

Q4. Should regional collaboration on accounting span normative, analytical and capacity development work or should we prioritize?

India's strong development cooperation initiatives with its neighbours in the region have focused on similar developmental needs and regional priorities. India represented South Asia for two consecutive terms 2015-17 and 2017-19 in the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs), constituted by the UN Statistical Commission for negotiations on SDG-indicators.

India firmly believes in the importance of regional cooperation in achieving SDGs and is committed to pursue this as an important strategic component. Regional platforms are mutually rewarding for the countries in the region through exchange of innovations, best practices and promotes capacity strengthening. India, will continue nurturing such partnerships at the regional levels. The regional collaboration in the ongoing UNESCAP's Asia-Pacific Data Integration Community of Practice is a case in point. The exchange of knowledge and experiences on data integration practices of the participating members are being used to bring Asia-Pacific perspective in the existing guidelines developed by the Conference of European Statisticians which in turn will help in bringing the Asia-Pacific version of the European guidelines on Data Integration.

Considering the developing and evolving stage of environmental accounting, India feels that regional collaboration on accounting may provide the necessary hand holding in view of the geographical and socio-economic similarities of the countries in the region. Countries of the region could leverage on the best practices and lessons learnt by the other countries to improve the stage of implementation in their own country.

Having said that, India endorses the enhancement of representation of the countries from the Asia and the Pacific in existing global groups in order to secure regional circumstances in future methodologies.

Similarly, involvement of regional collaboration on analytical and capacity development work will build trust in the data and statistics produced by the statistical systems. It will also help in prioritising strategies and evidence-based decision making for achieving 2030 Agenda taking into account regional and national level development priorities, data requirements, available infrastructure and resources.