance Directorate (GOV), OECD**
   
   The OECD will present the initial results from its research on the governance challenges related to the implementation of the SDGs, with special emphasis on the institutional set-up,
as well as the role of existing institutional structures, the political environment, and the social and economic development in a country. Any existing key lessons and good practices will also be highlighted.

2. Country presentations

- Presentation of the institutional set-up for SDG implementation in the country, including how it supports a comprehensive government approach to SDG delivery (e.g. managing trade-offs), the integration of the SDGs into the budget process and stakeholder engagement
- Choices made and rationale (e.g. How centralised or decentralised is the approach and why?; Is there a special committee established? Where is this co-ordinating body located? Does it have its own staff?)
- What is the role of the NSO in the institutional set-up?
- What are the experiences to-date with the set-up? What has been achieved and what are the continuing challenges?

Discussion set-up: The presenters and Chair will be seated at the head of a round table with other Forum participants.

Stage management: The Session will begin with the Chair’s brief introduction of the objectives of Session 2, immediately followed by the introduction of the different presenters and their respective topics. There will be a total of 4 presentations that will run for 60 minutes. An open forum with questions and comments from the other participants will follow.

- Each presenter will be given a maximum of 15 minutes to present, following the introduction. Presenters are given flexibility to focus their presentation on what they perceive as good practices in their country, keeping in mind the topic proposed above.
- After the presentations, other Forum participants will have the opportunity to share further examples of best practices, draw in new ideas, or ask questions to presenters. 30 minutes will be allocated for the open forum and questions. The Chair may pose some questions to facilitate the discussion.
- The session will close with a brief summary of the session.

Reminder: To ensure effective management of the session, presenters are kindly reminded to observe the following:

- PowerPoint presentation should be limited to a maximum of 10 slides.
- Be conscious of the maximum time allocation for each presentation – 15 minutes.
- Provide PARIS21 with advance copy of your presentation by 27 November 2017.

Guiding questions:

1. Why is the institutional set-up for the implementation of SDGs so crucial for their success?
2. Are there any emerging models?
3. What role can or should the NSO play in this?
4. What role does your NSO actually play in it?