



Global Strategy
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS



Details Governance Framework

Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics



Global Governance Framework

Global Steering Committee (GSC). The GSC will provide strategic guidance and oversight for the execution of the Global Action Plan to implement the Global Strategy. The GSC is the ultimate decision-making body for use of the resources in the Global Trust Fund for Implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, in compliance with the conditions stipulated in the agreements between the Fund Administrator (which is FAO) and individual Resource Partners.

In addition, the GSC will seek to achieve coordination of activities and interventions that are not funded through the Global trust fund, but are of significant relevance to implementation of the Global Strategy. Interventions of this nature include all relevant interventions that are funded through bilateral arrangements, self-funding modalities or any other activities outside the Global trust fund mechanism.

The GSC will meet at least annually to monitor progress in implementation of the Global Strategy, evaluate its impact, and make decisions on the strategic allocation of Global trust fund resources based on the contributions committed by all Resource Partners. Additional meetings of the GSC may be held if required. Countries or institutions may be invited to GSC meetings to present good practices and lessons learned that could be shared globally.

Specifically, the GSC will:

- a) Ensure coordination and promote integration between activities of the Global Strategy and other related initiatives of statistical capacity development for synergy, complementarities, and greater impact and will report annually to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), through the Global Office (GO), on the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy;
- b) Endorse the regional action plans prepared by the regional organizations to ensure alignment with the Global Action Plan;
- c) Decide, at a strategic level, on allocations from the Global trust fund to global activities and the various regions based on the integrated global budget and expected resources from donors;
- d) Ensure a coordinated approach in the implementation of the regional action plans in consultation with the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs);
- e) Make recommendations on how to coordinate activities and interventions that have significant relevance for implementation of the Global Strategy;
- f) Approve the global annual work plans for global activities prepared by the GO;
- g) Monitor progress in implementation of the Global Action Plan and provide recommendation to the Global Executive Board (GEB) and GO for improvements;
- h) Review recommendations of the GEB and endorse the consolidated financial report and approve the annual consolidated narrative report to be received from the Fund Administrator and individual financial reports from each Participating Partner (PP)¹ implementing components of the strategy and receiving funds;
- i) Approve the global monitoring and evaluation reports submitted by the GEB and consider recommendations of the board in this regard;
- j) Review the report of the external evaluation submitted by the selected institution and give recommendations to the relevant stakeholders;
- k) Review and provide inputs into the terms of reference and reports of the periodic evaluations;
- l) Appoint the members of the GEB and periodically review its mandate;

¹ Organizations who participate in the implementation of the Global Action Plan.

- m) Support the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Global Action Plan, including financial resources, in-kind technical support and South-South cooperation.

Composition. The GSC will be composed of the chair of the Statistical Commission; country representatives of the Regional Steering Committees (two per region); and representatives of international and regional organizations, Resource Partners, farmer associations, and other key users, as well as the key technical partners and FAO. The GSC may review its composition to include new members as required.

The members of the GSC will elect co-chairs (two), who will serve for a term of two years. The co-chairs will preside at meetings of the GSC and exercise any other functions required to facilitate its work.

Rules of decision. Decisions by the GSC will be made by consensus of its members. Consensus is understood to be a procedure for adopting a decision in which no participant in the decision-making process blocks a proposed decision. Consensus does not mean unanimity. A dissenting member who does not wish to block a decision may state a dissenting opinion by attaching a statement or note to the decision. However, if all efforts fail to reach a consensus as described here, decisions will be made by a simple majority vote, provided that decisions of the GSC that have a bearing on the Global trust fund are not made without the consent of donors to the Global trust fund.

Global Executive Board (GEB). The GEB is an executive committee of the GSC. Between meetings of the GSC, the GEB represents the membership of the GSC, facilitates coordination among all GSC members, and facilitates the decision-making process of the GSC. The GEB exercises functions delegated to it by the GSC. The GEB, in carrying out its functions, will be supported by the GO. The GEB will give instruction to the Fund Administrator (FA) in line with the strategic allocation decided by the GSC.

The GEB will decide, if necessary, on the allocation of additional funds received by the Global trust fund, consistent with the strategic guidance of the GSC regarding expected resources.

The GEB will be entitled to allocate the additional resources received by the Global trust fund after the last and before the next meeting of the GSC. This allocation will be endorsed at the next meeting of the GSC.

The GEB will meet at least three times a year, when possible at the margins of suitable international meetings. If needed, additional consultations will be conducted via videoconferencing, telephone, and email.

The specific responsibilities of the GEB are the following:

- a) Follow up on implementation of the decisions made by the GSC;
- b) Ensure that annual work plans at the regional and global levels are well coordinated and integrated;
- c) After review by the GO, assess the consistency of regional annual work plans with the Global Action Plan;
- d) Give instructions to the Fund Administrator for disbursement, in line with the strategic allocation decided by the GSC;
- e) Review and make recommendations to the GSC on annual reports and other important documents as required;
- f) Review and make recommendations to the GSC on the agenda and papers for the annual GSC meetings prepared by the secretariat;

- g) Review and make recommendations to the GSC on financial reports and review the budget situation on a regular basis;
- h) Review the consolidated financial and narrative progress reports consolidated by the Fund Administrator and the GO respectively, as well as individual reports submitted by each PP on the implementation and make recommendations to the GSC;
- i) Review the monitoring and evaluation reports consolidated by the GO and make recommendations to the GSC;
- j) Review nominations for new GSC members and submit them to the GSC for approval;
- k) Mobilize resources in support of implementation of the Global Action Plan, including financial resources, in-kind technical support, and South-South cooperation;
- l) Undertake any other tasks delegated to it by the GSC.

