



**13<sup>th</sup> PACIFIC STATISTICS STEERING COMMITTEE (PSSC) MEETING**  
**Tanoa Skylodge Hotel, Nadi, Fiji**  
**16<sup>TH</sup>-17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**MINUTES OF MEETING, AGREEMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

AGENDA ITEMS AND DISCUSSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS, AGREEMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS
<b>AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda</b>	<b>Under Agenda Item 1, PSSC agrees</b>
<p>1.1 The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Samoa Government Statistician, Mr. Sefuiva Muagututia. The Chairman of PSSC and Vanuatu Government Statistician, Mr. Simil Johnson, welcomed members, partners and invited guests then requested for all meeting participants to introduce themselves.</p> <p>1.2 Members confirmed the Agenda after no objections or requests for changes by participants. PSSC Chair reminded participants to be mindful of time allocations and requested that these be respected throughout the meeting.</p>	<p><b>1. To endorse the Agenda as it is.</b></p>

AGENDA ITEM 2: Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Implementation Update	Under Agenda Item 2, PSSC agrees
<p><b>2.1 Key Outcomes from the NSOs and Planners Only Meeting</b></p> <p>The Fijian Government Statistician, Epeli Waqavonovono, presented the outcomes from the Pacific Planners and Statisticians Only Meeting held the previous day. They were as follows:</p> <p><b>2.1.1 Positive developments</b></p> <p><b>2.1.1a</b> Data collection has improved significantly during TYPSS Phase 2 both in terms of timeliness and quality. The use of tablets for data collection is a great example of innovation in the area of collection and will provide an opportunity to develop common system for the region.</p> <p><b>2.1.1b</b> The South-to-south cooperation has proved to be a very practical and cost-effective technical cooperation program among NSOs. The program enables cost effective knowledge sharing among regional experts who have hands-on and practical knowledge of the issues at hand. While there are only few experts who participate in this program it is vital that the program is supported so that the region can rely more on their own pool of experts to drive statistical development in the Pacific.</p> <p>There is definitely a need for more budget input into the program and a regional coordinating body (preferably SPC) to coordinate this endeavour.</p> <p><b>2.1.2 Challenges</b></p> <p><b>2.1.2a</b> While TYPSS has provided a framework with clear objectives for regional statistics development in the Pacific there is a need for proper implementation of the Strategy and recommendations made during PSSC meetings. NSOs are still unclear about the role of PSSC and TWGs particularly with how decisions are implemented. As a result, recommendations have either resurfaced in successive PSSC meetings or are not addressed at all.</p> <p>PSSC does not have a budget or the authority to mandate or direct development partners to action some of the recommendations approved during its meetings. Now that SDD is providing the secretariat it should also be resourced properly to be able to coordinate responses and actions on recommendations coming out of</p>	<p>2. To note the key areas of priorities put forward by the NSOs and Planners Only Meeting.</p> <p>3. To note the Activity and Status Reports provided by NSOs and development partners.</p> <p>4. To note the challenges that affect the effectiveness of TWGs in the TYPSS framework, which included no funding for its proposed activities; that members have other responsibilities and are based in different countries; and it's unclear about where the responsibility lies for implementing the recommendations or where they should put them forward to. That these challenges be considered as part of TYPSS Phase 2 review.</p>

PSSC. This could be an area for improvement in TYPSS Phase 3.

**2.1.2b** Capability constraints continue to be a challenge in regional statistics development especially in meeting the demand for production and dissemination of quality data on a timely manner. This challenge is more pronounced with smaller member countries but the common areas of need are in the area of data mining; data analysis and data dissemination.

**2.1.2c** The lack of coordination among development partners and the work they do in the region continues to be a challenge to member countries. SPC/SDD should take a lead role in coordinating all the assistance directed toward statistics development in the region and share this information among development partners and NSOs on a regular basis. This is important for NSOs in terms of internal coordination but also understanding who to consult for their particular statistical needs.

**2.1.2d** There is a need for some clear guidelines and consistency in the system and methodology applied in the region, especially in the area of data collection. In this context, a regional method and technology board is welcomed but this needs to be developed in collaboration with NSOs so that their needs/expectations are also taken into account.

**2.1.2e** Regional SDG Indicators is a regional statistical development priority but it is unclear to NSOs how this work is being progressed at the regional level as well as how development partners can assist NSOs in developing their own national SDG indicators. NSOs need to understand the role of the Regional SDG TWG, SPC and other partners such as UNDP who are also doing work on regional SDG indicators.

Government Statistician for Samoa advised NSOs to concentrate on identifying what indicators are readily available from the data collection activities undertaken by them. They should also take the initiative to match these indicators to the global list of indicators. Aligning national indicators with the regional indicators is the next step.

**2.1.3** PSSC to consider areas of priorities/improvements:

The NSOs and Planners Only meeting also identified areas for improvement in regional statistics development for consideration by PSSC members during its deliberation:

**2.1.3a** That a regional body, possibly SPC, be properly resourced to coordinate and ensure that recommendations from PSSC are properly followed up and reported on in the following meeting. At the same time, the effectiveness of TWGs should also be assessed in terms of reporting lines; membership and financial resourcing. This could be considered as part of TYPSS Phase 2 review.

**2.1.3b** To note the current needs and NSOs capabilities requirements which are in the areas of data mining; data integration; dissemination specialist and the use of data analytics software.

**2.1.3c** To establish a Method and Technology Board (MTB) to assess the quality of methodology and system introduced in the region. Any new methodology or system introduced should be subject to an assessment and approval by this board. In addition, if there is any dispute in methodology or system used then it is the function of the board to provide an independent assessment of such situation.

The TORs, membership and timing of meetings needs to be decided in consultation with PSSC member and development partners.

**2.1.3d** To strengthen the South-to-south cooperation program through the establishment of a policy guideline that clearly define how this cooperation operates; resourced and financed. There should be a pool of Pacific experts to support statistics development in the region through South-to-south with SPC/SDD to coordinate this program.

**2.1.3e** That lessons learnt from the implementation of TYPSS-Phase 2 should form the basis for the design and strategic direction of TYPSS Phase 3.

#### **2.1.4 Recommendation**

**2.1.4a** That PSSC consider priorities/improvements put forward by the NSOs and Planners Only Meeting.

### **2.2 TYPSS Phase-2 Activity and Status Reports**

#### **2.2.1 NSOs Activities and Status Report**

**2.2.1a Melanesia sub-region:** Fijian Government Statistician, Mr Waqavonono, gave an overview of the activities currently taking place in the Melanesian region as follows:

**Vanuatu:** National mini census using tablets, started on 7th November and is now close to 30 % coverage based on monitoring. Fiji NSO was invited to observe during the first week of censuses and witnessed how Vanuatu NSO resolved some initial hiccups.

