

MISSION REPORT

Reported by: 1. Kaniz Fatema <i>ndc</i> Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division 2. Md. Baitul Amin Bhuiyan Deputy Director General (Additional Secretary) Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Date of Report: March, 27 2016	
Title: Report on the participation in the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission	File:	
<p>Purpose of visit: To participate in the 47th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and related side events.</p> <p>Title of the Training workshop: Not applicable</p> <p>The 47th Session of UNSC were designed in order to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the development of global, regional & national statistics and improvement of their comparability; • Coordination of statistical work of specialized agencies; • Promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods among the UN member states • The statistical support for the 2030 sustainable development agenda, refugee statistics and international comparison programme. 		
Location: UN HQ, New York	Date of visit: March 02 to March 12, 2016	Date of last visit: N/A
Members of Mission from UNFPA: Nil		
Participants from Government: 1. Kaniz Fatema <i>ndc</i>, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division. 2. Md. Baitul Amin Bhuiyan, Deputy Director General (Additional Secretary) Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.		
Methodologies used: Participation, agenda wise discussion and adoption of resolution.		
<p>Observations/findings:</p> <p>UNSC is the apex entity of the global statistical system. It is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities especially the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national, regional and global levels.</p> <p>The 47th session of the UNSC adopted resolution in the following items after a threadbare discussion among the participants of the UN member states.</p> <p>a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development of Bangladesh;</p> <p>(b) Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics;</p> <p>(c) Big data for official statistics;</p> <p>(d) National Accounts;</p>		



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- (e) Environmental-economic accounting;
- (f) International Comparison Programme (ICP);
- (g) International Statistical Classifications;
- (h) Industrial Statistics;
- i) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Statistics (j) Refugee Statistics;
- (k) Climate Change Statistics;
- (l) Governance Statistics; and
- (m) Regional statistical development in Western Asia.

The Bangladesh delegation led by Kaniz Fatema *ndc*, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division expressed her opinion under agenda item (a). She mentioned that the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) for developing a draft list of sustainable development goals indicators is commendable. She added that in finalizing the indicators of the SDGs, lessons learnt from monitoring MDG should be used. She urged that the indicators should aligned with monitoring and evaluation framework of the national plan of development. She also mentioned that Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the National Statistical Organization (NSO) is critically reviewing the targets and goals of SDG and identifying the data gaps so that the mitigation measures can be taken to generate the required indicators.

While discussing on agenda item (b) Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, she mentioned that in the context of Bangladesh the process of transformation, modernization of National Statistical System (NSS) has been getting momentum with the enactment of Statistical Act 2013 and approval of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). She also referred the close collaboration of BBS with regional agencies such as UNSIAP, SESRIC and SAARCSTAT for strengthening the statistical system in Bangladesh.

As regards agenda item (c) Big data for official statistics she pointed out that Bangladesh is one of the UN-GWG (United Nations Global Working Group) for big data. Eight task teams are working with diverse issues of big data and Bangladesh is working with the “Advocacy and Communication” task team. The first draft of “Advocacy and communication strategy” is prepared by Bangladesh and subsequently finalized by incorporating comments and suggestions from other countries and agencies. The GWG also initiated two pilot projects using mobile phone data and a number of other pilot projects using social media data. Bangladesh has also initiated a pilot project to generate Tourism Statistics using mobile phone positioning data.

The following items were also placed in the meeting for information of the members:

- a) World Statistics Day;
- b) Demographic Statistics;
- c) Gender Statistics;
- d) Household surveys;
- e) Disability statistics;
- f) International Trade and economic globalization statistics;
- g) Coordination of statistical programmes;
- h) Statistical capacity building;
- i) Environment statistics;
- j) Culture Statistics;
- k) Price Statistics;
- l) Statistics for economies based on natural resources; and
- m) Integration of statistical and geospatial information.

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In addition to agenda items for discussion and decision a number of side events were also held and Bangladesh Delegation participated in the following side events and made significant contribution:

- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;
- PARIS21: Partnership in Statistics for Development in 21st Century;
- 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme: Bangladesh Context;
- Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
- Launch of the UNICEF/Washington group module on child functioning; and
- Increased role of various administrative data and of big data in official statistics.

