Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data

Background:

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.

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.
Economic Pillar

Implementing Entities of the U.N. Secretariat

UNSD (Lead)

UNCTAD (co-lead)

UNEP, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA
Economic Pillar

Objective:

To strengthen capacity in developing countries to measure and monitor sustainable development goals indicators in economic statistics areas
Development Challenges

The Statistical Commission at its 40th session affirmed the role of the SNA as the overarching integration framework for economic statistics.

Many developing countries are still a long way from implementing the SNA due to a continued lack of political motivation combined with limited financial and human resources for setting up a statistical production process.

The economic pillar aims to address the technical and institutional challenges to establishing an integrated statistical production process, such as:
- lack of harmonized statistical concepts, definitions and classifications among relevant entities in the national statistical system
- lack of coordination among these institutions

The programme is organised according to five themes. These are i) National accounts, ii) Supply and use tables, iii) Industry statistics, iv) Energy statistics, and v) Business registers, trade statistics and non-tariff measures data and other economic statistics measuring the economic effects of trade regulations used for advancing social and environmental SDGs.
There is a need to

- Develop and update statistical business registers and its link to trade statistics and National Accounts
- Compile supply and use tables to track informal sector from the demand side
- Generate quarterly national accounts
- Develop regional national accounts to track geographic differences within selected countries
- Provide training and technical assistance for measuring financial intermediation services, particularly Islamic financing and quarterly national accounts.
- Develop price statistics such as harmonizing of price indices and sustainability of PPP production
- Improve key IT infrastructures and the implementation of software tools such as ERETES or other SDMX compliant software
- Produce high-quality energy statistics which is another requirement given the economic structure of many countries in the region
Expected Accomplishment 1 and activities planned:

1. Regional workshops on economic statistics and indicators for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators

2. Develop training material and e-learning courses on the compilation of economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators

3. Regional training workshops and e-learning courses on the compilation of economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators

Enhanced capacity of developing countries to implement an integrated multi-mode and multi-source production process for the regular production of economic statistics
Expected Accomplishment 2 and activities planned:

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.

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.

Enhanced capacity of target countries to collect, disseminate, notify and exchange data that are relevant for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators.
Expected Accomplishment 3 and activities planned:

1. Issue invitations to Resident Coordinators to attend (sub-)regional meetings under self-financing arrangements, and to co-finance government participation.

2. Issue invitations to regional statistical organizations to attend (sub-)regional meetings under self-financing arrangements.

3. Participate in donor round-tables to support national resource mobilization efforts for statistical strengthening.

Partnerships developed which support statistical strengthening in the area of economic statistics and complement and/or expand on the Programme’s outputs.