**Solomon Islands:** HIES completed and NSDS has been launched.

**Fiji:** Delayed initially by TC Winston, employment and unemployment survey is now rounding up after data collection was completed in November. Some areas covered in the survey were badly affected by the cyclone. TPI developed a service with ABS and Land Transport to produce experimental numbers that have been released. TPI for air transport numbers to be released and they are working with ABS on this.

**2.2.1b Polynesia sub-region.** The Samoa and Cook Islands Government Statisticians jointly presented a summary of the activities currently taking place in this sub-region as follows:

**Samoa:** Census scheduled for 2020, population survey was concluded on November 7th. Collecting paper questionnaires from other villages.

**Tokelau:** CPI produced at the end of last year.

**Cook Islands:** almost completed its household survey. Should NSOs run new models introduced by SDD every year? Cook Islands census will begin next week. A challenging issue for Census 2020 is the incorporation of the unemployment question. The 50 years old Statistics Act has been replaced by a 2015 Statistics Act which was passed in August. The value-add to the new Act is the incorporation of the role of custodians of administrative records. A clause in the new Act makes data sharing mandatory especially in times of disaster.

**Tonga:** is currently running its 2016 Population Census (November 2016) introducing the use of tablets for the first time.

**2.2.1c Micronesia sub-region:** update reports were presented by the Government Statisticians for Kiribati and Nauru and Planning Officer for Palau as follows:

**Kiribati:** World Statistics Day included Kiribati President's involvement and other high profile political leaders. Emerging priority area is Fisheries and Health statistics. HIES is proposed for 2017 in Kiribati where an integrated HIES method will be trialled. There are also plans for environmental statistics and common systems for data system. This is a collaboration between the Environmental Department and the Bureau of Statistics. Generally, the current governing environment is favourable to the development of statistics.

**Palau:** Key achievement has been the completion of their Census and its availability online. Agriculture survey is currently in progress and NSO is looking forward to the second part of the survey as it will utilise new technological methods. Recently published the HIES 2014.

**Nauru:** SDG Taskforce established and community consultations have begun. Labour market analysis has been carried out and was used as basis of National Employment Policy with a link to the Pacific Climate Change Mitigation plan. Some work done on the business register and currently hosting a CRVS expert whose focus is on social protection statistics including refugees.

Nauru NSO is currently building multiple agency cooperation for socio economic survey and agriculture survey project as well as developing a proposal for mini census and HIES in 2017.

## 2.2.2 Development Partners and Donors Activities and Status Report

### 2.2.2a NZ MFAT Update

MFAT representative, Andre Van Der Walt apologised on behalf of Statistics NZ whose representatives are unable to attend due to the major earthquake that recently occurred. This has impacted Statistics NZ building quite badly. Overall, MFAT is now finalising its multi-year regional statistics partnership program with SPC. It also has a specific program channelled through Statistics NZ which is also being finalised.

MFAT emphasised the increased demand by NZ government for evidence-based outcomes of its investment in Pacific as well as other recipients of NZ Aid money. This was noted by the meeting.

### 2.2.2b DFAT Update

DFAT recently signed a new Agreement with SPC/SDD and commissioned a report which will be discussed later in the meeting. DFAT is now looking at a mid-term review of the TYPSS program. DFAT is very pleased

to note the very positive collaboration that has started with SDD and it hopes to continue with that momentum going forward.

#### **2.2.2c ESCAP Update**

An active economic statistics programme in coordination with SPC. The ESCAP resource facility will invite countries to submit proposals on studies for improvements in methodologies in March 2017.

A sub regional training will be held in 2017. NSOs will need to conduct self-assessment to identify needs. Health statistics framework – Fiji is part of a pilot study testing disaster related statistics - will include Fiji and Vanuatu. Supported a few regional workshops and trainings and accreditation of statistics, work on regional framework and roadmap for SDG and a specific roadmap for statistics.

UNFPA has compiled support availed by various UN agencies and will circulate to PSSC. Various agencies have been providing support e.g. UNICEF giving support to some modules of census, UNFPA on analysis of existing data, disseminating for policy decisions. ESCAP has been providing support to the dissemination and use of data at regional and international levels.

#### **2.2.2d USP Update**

USP is working on offering all Statistics courses online from 2017. They have also developed a new course with help from ABS, on IT management in statistics. USP also served as implementing partner for PARIS21's Survey on Young Statisticians and Official Statistics in the region.

#### **2.2.2e SDD Update**

SDD is currently going through an external review to inform the division in its upcoming prioritisation exercise as part of SPC organisational refocusing and reprioritisation exercise. This exercise will certainly inform SPC/SDD of areas of priorities in regional statistics development that SDD need to focus its limited resources on in the coming years.

SDD is now taking over the secretariat to PSSC and it welcomes the opportunity to provide support and facilitate the operation of the Committee.

The Director also gave an account of all the activities that the Division has delivered through its core TA program to the member countries: Data Collection; Economic Statistics; CRVS; EMIS and Data

Dissemination.

One of the highlights in the data collection area is the introduction of tablets to the upcoming survey and census in the region. The use of electronic means to collect data certainly improves data quality and reduces cost in the process of data collection.

Through the economic statistics TA some of the small island member countries have managed to release their trade data after many years without releasing it.

#### **2.2.2f World Bank Update**

WB is finalising its poverty profiles work in FSM and continued its support to the Kiribati NSO and RMI in preparation for their upcoming HIESes. They have also worked with the Solomon Islands NSO on further HIES analysis. Continues work with SPC on knowledge sharing and capacity building in the region.

#### **2.2.2g PFTAC Update**

PFTAC continues to focus on data compilation and dissemination in national accounts, balance of payments and government finance. PFTAC has now moved into its 5th five year plan (November to April 2022) and undertook an exercise of prioritisation, maintaining two advisers, complemented by short term experts. PFTAC has conducted missions to Nauru, Solomons, Fiji and Kiribati since May 2016. It also funded a sector missions to Tonga, Cooks Is, FSM and Palau.

#### **2.2.2h ABS**

ABS has now established a bilateral program with Fiji. Convened a leadership forum in September focusing on creating an authorising environment for statistics with participation from 11 NSOs.

#### **2.2.3 PARIS21 General Update and on NSDS**

**2.2.3a** PARIS21 continues to support NSDS formulation and related activities. Regional training conducted in the Pacific has benefitted 5 countries (Fiji, FSM, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati). A NSS assessment was conducted in Tokelau and as a result, a NSDS roadmap was prepared.

**2.2.3b** NSDS country training, launching and strategic planning workshops were held in Fiji, including an on-going assessment of the NSS. A draft NSDS roadmap was prepared for Fiji. A draft NSDS implementation



plan has been prepared in the Cook Islands that takes into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SAMOA Pathway requirements as articulated in the new national development plan.

**2.2.3c** The Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) was demonstrated to the Pacific Community (SPC) to help identify regional indicators that would align with the SDGs and help countries cost their statistical activities in the NSDS.