Composition. The GEB will have seven members. Appointed by the GSC from GSC members, the board will comprise two representatives of beneficiary countries, two representatives of regional partners, two representatives of Resource Partners of the Global trust fund, and a representative of FAO (ex-officio). Members resigning from the GEB will be replaced as soon as possible by means of electronic consultation with the agreement of the GSC chair, and the appointment will be ratified at the next GSC meeting. The chair of the GEB will be elected for a term of two years by the GSC.

Rules of decision. Decisions of the GEB must be consistent with decisions of the GSC and will be made by consensus of its members. Consensus is understood to be a procedure for adopting a decision when no participant in the decision-making process blocks a proposed decision. Consensus does not mean unanimity. A dissenting member who does not wish to block a decision may state a dissenting opinion by attaching a statement or note to the decision. However, if all efforts fail to reach consensus as described here, decisions will be taken by a simple majority vote, provided that decisions of the GEB that have a bearing on the Global trust fund are not made without the consent of donors of Global the trust fund.

Global Office. The GO, hosted by the Statistics Division of FAO and led by the Coordinator assigned by FAO for this purpose, will ensure overall technical coordination of the implementation of the Global Strategy at the global level and within regions. The GO will act as secretariat of the GSC and the GEB, providing recommendations on the indicative allocation of funds among activities at the global and regional levels and between regions. The Statistics Division of FAO is the PP. It is given the tasks of undertaking the normative and technical coordination work, establishing standards, and providing centralized technical and practical guidance on cross-regional issues.

More specifically, the activities of the GO will include:

- a) Contributing to resource mobilization to support implementation of the Global Strategy;
- b) Serving as secretariat of the GSC, servicing its meetings, providing recommendations on the allocation of funds, and preparing the annual progress reports to the UNSC;
- c) Reviewing the regional annual work plans for submission to the GEB, which will assess their consistency with the Global Action Plan;
- d) Preparing the consolidated narrative progress report from the individual reports from each PP for submission to the Fund Administrator and making recommendations to the GSC and the GEB;
- e) Consolidating the monitoring and evaluation reports prepared by the regional organizations for submission to the GEB;
- f) Providing the overall framework for ensuring coordinated implementation of the technical components of the Global Action Plan;
- g) Providing the standards for technical assistance and training;

- h) Providing overall coordination support for countries in regions that do not have a functioning regional coordinating body;
- i) Leading, coordinating, guiding, and supervising the methodological activities carried out by partner institutions, including universities and research institutes;
- j) Developing new, cost-effective statistical methods and preparing handbooks and guidelines;
- k) Undertaking any other tasks that may be required to achieve the objectives of the Global Strategy.

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG). The 43rd session of the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the proposal to establish an interagency and expert group that brings countries and agencies together to develop and document good practices and guidelines on the concepts, methods, and statistical standards for food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. The IAEG will report back to the commission on its activities every two years and will replace the Friends of the Chair Group on Agricultural Statistics and the Wye Group.

To achieve these objectives, the IAEG will focus on the following:

- a) Providing the GO with guidance on tools, standards, and methodologies during implementation of the Global Strategy
- b) Reviewing key initiatives and strategies on the development of food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development statistics
- c) Reviewing and providing expert guidance on methodologies and identifying technical issues related to statistics on food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.
- d) Facilitating the coordination and integration of statistics on food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development with related international statistical standards from other statistical domains.

The IAEG will be composed of high-level experts in statistics on food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development from national governments and international organizations. The membership will ensure regional representation and a broad range of experience drawn from countries, international agencies, academia, and other subject matter experts. The IAEG may consider establishing task teams on specific topics.

The secretariat of the IAEG will be hosted by FAO.

The IAEG will meet at least once a year and present a report every two years to the Statistical Commission on the progress made in its activities.

Regional Governance Framework

For the Africa region, the terms used to designate regional governing bodies and the corresponding acronyms are slightly different from the ones used in the text that follows:

- *Regional Steering Committee (RSC)*. Africa region: same term but RSTC instead of RSC.
- *Regional Executive Board (REB)*. Africa region: Regional Executive Committee (EC).
- *Regional Office (RO)*. Africa region: Regional Implementation Secretariat (RIS).

Regional Steering Committee (RSC). The Regional Steering Committee is the decision-making body at regional level. The RSC will provide guidance and oversight, within the framework defined by the GSC and consistent with the relevant funding agreements, for implementation of the regional and country activities defined in the regional plan.

