Leveraging interlinkages for effective implementation of SDGs
Friday, 14 July 2017 9:00 – 13:00

The integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs requires an in-depth discussion of the inter-connection between the various goals and targets. There is a large body of analytical research and evidence from many different sources, supporting integrated policy making, implementation and monitoring. Furthermore, the interlinked nature of the SDGs is also seen in the scope of the supporting statistical evidence needed to highlight how and where sustainable development is achieved. Such approaches can have transformative impacts, if they can adequately exploit synergies and minimize trade-offs. Recognizing this potential, many countries have already set up, cross-ministerial coordination mechanisms for the SDGs, as presented in their VNRs.

The session, consisting of two panels and facilitated by a diverse group of experts and policymakers, will allow for a detailed examination of such inter-connections, especially as they related to the theme of the 2017 review and will also review broader data needs and strategies for the enhancement of data needed to the full realization of the agenda. In the first panel, it will enable a discussion of some concrete policy instruments and planning approaches that have been able to leverage such inter-linkages, and the nature of the impacts achieved.

In the second panel, the importance of statistics and data to support the 2030 Agenda and the much-needed statistical capacity development to strengthen national statistical systems will be highlighted by key experts from different data communities. The Cape Town Global Action Plan adopted by the Statistical Commission this past March is as a tool to enhance the statistical capacity of Member states to deliver on the SDGs. The panelists will highlight key challenges and solutions in data production and utilization for the SDG implementation. Bringing together speakers from the diverse data community demonstrates how the different players are coming together to fulfill the data requirements to achieve the Agenda.

Proposed guiding question for Panel 1:
• what needs to be done to ensure interlinkages among all SDGs are addressed when making policy decisions at all levels?
• what are the best policy instruments to identify synergies\ and minimize trade-offs?
• What are the best tools and initiatives to ensure the proper use of data in addressing interlinkages?
• How all branches of Government, stakeholders and the international community can be best engaged in ensuring interlinkages among all SDGs to advance the 2030 Agenda implementation?

Proposed guiding question for Panel 2:
- What are the key challenges faced by countries in addressing the data needs of the 2030 agenda?
- What have been so far the solutions adopted, including for harnessing the power of new data sources?
- How can the use of data be expanded, including for the development of key policy instruments, by the media and the public?

Proposed speakers for panel 2:

Moderator: Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair, Southern Voices and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Speakers:

Anil Arora, Chief Statistician of Canada, Statistics Canada

Judith Randel, Co-founder and Executive Director, Development Initiatives

Aboubacar Beye, Chief Statistician of Senegal