**2.2.3d** The Vanuatu NSDS 2016-2020 is currently being implemented. The Cook Islands NSDS for 2015-2025 has been approved by Cabinet. The PNG NSDS for 2015-2024 is currently tabled for approval and adoption by Cabinet. The Solomon Islands NSDS was approved by the Minister of Finance and Treasury and is calendared for deliberation, approval and adoption by the Cabinet. The Samoa NSDS is being implemented and a mid-term review has been conducted.

**2.2.3e** Support for data dissemination: The regional data dissemination policy workshop benefitted 7 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Nauru, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa) and data users from partner organizations including IMF, SPC, Australia National University, University of South Pacific, UNESCAP, UN-ONE.

**2.2.3f** A regional micro data documentation training workshop was conducted with participants from 8 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Palau, Fiji, Vanuatu, CNMI).

**2.2.3g** PARIS21 initiated discussions in developing an SPC-hosted policy for managing survey data aimed at improving the process of sharing country micro data to users to strengthen data dissemination practices in the Pacific. A series of recommendations for improving the SPC approach to data dissemination was provided. There are a few modifications required of the current NADA software so that it inculcates country inputs/perspectives.

**2.2.3h** PARIS21 developed a data visualization module for the Pacific region using open source R software. Data visualization training was conducted for 6 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu), plus faculty and students from USP. The training was to help participants integrate visualisations in NSOs' statistical production, IT and public relations work and how to monitor the effects on website traffic.

**2.2.3i** PARIS21 organized and hosted the Cross-Regional Forum on Agenda 2030 and the SIDS: The Forum was called “Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Readiness”. It brought together representatives from the Pacific, Caribbean, and AIMS regions to share best practices in statistical development, to identify statistical challenges and to agree on common SIDS action for statistical development.

**2.2.3j** Other activities in the Pacific region as of October 2016: In September 2016, in collaboration with the USP, PARIS21 organized a Survey on Young Statisticians and Official Statistics in the region. The survey sought to determine knowledge on statistical developments at country and global levels amongst individuals pursuing statistics courses in the academic institution/s in the Pacific.

#### **2.2.4 Comments and Recommendations on NSOs and Development Partners Status and Activities Report**

PSSC endorsed the status and activities reports provided by NSOs and development partners.

### **2.3 Technical Working Group (TWG) Updates**

#### **2.3.1 TWG Data Utilization and Dissemination**

TWG update report was presented by PFTAC’s Mr Scott Rogers who highlighted the following:

**2.3.1a** The Data Utilisation TWG’s last discussion had looked at improving dissemination. The initial Sustineo Report runs parallel to what was discussed in the group which was to do a stocktake of country websites. TWG members felt that a more systematic approach was needed given the emerging work around SDGs. Members have been talking with Dr. Allesio at USP to factor into the course content an aspect of project proposal that compels students to assess content of websites for early next year.

**2.3.1b** Data dissemination issues were also discussed in Washington as an issue in Africa and as talks for solutions ensued, participants pointed out that a company actually provides a software for data platform. That company is interested in the region. Their product could be feasible if PSSC is interested in improving data dissemination.

#### **2.3.2 Pacific Data Future TWG**

**2.3.2a** Admin data and survey group and data future group merged at the last PSSC meeting and was

named the Pacific Data future group. Unfortunately, only one teleconference has been held so far as a lot of the members were juggling other work priorities including surveys and other mandated roles (e.g. electoral role for Cook Islands NSOs) so not a lot of progress has been made.

**2.3.2b** The proposal is to work with managers of administrative data, conduct a simple review of the forms they use as the objective of data collection differs from that of NSOs. Administrative data is collected to facilitate better administration and not for the purpose for statistics. This emphasises the need to work with administrative data custodians.

### **2.3.3 IT TWG**

**2.3.3a** TWG IT has been looking at internet connectivity which looks at a few countries in the region. A report has been prepared by ABS partner to ascertain the level of internet connectivity. A summary is outlined below:

**2.3.3b** Connectivity across the Pacific varies considerably, with a high quality connection available in Noumea, but much slower higher latency connections available in Tokelau. The office connections in FSM and Fiji were lower quality, with very limited bandwidth of 2Mbit/s being shared between over 100 staff in Fiji's case. While download speeds and reliability are generally adequate for use of cloud services in the countries monitored, latency is the biggest barrier to use of cloud services.

**2.3.3c** Latency will adversely impact the performance of services that require real-time interaction, whereas it has less of an impact on data transfer. So for example, high latency would cause the responsiveness of the user interface of a web-based email solution to be poor; however an email solution where mail is downloaded to a local client from a cloud-hosted server would perform adequately.

**2.3.3d** Similarly, usage of cloud storage for data transfer such as that used by the World Bank's Survey Solutions software would also perform adequately. This solution uses cloud storage for upload of data from tablets used for data collection. The data is then downloaded into the NSO's own network.

<b>AGENDA ITEM 3: Progress on Pacific Regional Indicators Work</b>	<b>Under Agenda Item 3, PSSC to note:</b>
<p><b>3.1 SDG TWG Update Report – PIFS</b></p> <p><b>3.1.1</b> In 2015 Pacific leaders made 2 key decisions:</p> <p><b>3.1.1a</b> Leaders’ commitments for the full implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific focusing on the unfinished business of the MDGs and called for development partners to support Pacific countries in the implementation of the SDGs through financing, building statistical capacities and strengthening partnerships.</p> <p><b>3.1.1b</b> They also calling for the integration of the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs with the SAMOA Pathway and FPR so we can reduce the reporting burden at country level. This is to be done through the development of a regional set of SDG indicators to support joint monitoring.</p> <p><b>3.1.2</b> To ensure inclusivity and ownership, an inclusive Pacific SDGs Taskforce was established in June 2016 to support implementation of the leaders’ decisions primarily through drafting of the Pacific SDGs Roadmap to guide implementation in the region. The taskforce is made up of member countries, CROP agencies, development partners, non-state actors and the academic think tanks.</p> <p><b>3.1.3</b> Because there was such a high interest by the stakeholders in the SDGs taskforce, a Reference Group was also established consisting of additional representatives from the 6 groups to provide timeline advice and be the first point of regional consultations for the SDGs taskforce.</p> <p><b>3.1.4</b> The SDGs taskforce will further develop the roadmap and it will be considered by the region at the Pacific SDGs Regional Consultations in February 2017 and then by the FEMM and again by the FOC in 2017 and finally for Leaders full endorsement in September 2017.</p>	<p><b>5. The proposed set of Regional SDG Indicators submitted from the Pacific SDG Taskforce, which is a further revision to the Pacific Headline Indicators based on initial feedback from member countries and development partners.</b></p> <p><b>6. That SDD in collaboration with NSOs take a lead role in ensuring member countries review and provide feedback on this revised set of Regional SDG Indicators before the SDG Taskforce finalises it and submits these for final endorsement by Heads of States.</b></p>

### **3.2 Samoa Experience – Samoa Bureau of Statistics**

**3.2.1** The Government Statistician for Samoa shared that a second mapping exercise that looked at the 17 goals, 118 targets, 157 indicators found that only 57 are available in SBS, 11 are not applicable and the rest available elsewhere or in other departments. SBS then conducted a matching exercise with the draft Pacific Headline Indicators and found that 17 indicators fall into tier 3, 35 indicators fall into tier 1 or 2, 18 of the 35 indicators are available in SBS.

