



2019 Pacific Statistics Standing Committee Meeting (PSSC) Noumea, 30th- 31th OCTOBER 2019

Agenda Item I.

Actions Taken from 2018 PSSC Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Draft Terms of Reference for PSSC	
i. endorsed the terms of reference for PSSC, subject to inserting a bullet point on PSSC's role in highlighting usage of statistics, i.e. 'highlighting usage of statistics in policy and decision making'.	Revised ToR as agreed (and with members updated) attached.
Agenda Item 2: Update on key developments following the recommendations of the 2017 Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) Meeting and implementation of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Phase 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. noted key developments following the implementation of TYPSS Phase 3 and the recommendations of the 2017 HOPS Meeting; ii. noted the resource (financial and capacity) requirements for regional statistics development in the Pacific; iii. noted that given the resources constraints, SDD would give priority to supporting requests for assistance from smaller PICTs; iv. agreed that a mid-term review of TYPSS Phase 3 should start at the end of 2019, taking into account some of the challenges and ways forward indicated in this meeting; v. agreed that a regional strategic framework for statistics beyond 2020 should be in place before the end of 2020; vi. agreed that donors (DFAT) be approached to fund the TYPSS Phase 3 mid-term review and a regional strategy beyond 2020, subject to the decision on (iv) above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority being given to smaller NSOs wherever possible. Draft ToR for the TYPSS Review being drafted with DFAT & MFAT. Funding for Review already agreed in principle.
Agenda Item 3: Report from the Chair of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged the report of the PSMB Chair on the activities of the Board since it was established in 2017; ii. acknowledged the contribution to PSMB made by government statisticians and partners, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Pacific Community (SPC), Stats NZ, UN agencies, the World Bank and other partners who are co-opted as necessary; iii. noted the PSMB's initial focus on household surveys and methodologies, building a knowledge base that NSOs can access, and mechanisms to deal with issues of strategic significance; iv. noted that the PSMB has established subcommittees to develop practical guidance for NSOs on statistical methods, systems and procedures for (1) HIES, (2) sampling and (3) poverty analysis; v. endorsed the need for the Board to be resourced properly in two broad areas: face-to-face meetings and PSMB-commissioned work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-committees have been functioning and papers included in 2019 PSSC meeting. Funding for PSMB provided by MFAT and included in proposed new World Bank IDA project.

Agenda Item 4: Report from the Chair of the Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG) Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged the Chair’s report of the DDPG meeting and its value as a mechanism for coordination of support; ii. suggested that the DDPG consider developing terms of reference that include clear principles of partnership; iii. also suggested that the DDPG consider meeting more frequently, either in virtual or face-to-face meetings. 	<p>ToR developed and approved at August DDPG meeting.</p> <p>One meeting held in August, no additional meetings required but regular contact maintained by email.</p>
Agenda Item 5: Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) and Five-Year National Statistics Collection Program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. recognised that the PSDPP and Five-Year National Statistics Collection Plan (presented in 2018 PSSC Document No. 5) provide a guide for donors, development partners and Pacific NSOs on all technical support programmes and resource mobilisation initiatives related to national official data collection activities (subject to (ii) and (iii)); ii. noted that members of the Donor-Development Partner Group support the PSDPP and Five-Year Collection Plan in principle through their technical support and funding programme, subject to further consideration of overall affordability and capacity; iii. noted that the Secretariat continues to work with Pacific NSOs to ensure an optimal data collection plan is developed for each of their main data collection activities together with a proper investment plan; iv. noted the Secretariat will continue to coordinate and update the document (PSSC Doc. 5) and disseminate it to Pacific NSOs, donors and development partners on a regular basis. 	<p>Action taken as necessary.</p>
Agenda Item 6: Update from SPC’s Statistics for Development Division (SDD) on the implementation of its new Business Plan (2018–2020), and key initiatives since the 2017 HOPS Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. noted the implementation of SDD’s Business Plan (2018–2020) and key achievements in the first 12 months; ii. noted the technical support currently provided by the Census and Survey Technical Support Team and Data Analysis and Dissemination Team to member countries; iii. noted some of the initiatives currently undertaken by SDD including the HIES experiment in Marshall Islands (RMI HIES experiment); microdata access project; regional data dissemination strategy; national statistics development strategies (NSDS); SDD’s own data dissemination improvement project; and Pacific SDG work; iv. endorsed the need for SDD to be better resourced to cope with the responsibilities generated as part of its role of statistics system leader and the increased demand from member countries for its services, while accepting that the division’s priorities include services for smaller NSOs. 	<p>Update to be provided at this meeting of PSSC.</p> <p>SDD has continued to seek additional resources from partners, report to be provided by Director SDD.</p>
Agenda Item 7: Update from NSOs on significant developments since 2017 HOPS Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged the diverse work that NSOs undertake, their emphasis on increasing understanding and use of statistical information and, in particular, commended the work being done on dissemination and the use of infographics to enhance users’ understanding. 	<p>No action required.</p>

