

United Nations Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific

Terms of Reference

Working Group on Data and Statistics

Version: 3rd November 2023

Objective

1. The Data and Statistics Working Group is a means of implementation group under the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific (RCP).
2. The objective of the Working Group is to enhance synergy and complementarity among programmes and activities of United Nations entities in the region around monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and statistical development, and to address statistics and data concerns of the other working modalities of the RCP.
3. The Working Group supports a coordinated approach to statistical capacity development of national statistical systems and stakeholders of the national data ecosystem. It also provides a coordinated mechanism for statistics and data inputs for regional inputs to global processes, including reviews of SDG progress.

Organization

4. The members/participants of the Working Group include United Nations and related entities working at the regional level on capacity development on data and statistics. This includes entities of the United Nations development system, as well as other interested subregional, regional and global development partners.
5. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serve as co-chairs and act as the joint secretariat to the Working Group. The co-chairs can make decisions on behalf of the Working Group if required, within the parameters of these Terms of Reference. They follow up on decisions made during meetings of the Working Group and prepare the draft annual work plan of the Group.
6. Each member entity designates a focal point to facilitate collaboration with the Working Group. The cost of participation is met by each participating entity. The focal points represent their entity and are responsible for providing updates on activities and plans of their entity that are relevant to the Working Group. The focal points are also responsible for keeping their colleagues in the respective entities informed on the activities of the Working Group.
7. The Working Group meets as deemed necessary, but at least two times a year. The agenda of each meeting is circulated to members in advance by the Working Group secretariat, including relevant background documents. A summary record of each Working Group meeting, reflecting recommended actions and outcomes, is prepared by the secretariat, endorsed by the members and submitted to the RCP secretariat for centralized records.
8. The Working Group prepares an annual work plan and reports on implementation of planned activities at the meetings of the RCP as required