**3.2.2** Samoa is still working on an indicator framework that fits their situation and has requested UNDP to assist in the localisation process. UNDP has appointed a consultant to harmonise and contextualise the indicators first.

### **3.3 SPC- SDG Indicators work update**

**3.3.1** A circular was sent to NSOs and Planning offices to comment on the Headline Pacific SDG indicators. A total of 9 NSOs responded endorsing 49 indicators and recommending an additional 94. These were further discussed at the Suva- Regional SDG Indicators Workshop which aimed at consolidating regional SDG indicators.

### **3.4 Key comments and feedback**

**3.4.1** UNDP: It is likely that the regional indicators will be monitored by regional institutions. The Samoan government has demonstrated the effort required to harmonise monitoring at national levels. However, countries are in much stronger positions, compared to when the SDG process begun. The leaders' decision to report by 2017 led to the process of determining indicators. 66 tier 1 indicators are available and maybe being collected by NSOs. UNDP suggests that PSSC encourage countries to identify through their national systems what they can do, what data exists where and how? E.g. Samoa mapping.

**3.4.2** ABS: Needs clarity on how the indicators were selected. A high proportion of indicators are sitting on tier 3 which is worrying. A discussion is needed at country level, for prioritisation and that needs to be made clear to PSSC.

<p><b>3.4.3</b> Nauru: Tier 3 has environmental statistics which is what we need so it will need specific attention and support but PSSC has to understand how countries prioritise specific statistics and indicators. Nauru has already made commitments about an integrated administrative collection system by strengthening the integration of SDG data into the Nauru NSO system.</p> <p><b>3.4.5</b> Samoa: Not all indicators will be useful to some Pacific countries but most of tier 3 indicators fall into Goal 13 which is particularly important for most in the region. If you are at national level, you have to map SDG to National Development Priorities; it should be based on what is available at national level. Is there any political support for SDGs? Determine this first and then build on it. When you select an indicator that's relevant in your context, then that's where NSOs can do mapping.</p> <p><b>3.4.6</b> Tonga: Consultations for discussion of these indicators should be inclusive so that it is holistic and realistic. Goal 1 which is about poverty is particularly important and needs an inclusive approach.</p> <p><b>3.4.7</b> Friend of the Chair: Official statistics are not the only form of evidence gathering that exists. What other types of evidence exists that can be used to demonstrate progress or lack of it? Align SDG work to National Development Plans as agreed to by Pacific leaders. It also emphasises the need for attention on the capacity of NSOs.</p> <p><b>3.4.8</b> MFAT NZ: What is priority for NSOs in their context? PSSC business is to drive indicators rather than having indicators drive statistics business. Being clear about why a certain indicator is there and why another is not is critical in deciding a country's set of SDG indicators.</p>	
<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 4: Regional Statistics Program Governance Framework</b></p>	<p><b>Under agenda item 4, PSSC agrees:</b></p>
<p><b>4.1 Follow-up on Brisbane Leadership Forum and authorising environment for broader statistics governance</b></p> <p><b>4.1.1</b> A presentation was done by ABS Deputy Government Statistician, on the concept of Creating An Authorising Environment for Statistics in the Pacific Region. This concept was introduced at the Pacific Leadership Forum 2016. The following points were highlighted during the presentation:</p> <p><b>4.1.2</b> Lessons learnt by Pacific Statisticians so far have been the challenges in providing an authorising environment at the following levels:</p>	<p><b>7. To note the concept of Authorising Environment and how it underpins effective governance of Pacific statistics development.</b></p> <p><b>8. To task SPC, in consultation with countries and development partners, to finalise a statistics governance framework for adoption at the next HOPS meeting in 2017.</b></p> <p><b>9. To note SDD plan to strengthen its</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Authorising Environments</li> <li>• Regional Authorising Environments</li> <li>• Technical Assistance</li> </ul> <p><b>4.1.3</b> National Authorising Environment for statisticians included clear strategic direction; right capabilities; robust statistical process and core statistical collections well supported. Delivery of technical assistance should tailor TA to meet various levels of capabilities. TA comes in three forms- substitutions, supplementation and self-sufficiency.</p> <p><b>4.1.4</b> Regional Authorising Environment included accountability and shared solutions, TA being well-coordinated from national (NSO, NSDS to PIC Governments) to FEMM, HOPs.</p> <p><b>4.1.5</b> Options for enhancing the regional authorizing environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability and authority</li> <li>• Shared regional solutions</li> <li>• Regional methods board</li> <li>• Improving conditions for TA providers and donors</li> <li>• Development partner coordination committee</li> </ul> <p><b>4.1.6 Key comments and feedback</b></p> <p><b>4.1.6a</b> PFTAC: It is good to talk about methods, unsure on whether we need a board as we have manuals and we are unable to meet regularly. Capacity supplementation is what PFTAC does. Are there resources from the region that can be drawn upon and can PSSC support that role?</p> <p><b>4.1.6b</b> ABS: There is room for innovation with a Methods Board in the Pacific. The idea is not for a board that meets three times a year but that they are the resolving mechanism, as well as provide transparency and expert authority. This idea of substitution is really asking whether Pacific statisticians are prepared to have a chunk of the work done on their behalf. Is PSSC ready for shared statistical service? When measuring statistical capacity of the country, define what capacity they can draw on. Institutional arrangements can be done in alignment. Resource sharing in regional cooperation and solutions are often tricky to coordinate.</p> <p><b>4.1.6c</b> Friend of Chair: PSSC recognizes that the spirit with which this is being proposed is really good.</p>	<p>dissemination work especially in assisting NSOs to meet technical users' needs.</p> <p><b>10.</b> For SDD to continue partnership with NSOs in the release of unit data records through a well-defined process and policy framework and noting that right to access microdata rests entirely with NSOs.</p> <p><b>11.</b> To task a small team (SDD, ABS, SNZ, PFTAC, PARIS21 and 2 NSOs) to develop a regional dissemination strategy. This strategy is to be submitted to the 2017 HOPS meeting for final consideration.</p> <p><b>12.</b> For SDD to spearhead the development of a framework to strengthen coordination and partnership in core collections. SDD is to work in close consultation with PSSC members and partners leading to HOP 2017.</p> <p><b>13.</b> To the establishment of a Method and Technology Board with the responsibility to oversee matters related to statistical method and technology in the region. A small team will work with SDD to develop the TORs; memberships; meeting schedule; etc. ABS, SNZ, PFTAC and 2 NSOs.</p>
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**4.1.6d** DFAT: A good presentation giving insight on levels of authorising environments and how they are interacting.