Agenda Item 8: Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged PFTAC’s support for statistics and welcomed the new statistics adviser; ii. noted with concern that funding for PFTAC’s Government Finance Statistics programme ends in early 2019 and requested consideration of continued resourcing for the programme, which is highly valued by NSOs; iii. asked the Secretariat to convey this concern to PFTAC on behalf of PSSC. 	<p>PFTAC followed-up as requested, update to be provided by PFTAC at this meeting of PSSC.</p> <p>SDD conveyed concerns to PFTAC.</p>
Agenda Item 9: Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. endorsed the Draft Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy (Dissemination Strategy) for circulation to all Pacific NSOs and regional stakeholders and partners for their final feedback; ii. noted that the Secretariat will follow up as necessary with Pacific NSOs and others to ensure all comments are received and used to inform the finalisation of the Strategy; iii. noted the Secretariat will circulate the Strategy to PSSC for final endorsement within six weeks; iv. noted that additional resources will need to be made available for the successful implementation of the Strategy. 	<p>Draft circulated and additional comments received.</p> <p>Revised version circulated.</p> <p>Version for printing and wider circulation being finalised.</p> <p>Dissemination has been advocated by SDD as all available opportunities, but no additional funding yet obtained.</p>
Agenda Item 10: Update on Pacific SDG indicators and reporting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged the work that has been done and the support available to countries in reporting progress towards the SDGs, including through the Pacific Data Hub; ii. noted the support for countries undertaking voluntary national reviews (VNRs); iii. commended the work on developing infographics to highlight SDG progress; iv. noted that further work will be done on localising the regional indicators. 	<p>Progress update on SDG related work to be provided at this meeting.</p>
Agenda item 11: Future investment priorities in regional statistics development (MFAT, DFAT)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged the generous support provided by Australia and New Zealand for Pacific statistics, in terms of both funding and advocacy; ii. recognised the need for prioritisation to ensure best use of the resources available. 	<p>SDD workplan and priorities kept under regular review.</p>
Agenda item 12: ESCAP – Key findings from the 2017 capacity screening results report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. noted the results of the capacity screening on economic statistics in the Asia-Pacific region and the gaps identified in economic statistics capacity in PICTs; ii. noted the work being done to assist countries to develop national development indicator sets that would cover national policy needs, the SDGs and commitments to report at regional and global levels. 	<p>Update on the EPIC tool to be provided at this meeting.</p>
Agenda item 13: Current standard regional HIES methods and rationale for the HIES methods experiment in RMI	
<p>PSSC acknowledged that at its meeting, the PSMB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. noted the history of household income and expenditure surveys (HIES) in the Pacific region; ii. noted the advantages of the current regionally standardised HIES methodology, which is tried and tested and provides data that meets user needs, and stressed the importance of all Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) having comparable data based on harmonised questionnaires and collection procedures that follow recommended best practice; 	<p>Review undertaken and report to be provided at this meeting.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. noted the key challenges in conducting HIES under the regionally standardised methodology in the Pacific region; iv. noted the HIES methodological experiment that is currently being conducted in the Republic of the Marshall Islands ('RMI HIES experiment'); v. agreed that PSMB will review the results of the RMI HIES experiment at its next meeting scheduled for April 2019 to enable an informed recommendation to be made to PICTs on the optimal methodology for conducting HIES; vi. noted that preliminary results from the RMI HIES experiment will be released at an interim meeting earlier in 2019 (the Secretariat will advise details in due course). 	
<p>Agenda Item 14: Other business</p>	
<p>Acknowledgement</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. acknowledged with respect and gratitude the contribution made to PSSC and Pacific statistics development by Epeli Waqavonovono, the retiring Fiji Government Statistician, noting that, in future, his valuable knowledge and experience may be called on as necessary. 	<p>No action required.</p>
<p>PSSC meeting in 2019</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. agreed that the 2019 PSSC meeting will be held in Noumea, 30–31 October 2019. 	<p>Meeting now being held.</p>