Findings:

- Rational:** The items discussed in the 47th session of UNSC were very much relevant in the recent development statistical system of the world.
- Recent Development:** The recent development in the statistical arena are- SDGs indicators for 2030, data revolution, big data, Environmental-economic accounting, governance statistics etc.

Learning of other Technical Issues: Learned about the technical issues pertaining to International Comparison Programme, Big Data for official statistics and Climate Change Statistics .

Field visits: Not Applicable

Lessons Learned:

Through participation in the 47th session of the UNSC Bangladesh delegation was highly benefitted by sharing knowledge and experience of other UN member countries on the development of statistics and best practices in statistical undertakings by the countries of the world.

Recommendations and Follow-up Action

Recommended Action	Responsible Party	Proposed deadlines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the full implementation of the indicator framework and to fully reflect the principles of the 2030 agenda to ensure that no-one should be left behind and stressed that efforts should be made to strengthen national capacities in this area and to develop the necessary statistical standards and tools, including by establishing a working group to work on data disaggregation as a subgroup of the IAEG-SDGs. 	UNSD, NSOs and regional and international organisations	March, 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level political commitment for access to and use of administrative sources, Big Data and geospatial information for statistical purposes through appropriate national legislative frameworks; 	NSOs	March, 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with data providers and enhance training of senior managers in 	NSOs	Continuous process

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<p>handling the transformative processes based on a culture of performance and integrity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interregional collaboration in cross cutting thematic areas by establishing global coordination mechanisms building on existing regional initiatives and programmes such as in the areas of integrated business statistics and modernization of statistical production processes; • Develop training courses, in cooperation between the European Statistical Training Program and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and other training institutes and especially targeted at developing countries, on the topics of processing and use of Big Data and of transparent methodologies and estimation methods for Big Data; • Undertake more pilot projects in the use of Big Data for official statistics; including those aimed to support measuring SDG indicators; and in this respect to make use of the Big Data Sandbox in Ireland; • The NSOs should play a key role in coordinating the use of big data for official statistics, which needs to be strengthened, especially if not regulated by existing laws governing official statistics. • The SDMX data transmission mechanism for national accounts and recognised that the implementation the SDMX technology by countries will facilitate data transmission and thereby significantly reduce the response burden in submitting data to international organizations. • The Committee of experts to finalize the SEEA Energy and SEEA Agriculture with urgency given their importance for the implementation of energy accounts and 	<p>NSOs and development partners</p> <p>NSOs and development partners</p> <p>NSOs</p> <p>NSO and development partners</p> <p>NSO and development partners</p> <p>UNSD & NSOs</p>	<p>2016-18</p> <p>June 2017</p> <p>June 2017</p> <p>Within the shortest possible time.</p> <p>Within the shortest possible time</p> <p>By 2018</p>
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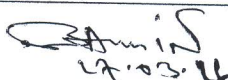
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<p>agriculture, forest and fisheries accounts in support of the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encouraged their expedient implementation in countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closer alignment of ICP price surveys with Consumer Price Index compilation by countries and encouraged involving existing working groups engaged in price statistics, • To increase efforts for strengthening capacity of national statistical systems in producing ICT statistics; • A revision of the Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP); • Donor community to mobilize additional resources to enable capacity-building in environment and climate change statistics in developing countries; 	NSOs	By 2018
	NSOs	Continuous process
	NSO and development partners	By 2018
	NSO and development partners	Continuous process

Distribution List:

1. Country Representative, UNFPA.
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. Cabinet Division.
4. Ministry of Agriculture.
5. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
6. Economic Relations Division.
7. Ministry of Environment & Forest.
8. General Economics Division, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning.
9. Finance Division, Ministry of Finance.

Submitted by:

Name & Designation	Signature
Kaniz Fatema <i>ndc</i> Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	 27.03.16
Md. Baitul Amin Bhuiyan Deputy Director General (Additional Secretary) Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	 27.03.16