**4.1.6e** Nauru: Substitution and supplementation are options that are real in small NSOs but there are always connected issues of credibility with the data. There might be room for a roaming team of expertise to do these in the region.

## **4.2 Regional Statistics Development Governance Framework**

**4.2.1** Proposal to evolve the role of PSSC in the framework of a modified governance structure for statistics development in the region. Under this framework, PSSC would become a subsidiary body of HOPS with delegated authority to play a leadership and decision-making role in years between HOPS meeting. SPC will play a coordinating role for both HOPS and PSSC, including convening and providing secretariat support services to these meetings.

**4.2.2** Part of the proposal is to create a development partner group to ensure that all relevant development partners will be provided with a means to input into statistics governance in the region. The group will be closely associated with the work and discussions at HOPs and PSSC.

**4.2.3** A triennial meeting of Ministers of Statistics in the Pacific is also proposed. The ministerial meeting would provide the highest level of statistics-dedicated country participation in the governance process.

**4.2.4** The proposal does not reduce the necessity for relevant technical working groups to continue to be created in order to address specific issues or work through issues before feeding back to HOPS or PSSC.

What is the best way to ensure streamlined, easy to understand, bottom up approach for PSSC? Answer: Credible, simple governance framework for regional statistics. Logical continuum being brought back to SPC SDD.



#### 4.2.5 Comments and Feedback

**4.2.5a** Samoa NSO: Samoa NSO has already presented a similar proposal in a previous PSSC meeting. There needs to be some discussion on why the old arrangement (TYPSS Coordination Unit) was changed.

**4.2.5b** PIFS: There are attempts to streamline Ministerial meetings. Is this suggesting that it's separate from the FEMM? Is there a plan to engage the Ministers for national planning? There is a need for more regular meetings for statistics.

**4.2.5c** Cooks NSO: From experience, tabling any statistics issues in the FEMM meeting, gets lost in the finance discussion. But PSSC may also have to consider the possibility that the issues weren't even tabled.

**4.2.5d** Friend of the Chair: Good, clear capacity for follow up and continuity, content focused. In the past, PSSC has far too often been distracted by process. This meeting has been concerned about its sense of connectedness and protocols. .

**4.2.5e** Vanuatu NSO: Delegated authority – if PSSC comes under HOPS and HOPS meets every year, what about PSSC?

**4.2.5f** Nauru NSO: Doesn't see evolution in this proposal, just a suggestion to go back to square 1. That's why the discussion has evolved into considering sitting PSSC directly under Ministers meeting. PSSC must remember that this is not about resourcing SPC; it's about resourcing the Plan. We must find a newer model.

**4.2.5g** DFAT: There needs to be continuity in PSSC. What is PSSC's role? What is it steering and what does it need to be working on? Focus on things that are important and core responsibilities. Does the composition and structure work effectively?

**4.2.5h** ABS: What decisions do we have to make as PSSC? How is it that we are going to drive the work? PSSC wants to make decisions on strategies and priorities, link to the authorizing environment and development partners. It needs resources in between meetings to be applied to decisions that are made during PSSC. It's important that a group of statisticians work together to drive this with SDD as one of them.

### **4.3 SDD Dissemination Strategy**

**4.3.1** SDD Director presented a proposal to strengthen SDD dissemination works focusing on assisting NSOs to meet technical users' statistical needs. The paper also reinforced the need for NSOs endorsement for SDD to continue partnership with NSOs in the release of unit data records. This proposal is based on the understanding that there is a growing demand for Pacific statistics at a more detail level and currently NSOs are not able to meet this demand.

SDD is already hosting most member countries' survey data and this proposal will be an extension of that work. The Pacific Catalogue hosted by SDD has all the counties survey data.

The Director emphasised that currently SDD has very limited resources for dissemination work and if this proposal goes ahead it means that other work areas will have to scale down in order to allow resources to fund its dissemination work.

#### **4.3.2 Comments and Feedback**

**4.3.2a** ABS: SDD Dissemination Strategy is a positive approach and such an initiative will create an enabling environment for empowering discussions on enhancing statistical development in the region. For a long time, this type of discussion has not taken place in PSSC and today should mark a shift back to statistics-related discussion in PSSC.

**4.3.2b** Samoan reminded the meeting on the importance of respecting the confidentiality of the Pacific statistics and that ownership of the data will always remain with NSOs. In saying this, Samoa recommended that PSSC support the recommendation put forward by Director of SDD.

**4.3.2c** Other NSOs reminded PSSC that the dissemination of unit data records must be taken with great caution given the size of member countries.

**4.3.2d** ABS also highlighted the need to think seriously about providing a safe depository for data archive of Pacific statistics as it could take just one cyclone to wipe out all NSOs data and system.

**4.3.2e** SDD should regularly inform NSOs and development partners on the progress with its plan to

<p>strengthen its data dissemination work.</p> <p><b>4.4 Regional Survey Collection Framework – SPC</b></p> <p><b>4.4.1</b> SPC SDD’s Arthur Jorari presented on a Proposed Census Survey collection framework. Highlights from the presentation are as follows:</p> <p><b>4.4.1a</b> List of core household census/survey collection under TYPSS Phase 2, Objectives 1, 2, and 4. Core collections are: Population and housing censuses, Demographic and health survey, Household income and expenditure survey, Agriculture census/survey, Disability survey (new), Labour force survey (few countries). There are other known sector specific collections like MICS and STEPS which are not listed above.</p> <p><b>4.4.1b</b> To strengthen coordination and partnerships in core collections, the future operational process could benefit from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a data regional users advisory group</li> <li>• Establishment of a technical advisory group (or methodology board as named by some)</li> <li>• Increasing support for product development</li> <li>• Increasing support for data dissemination , communication/advocacy and data utilisation and</li> <li>• Increasing support for census/survey evaluations</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 5: Review of Day 1 Key Recommendations and Agreements</b></p>	
<p><b>5.1</b> Secretariat to PSSC 13 presented PSSC Day 1 - Key Recommendations and Agreement for comments and feedback from PSSC members.</p> <p><b>5.2 Comments and Feedback</b></p> <p><b>5.2.1</b> PSSC endorsed Agreements and Recommendations 1-17 on Day 1 of the meeting.</p> <p><b>5.2.2</b> PSSC members also recommended that a small group (one option is to have ABS; SNZ; SPC and 2 NSOs) begin the development of the three papers going up to 2017 HOPs.</p>	