In addition, the RSC will seek to achieve coordination of activities and interventions that are not funded through the Global trust fund, but are of significant relevance for implementation of the Global Strategy. Interventions of this nature include all relevant interventions that are funded through bilateral arrangements, self-funding modalities, or any other activities outside the Global trust fund mechanism.

The RSC will meet at least annually to monitor progress in implementation of the regional plan and evaluate its impact. Additional meetings of the RSC may be held as required.

Specifically, the RSC will:

- a) Ensure coordination and integration of implementation of the Global Strategy with ongoing programmes of statistical capacity development for synergy, complementarities, and a greater impact at the regional level;
- b) Approve the regional plan (including budget and log-frame) prior to its submission to the GSC—the regional action plan will be submitted by the RO through the GO;
- c) Approve the annual work plans (and any substantial modification) of the ROs;
- d) Decide on the allocation of funds received between the regional and country activities, as well as among the countries, on the basis of the approved work plans;
- e) Monitor progress in implementation of the Regional Action Plan;
- f) Review recommendations of the Regional Executive Board and approve the annual narrative and financial reports prepared by the PPs, prior to their submission to the GSC by the RO through the GEB, the GO, and the Fund Administrator;
- g) Approve the regional monitoring and evaluation plan and reports prior to their submission by the RO to the GEB through the GO;
- h) Appoint the members of the Regional Executive Board and periodically review its mandate;
- i) Support the mobilization of resources for implementation of the Global Strategy, including financial resources, in-kind technical support, and South-South cooperation;
- j) Review its own functions at any stage as required.

Composition. The composition of the RSC will typically include representatives of countries, Resource Partners, regional organizations, regional PPs, and FAO, as well as selected experts.

Rules of decision. Decisions of the RSC will be taken by consensus. If all efforts fail to reach a consensus, decisions will be made by a simple majority vote, provided that decisions of the RSC that have a bearing on the Global trust fund will not be made without the consent of donors to the Global trust fund.

Regional Executive Board (REB). Each RSC will evaluate the need to establish a Regional Executive Board, which is an executive committee of the RSC that receives delegated authority from the RSC to oversee the execution of its decisions. The REB will meet more frequently than the RSC and will carry out the RSC's functions between meetings of the RSC. When an REB is established, the RSC will provide detailed terms of reference.

Regional Office (RO). The structure and size of the RO will vary by region, depending on regional resources and needs. Its major role is coordinating the country assessments and providing the integrated national statistical systems with training and technical assistance. The RO should also liaise with other international, regional, and sub-ROs within its region to coordinate their support for countries, thereby avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring that global standards are being followed. In particular, the activities of the RO will include:

- a) Contributing to resource mobilization to support implementation of the Global Strategy;
- b) Serving as the secretariat for the RSC, servicing its meetings, and providing recommendations on the allocation of funds and preparing the annual progress report;
- c) Preparing the consolidated narrative and financial² progress report from the individual reports submitted by each PP to the GSC through the Fund Administrator and the GO and making recommendations to the RSC and the REB;
- d) Preparing the regional monitoring and evaluation report for submission to the RSC and the GSC through the GO;
- e) Working closely with the GO to ensure implementation of the Global Strategy at the regional level;
- f) Collaborating with the GO to ensure that the specific research needs of the regions are taken into account;
- g) Adapting the methodologies developed by the GO to meet the requirements of the countries in the region;
- h) Providing overall coordination support for countries in regions that do not have a functioning regional coordinating body;
- i) Providing overall coordination of the training activities and technical support to be carried out in the region;
- j) Providing assistance to countries in preparing the country proposals;
- k) Undertaking any other tasks required to achieve the objectives of the Global Strategy.

National Governance Framework

Governance at the national level will build as much as possible on existing coordination mechanisms and structures. National governance of the agricultural statistical system entails the establishment where it does not exist of a sectoral coordination mechanism that brings together the national statistics office and the ministries responsible for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and any other institutions that collect agriculture-related data. This sectoral coordination mechanism should be part of the national statistical coordination mechanism, such as the national statistics council, which provides governance to the whole national statistical system. Typically, the coordination mechanism for the agriculture sector (e.g., National Agricultural Statistics Committee, NASC) will be a subcommittee of the national statistics council, ensuring that agricultural statistics are integrated into the national statistical system. The national statistics council, through the agricultural subcommittee (NASC) and in coordination with the Global Strategy regional coordinator³, will be responsible for carrying out the detailed assessment of the capacity of the country's agricultural statistical system, as well as preparing the Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SSPARS), in line with the recommendations of the Global Strategy and in consultation with data users and other stakeholders. These governance arrangements should enable the ministries and agencies involved in the collection of agricultural data to integrate the Sector Strategic Plan into the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The national statistics council will also be responsible for reviewing as needed the existing statistical legislation to ensure that clear responsibilities for data collection are assigned to the different national institutions. The national statistics council should develop a strategy to foster public awareness and mobilize resources in support of the implementation of the SSPARS and of the NSDS.

² The consolidated financial report prepared by the RO does not prevent each of the PPs from submitting its individual certified financial report to the FA.

³ Regional Strategy Secretary for Africa.