Regional Workshop on National Accounts and the development of Economic Statistics
Infrastructure within SDGs Framework
14 – 18 May 2017
Geneva Hotel, Amman, Jordan

In the context of the DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAMME ON STATISTICS AND
DATA-Economic Pillar IV on economic statistics, including national accounts, business, household,
energy, industry, trade and related statistics

A. Background for the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data

With the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in
September 2015, increased attention was brought to the international community on the need to
strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries to measure, monitor and report on the
sustainable development goals, targets and indicators. Goal 17 specifically addresses strengthening the
means of implementation, with target 17.18 calling for enhanced capacity building support to developing
countries to increase, by 2020, the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by
income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic locations and other
characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Given this call for increased support, the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, was
approved so as to maximize resources by working jointly with all 10 implementing entities which receive funding under the Account (DESA, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UN-ODC and the 5 Regional Commissions – ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA). The Programme will also seek partnerships with agencies within and outside the UN system, with the donor community, academia, civil society and the private sector.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in its mission in the region to
foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development through effective economic
and social policies and enhanced cooperation among the ESCWA members and with other countries
does promote regional implementation of the sustainable development goals, and to support regional
sustainable development by addressing economic, social and environmental policy gaps in its member
States. Through its Statistics Division, and as a leader of the Statistics Coordination Taskforce of the
Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA promotes coordination of statistical activities among
national statistical offices and international organizations active in the region. It conducts studies on
methodological issues of demographic and social statistics and methodological issues of economic
statistics. It will assess the ability of national statistical offices to provide data for the core set of
indicators. Under ESCWA’s field projects, it addresses improving short-term economic indicators;
improving the civil registration system; sustainable development indicators in the context of the 2030
agenda; harmonization of price statistics and national account activities and production of biannual
purchasing power parity (PPP) estimates in the Arab region.

In this large programe, the Statistics Division is a partner and will be implementing be implementing
components of the 4 pillars of the programme: I) Means of implementation, II) Environment Pillar,
III) Social pillar and its related components and IV) Economic pillar including economic statistics,
including national accounts, business, household, energy, industry, trade and related statistics

B. Objective of Economic pillar IV

To strengthen capacity in developing countries to measure and monitor sustainable development goals
indicators in economic statistics areas. The expected accomplishments and activities include regional
workshops on economic statistics and indicators, training material and e-learning course and Advisory missions.

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<th>Expected Accomplishments:</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| EA1: Enhanced capacity of developing countries to implement an integrated multi-mode and multi-source production process for the regular production of economic statistics | A1.1: for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators  
A.1.2: Develop s on the compilation of economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators  
A1.3 Regional training workshops and e-learning courses on the compilation of economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators |
| EA2: Enhanced capacity of target countries to collect, disseminate, notify and exchange data that are relevant for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators | A2.1 Advisory missions to support target countries with implementing the improvements required for specific domains of economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators associated with those specific domains  
A2.2 Advisory missions to target countries to implement applications that support the collection, dissemination, notification and exchange of data relevant for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators |
| EA3: Partnerships developed which support statistical strengthening in the area of economic statistics and complement and/or expand on the Programme’s outputs | A3.1 Issue invitations to Resident Coordinators to attend (sub-) regional meetings under self-financing arrangements, and to co-finance government participation.  
A3.2 Issue invitations to regional statistical organizations to attend (sub-)regional meetings under self-financing arrangements  
A3.3 Participate in donor round-tables to support national resource mobilization efforts for statistical strengthening |

C. Objective of The “Regional Workshop on National Accounts and the development of Economic Statistics Infrastructure within SDGs Framework”

The workshop is co-organized by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will be held during the period 15-18 May 2017, with participation of experts from Arab and international countries and organizations. This joint workshop comes in the context of efforts to implement the 2008 SNA and to develop related economic statistics within the framework of monitoring the goals of sustainable development 2030.

After the establishing of the Technical Advisory Group of Economic Statistics and agreement on setting priorities in Economic Statistics and National Accounts with members of the advisory group, and with this workshop, ESCWA is implementing the first activity under the DA project, Economic Pillar.
The workshop will focus on a number of topics, including: implications of the implementation of the 2008 SNA on gross domestic product, clarification of the additions made by the system in this regard, the use of supply and use tables in the assessment of the informal sector; the links between national accounts, balance of payments, financial companies, measurement of outputs of financial services, in particular the methods of calculating Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) and the outputs of life and non-life insurance and social insurance. The workshop will include presentations of countries experiences that are discussed according to the specific themes within the attached agenda.

D. Dates, venue and languages

The workshop will be held in Amman/Jordan during the period 15-18 May 2017, at the Geneva Hotel
Tel: + (962) 6 58 58 100. Fax: + (962) 6 58 58 111P. O. Box: 851262 Amman, 11185 Jordan, www.GenevaHotel-amman.com

English will be the main working language. It simultaneous translation between English and Arabic will be provided.

E. Logistical Information

Delegates nominated officially by their organizations in response to the official invitation letter sent by organizers are requested to submit the nomination form to the Institute no later than April 24, with the candidate's passport. The organizers will bear the costs of travel and accommodation, according to their rules and regulations.
Participants are responsible for securing their own visa for travel (if needed) to Jordan.

For further clarification, please contact the workshop secretary: From AITRS, Ms. Mayada Laith (mayada@aitrs.org), and from ESCWA Statistics Division, Mr. Majed Skaini (skaini@un.org).