<p>5.2.3 PSSC noted NSOs comment that NSOs but be consulted in the development of these papers and the set-up of any regional body that impacts their work.</p>	
<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 6: Opening Remarks for Day 2</b></p>	
<p>The Chairwoman for PSSC-Day 2 welcomed the members and introduced the Agenda for the day, which was approved by PSSC as it was.</p>	
<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 7: Future Regional Statistics Priorities</b></p>	<p>Under Agenda Item 7, PSSC agrees to:</p>
<p><b>7.1 Future Statistical Users' Needs:</b> Presentation on the <b>Statistical Requirements of the Fijian Ministry of Economy</b> by chief economic planning officer, Paula Cirikiyasawa. The presentation discussed:</p> <p><b>7.1.1</b> Future statistical needs (user/ producer) and the need for quality statistics.</p> <p><b>7.1.2</b> Common challenges such as timelines in the release of data (advance release calendar), quality and relevance of the data/statistics released to users need.</p> <p><b>7.1.3</b> Future opportunities for the compilation of new, non-traditional statistics should be continually explored a centralised online portal for data sharing between government agencies, line ministries and the general public.</p> <p><b>7.1.4</b> Periodic consultations with end users are necessary for the improvement in the quality of statistics released.</p> <p><b>7.1.5</b> Conclusion: quality data plays a critical role in enhancing policymaking and national decision making.</p> <p><b>7.1.6 Comments and Feedback</b></p> <p><b>7.1.6a</b> PSSC members acknowledged the presentation as a real case study of how statistics are being used by a national government in the region to make well-informed policy decisions. PSSC-13 noted the paper.</p>	<p><b>14.</b> NSOs proposal that the Sustineo Report be noted subject to further review taking into account the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limitations in methodology;</li> <li>• Comparison of the current state of statistics development to the 2009 Benchmark Report is problematic as the data for both studies were not from the same source;</li> <li>• No acknowledgement of the significant achievement in data collection during the TYPSS Phase 2, which the study could have produced if it had utilised an appreciative inquiry approach;</li> <li>• The absence of NSOs in the interview process.</li> </ul> <p><b>15.</b> That the proposed TORs for TYPSS Phase 2 Review submitted by DFAT be approved</p>

<p><b>7.2 DFAT Pacific Statistics Assessment, the Sustineo Report</b></p> <p><b>7.2.1</b> DFAT Pacific Statistics Assessment Report was presented by DFAT’s Richard Bontjer. The report is an assessment of the current access to, and use of, Pacific statistics by international users. The Report was not designed to be a comprehensive assessment but to scope the surface key issues.</p> <p><b>7.2.2 Key findings included:</b></p> <p><b>7.2.2a</b> There is a huge demand for regular and timely dissemination of Pacific statistics especially by technical users.</p> <p><b>7.2.2b</b> A number of regional platforms for dissemination exist however do not fulfil all international user requirements.</p> <p><b>7.2.2c</b> Resource and costs associated with a greater focus on dissemination need to be further considered.</p> <p><b>7.2.2d</b> For better regional coordination and governance: A high level implementation plan should be put in place to provide a framework for activities aligned with economic, social and environmental domains and must be supported and resourced.</p> <p><b>7.2.2e</b> A regional dissemination strategy should be put in place to improve access to data.</p> <p><b>7.3 Comments and feedback:</b></p> <p><b>7.3.1</b> There was a general consensus that this report would have been more reflective of the current situation if there was a direct consultation with NSOs. This would have provided a good assessment of what has been produced by NSOs.</p> <p><b>7.3.2</b> There were methodological differences used in the 2009 Benchmark study and this report so a comparison for the purpose of analysis could jeopardise the credibility of the findings as they are from different data sources.</p> <p><b>7.3.3</b> For NSOs, national development statistical needs are always a priority before, regional, and</p>	<p>subject to the following amendments: (a) a sub-group to review the TYPSS Phase-2 Review; and (b) a Pacific national with the relevant skill set and contextual insight to be part of the review team.</p> <p>The NSO Group Discussion made the following recommendations:</p> <p><b>16.</b> That a small working group be established to spearhead the development of a Dissemination Strategy. The group can be coordinated by SPC and comprise of ABS, SNZ, 2 Pacific NSOs, PFTAC and PARIS21. (Related to Recommendations 11 above).</p> <p><b>17.</b> That the core objective of the Regional Dissemination Strategy will the improvement of data accessibility through the packaging of statistics products to users.</p> <p><b>18.</b> To develop a Methodology and Technology Board to advice on collections, analysis, standard definitions in the region. Such a board will provide NSOs and development partners to voice their feedback/concerns and assess by an independent body.</p> <p><b>19.</b> That PSSC noted the need to enhance South-to-South cooperation through the development of a policy guideline with financial support to operationalize the</p>
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<p>international needs.</p> <p><b>7.3.4</b> Data gap: The report identifies that the most recent and comprehensive data are available from World Bank and IMF when they both source their data from NSOs.</p> <p><b>7.3.5</b> The report did not acknowledge the progress made by NSOs in terms of frequency and timeliness of data collection and dissemination. Data processing using paper form has been greatly improved, some countries have moved to scanning and tablets for surveys and censuses.</p> <p><b>7.3.6</b> Objectives of assessment have not been clearly met because these are international users who have no idea on processes. The reviewer only looked at national websites and compared it to World Bank data.</p> <p><b>7.3.7</b> The core set of Pacific statistics is something that should be determined by the NSOs in consultation with development partners and not by the consultant.</p> <p><b>7.3.8</b> How does one translate the pockets of innovation that are already taking place in the region? E.g. the use of tablets in the Pacific and higher response rates than in other regions according to the Paris 21 study. It's the second time that DFAT has produced this type of a report. Something they haven't done well is engage with NSOs.</p> <p><b>7.3.9</b> PSSC has set for itself a list of things to do based on the findings, some of which can be built into Phase 3.</p> <p><b>7.4 TYPSS Phase 2 Review TORs</b></p> <p>The TORs focus on 5 key evaluation questions:</p> <p><b>7.4.1</b> What progress has been made against key aspects of the Phase II design document, with particular reference to its five specified objectives? (efficiency and effectiveness).</p> <p><b>7.4.2</b> How effective are the existing governance structures for the TYPSS in the context of the statistical authorising environment?</p>	<p>exchanges.</p> <p>The Donor Discussion made the following recommendations:</p> <p><b>20. That a key theme for statistical development in the region is that success is measured by how much and how well statistics are used. Central to the development of statistics in the future is improving data access and usage by policy makers, international organisations and national governments. PSSC must be able to demonstrate this progressively.</b></p> <p><b>21. That SPC-SDD hosted a Regional Statistics Hub as a one stop shop for reliable and trusted Pacific data. This platform must be user friendly in that it is able to produce data in various forms including charts and tables, info-graphics and analytic. User access and data utilisation will be central to the evaluation of the effectiveness of this platform.</b></p> <p><b>22. That beyond TYPSS Phase 2, a new and simpler name such as Pacific Data may be useful to consider particularly in terms of branding.</b></p> <p><b>23. As part of TYPSS Phase 2 review, there should be some consultation with NSOs, Development Partners; Users (national and</b></p>
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<p><b>7.4.3</b> How effective are the current processes and mechanisms for resourcing the TYPSS activities?</p> <p><b>7.4.4</b> What are the lessons learnt from the implementation of TYPSS Phase II? (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability)?</p> <p><b>7.4.4</b> What are the future design options for TYPSS?</p> <p><b>7.5</b> <b>Comments and Feedback</b></p> <p><b>7.5.1</b> Members also suggested that a small review team analyse the outcome of the TYPSS Phase 2 Review.</p> <p><b>7.5.2</b> Members also suggested that a Pacific national (with the right skill set) is included as a member of the Review team.</p> <p><b>7.6</b> <b>Group Discussions (NSOs and Development Partners)</b></p> <p>PSSC members broke into two groups (donors and NSOs) to draft a way forward for the issues discussed so far in the meeting.</p> <p><b>7.6.1</b> <b>Major points from NSO Group Discussions included the following:</b></p> <p><b>7.6.1a</b> The need to improve accessibility through the packaging of statistics products for users.</p> <p><b>7.6.1b</b> Ownership of released statistics and micro data sets needs to rest with NSOs.</p> <p><b>7.6.1c</b> The plan for the next phase must have an effective dissemination strategy. The strategy must also include provision of further information on the data so that it promotes transparency, builds trust and ensures compliance.</p> <p><b>7.6.1d</b> The need for better communications and advocacy supported by establishment of protocols around the release of information.</p>	<p>regional) take place in the first quarter of 2017. Lessons from current progress calls for a design of (the next phase) that keeps statistics simple.</p>
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<p><b>7.6.1e</b> Promote training to develop staff capabilities in dissemination and data analysis.</p> <p><b>7.6.1f</b> A Methodology and Technology Board to advise on collection, analysis, standard definitions, classifications, compilation process and systems. This also ensures greater cost effectiveness and efficiency.</p> <p><b>7.6.1g</b> There is a need to better support national governance structures and its linkage to PSSC so that it ensures high level endorsement. This means NSOs need to better engage with leaders and relevant stakeholders at a country level.</p> <p><b>7.6.1h</b> Identify appropriate regional platforms or forums (e.g. FEMM) where PSSC can highlight their concerns at a political level. It can effectively do this by building a case using all the data requirements against the resources provided. The PSSC Chair can present this case to FEMM for their attention.</p> <p><b>7.6.1i</b> A key consideration for development partners/researchers is the fact that there are resource constraints at country level that hinder better dissemination of statistics.</p> <p><b>7.6.1j</b> South-south and other development cooperation arrangements are acknowledged and appreciated but will need dedicated funding or negotiated cost sharing arrangements.</p> <p><b>7.6.1k</b> The PIFS mechanism on knowledge shared funding can be mirrored by PSSC. PIFS has a mobile set of experts that are deployed to countries with specific needs for technical assistance. Resources are needed for shared services such as trade statistics and prices.</p> <p><b>7.6.1l</b> NSOs suggested a small group to develop strategy for dissemination and data collection for PSSC.</p> <p><b>7.6.1m</b> NSOs also suggested a group to review the Mid Term Review findings.</p> <p><b>7.6.2 Major points presented by the donors and development partners group included the followings:</b></p> <p><b>7.6.2a</b> The ultimate measure of success in statistics is in how and whether they are used.</p> <p><b>7.6.2b</b> The way forward must also include effective dissemination and utilisation of data.</p> <p><b>7.6.2c</b> The need to establish a single source of reliable data in the Pacific. A place/platform that can be the</p>	
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<p>source of truth that is accessible and comprehensive. It could be the establishment of a regional statistics hub that is the single trusted repository which is accessible, user friendly with the capability to be analytic and is able to produce tables, charts and infographics.</p> <p><b>7.6.2d</b> The critical role of advocacy and education in the promotion of data literacy.</p> <p><b>7.6.2e</b> PSSC needs to project to beyond TYPSS and decide whether a better brand like Pacific One Data may be more relevant to support the objectives.</p> <p><b>7.6.2f</b> Partners recommend a regional users meeting where NSOs, development partners, users at national and regional level discuss ways in which statistics can be better utilised. Results of these discussions can be useful for developing the next phase.</p> <p><b>7.6.2g</b> The mid-term review should be scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017. Partners recommend that the design of the next phase be kept as simple as possible.</p>	
<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 8: Papers for PSSC to note, date and venue for next meeting</b> Due to time constraints the following papers were submitted to PSSC to note only</p>	<p>Under agenda item 8, PSSC agrees</p>
<p><b>8.1</b> Highlights from <b>the Agenda 2030 and the SIDS : Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Readiness Paper</b> prepared by Len Cook were as follows:</p> <p><b>8.1.1</b> SIDS have statistical data inherent in already-gathered records of the governments, including those of the statistical office but these could be more effectively managed and applied to producing statistics.</p> <p><b>8.1.2</b> In SIDS, access to statistics needs to change radically with more value added in analysis and interpretation as well as dissemination.</p> <p><b>8.1.3</b> Collective approaches to keeping abreast of relevant technological innovation are vital for capacity building, given the limited resources available for scanning and evaluation.</p> <p><b>8.1.4</b> In overview, there are similarities in the statistical priorities among the SIDS and in their capacity to achieve all that is expected of them, that there is much to gain from systematised collaboration. However this will require leadership, focus and resources.</p>	<p><b>24.</b> That the following progress reports be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agenda 2030 and the SIDS; Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Readiness</li> <li>b) Young Statisticians and Official Statistics 2016 Survey</li> <li>c) CRVS</li> <li>d) (P-SPAFS)- Update</li> <li>e) UNCT SDG Working Group on Data</li> </ul> <p><b>25.</b> To endorse the PFTAC proposal for an Economics statistics TA coordination working group with ABS, SNZ, PFTAC and SPC as members. Other providers working in the region can be co-opted members.</p>

**8.2** PSSC noted SPC paper on **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Progress Report** which was an update PSSC on activities and priorities of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP) and proposed:

**8.2.1** A number of regional solutions for national challenges such as:

- inflexible and outdated legislations,
- standardisation and IT infrastructure for CRVS,
- data sharing , cause of death coding,
- operational research and CRVS for disasters.

**8.2.2** The paper also recommended that PSSC members work with their national CRVS committees to:

- set national targets in line with the commitment to the goals of the Asia Pacific Regional Action Framework for CRVS and report these to ESCAP where not already done.
- include CRVS as a priority in the NSDS and national development plans and actively seek appropriate resourcing for these.
- include publication of key indicators derived from civil registration and routine health reporting of births and deaths in national publication schedules for the NSOs.
- engage with regional work to improve standardisation for legislation and IT for CRVS through the adoption of regional best practice standards, and where possible, the development of standardised approaches and systems.

**8.3 Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fishery Statistics (P-SPAFS)- Update** submitted by Anna Fink, Agriculture Statistician at SPC, to update PSSC on the development of P-SPAFS since PSSC 12 in anticipation of requests for endorsement at HOAFs and HOPS in 2017. Key points were:

**8.3.1** PSSC 12 endorsed the Vision, Mission and Objectives of the P-SPAFS

**8.3.2 Next steps:**

- TWG selection of visual identity for P-SPAFS
- Finalise P-SPAFS document for publication
- Continue discussions with donors on funding of implementation activities

**26. For SPC SDD to circulate a tentative date after further online consultations with PSSC on the date and venue for 2017 HOPS.**

- Submit for endorsement at HOAFS during the Pacific Week of Agriculture in Vanuatu in May 2017
- Submit for endorsement at HOPS in 2017
- Conduct awareness raising and publicity.

**8.3.3** The paper requested that the PSSC note the progress on the P-SPAFS in preparation for requests for endorsement at HOAS and HOPS in 2017.

**8.4** The following brief presentation was also made: First insights to the Young Statistician and Official Statistics 2016 Survey as presented by Dr Alessio Cangiano. This was the 3rd Round (as previous ones were held in Africa) of surveys for students in regional statistics schools. The survey found that:

**8.4.1** 100% surveyed are not members of any international statistics body/association.

**8.4.2** More than 50% surveyed are studying towards a double major in official statistics and close to 40% found out the official statistics course in information sessions or careers advice.

**8.4.3** More than 30% are studying official statistics for a career in statistics while close to 20% are interested in economic and development studies- oriented career.

**8.4.4** About 70% are interested in working as statisticians in NSOs in the short term but the majority are looking to work in international organisations in the long term.

**8.4.5** 68% of respondents identified poor quality of data in terms of accuracy, timeliness and coverage as the main challenge facing NSOs.

**8.4.6** As a way forward it was suggested that attention must be given to: capacity development in the area of Software & Statistical tools (R, Stata, etc.), Data visualisation tools (R, Raw, etc.) and thus the further development of Official Statistics programmes at USP; sensitisation on statistical initiatives in the region; and advocacy for statistics.

**8.5** A paper on **SDG from the UNCT SDG Working Group on Data** was presented by UNFPA's Bruce Campbell. Key points from the presentation:

**8.5.1** The SDG is made up of 230 indicators disaggregated across 8 domains. Monitoring SDGs means using indicators; implementing SDGs means using data and statistics for policy and programme development and management.

**8.5.2** Expectations are that the more indicators, the better the timeliness, the better the accuracy, the better the coverage, the more the disaggregation, the better the access and openness.

**8.5.3** Collaborative and integrated work is essential for monitoring and achieving the SDGs.

**8.5.4** UNCT Agreement on the principle of an open partnership among all UN Agencies working on data and statistics in the Pacific countries and territories. It would like to extend this to all partners.

**8.5.5** This contributes to ensure that all existing, planned and envisaged investments in which the UN (and partners) are engaged, are mapped out to ensure a coordinated effort in supporting better evidence for policy and programming.

**8.5.6** UN Collaboration on SDG indicators will contribute to TYPSS or any other framework to be implemented in the region and led by SPC and the PSSC. UN and partner support for national data ecosystems will be essential to monitor the results of collaborative investments.

**8.5.7** The presentation recommended that PSSC:

- Build on regional collaborative efforts to support national partnership forums to map out who is doing what in relation to all forms of data capture, analysis, visualization and utilization for sustainable development.
- Support the development of a mechanism to establish baseline and targets for PHIs/SDGs including disaggregation as appropriate.
- Identify gaps in readily available data and examine possibilities for new technologies and use of alternative sources of data (including big data) to fill those gaps.
- Support the development of a costed “national data ecosystem – road map” to ensure that the right information is available to the right people in the right format at the right time in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**8.6** Scott Rogers presented a PFTAC proposal for the establishment of an Economic Statistics TA Coordination Group.

**8.6.1** The purpose of the Group is to facilitate coordination and collaboration in the provision of technical assistance and training in economic statistics in PICs through:

- Sharing of work programs and synchronization of TA and training schedules;
- Collaboration in provision of TA and training;
- Cooperation in identifying and reducing gaps in provision and avoiding overlaps;
- Cooperation in promoting consistency in technical advice across providers.

**8.6.2** The focus of the working group will be primarily on effective cooperation at a technical level in the planning and delivery of TA and training. Broader issues of strategy will generally not be a focus of attention. The working group will cover TA and training related to the following areas of statistics:

- National Accounts Statistics;
- External Sector Statistics (including Balance of Payments and Trade statistics);
- Prices and Wages;
- Government Finance Statistics;
- Labour Market Statistics;
- Monetary and Financial Statistics.

**8.6.3** In the first instance, membership of the Working Group should be limited to the main providers of TA and training in economic statistics in the region. This includes:

- PFTAC
- SPC
- ABS
- US Graduate School

**8.6.4 Comments and Feedback**

- Members of PSSC expressed concern with the timing of this proposal given there are already 3 TWGs in place and how their role and this new coordination group will overlap or supplement each other.
- Statistics NZ is a major TA provider to the region but has not been included in this Working Group.

- It was suggested that the membership include PFTAC; SPC; ABS and SNZ. Other bodies working in the region can be co-opted members such as US Graduate School.
- It is important that there is clear distinction between this working group and the role of a method and technology board.

#### **8.7 Date and Venue for next meeting:**

**8.7.1** PSSC will have only one meeting next year and it will be the HOPS Meeting.

**8.7.2** ABS leadership forum is expected to be held earlier than August.

**8.7.3** A regional SDG meeting will take place in the middle of March to revise regional indicators. Given these, it was recommended that the leadership forum be held back to back with the meetings.

**8.7.4** It was noted that the Pacific Leaders Forum is scheduled for September in Samoa. It was suggested that a preliminary meeting takes place before PIF leaders meeting.

**8.7.5** A review of TYPSS and SDD is expected to take place in the first half so it was recommended that PSSC meeting for 2017 is scheduled for the second half of the year.

**8.7.6** PSSC proposed that 2017 HOPS be held in New Zealand because it is central to most of the members and development partners. SPC was asked to provide an estimate of the cost between having it in New Zealand and Noumea for the PSSC to make a final decision.

#### **8.8 Closing remarks**

**8.8.1** Some of the participant was invited to share their concluding reflections about the meeting.

**8.8.2** PSSC chair thanked the heads and representatives of NSOs and development partners for their contributions to the meeting and their support throughout the year. He felt it had been a good meeting because they had managed to talk about progress and the challenges that continue to hinder statistical development in the region. He expressed appreciation for those who prepared briefs and updates to the

meeting about the work they were doing for TYPSS.

He also acknowledged the wealth of experience around the room and said that despite differing viewpoints on a few issues, PSSC's ability to still build a way forward is commendable. Special acknowledgement to SPC for the Governance Framework that was presented – this made the meeting especially fruitful. He urged PSSC to continue to build on the collaboration and camaraderie amongst themselves to ensure that statistical development increases in the region.

Special farewell to IMF/PFTAC's Scott Rogers who is retiring next year. Mr Rogers has been a valuable member of PSSC since its beginning and has contributed a lot to the progress of TYPSS.

He wished PSSC members the best for 2017 before officially closing the meeting.