UNFPOS Implementation in Asia-Pacific and SIDS: good practices and challenges

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Key Points

- **About PARIS21**

- **Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS**
  - Principle 7 – Legislation
  - Principle 8 – National coordination
  - Principle 9 – Use of international standards
  - Principle 10 – International cooperation

- **Challenges in FPOS implementation**

- **Future support to countries**
About PARIS21... a partnership

Promote
- better use of statistics throughout the developing world and the important role of NSOs

Provide
- statistical capacity building support at national, subregional and regional levels

Develop
- Tools and guidelines to strengthening statistical systems and its institutions

Advocate
- for the integration of reliable data in policy making and governance

Co-ordinate
- a worldwide network of statisticians, policy makers, analysts, and development practitioners committed to evidence-based decision making
...with a global outreach...

Engages and supports statistical development in over 90 countries, in partnership with international actors and regional bodies
... supporting SDGs ...

- Member of IAEG-SDGs
- Member of Steering Committee of Praia Group on Governance Statistics
- Monitoring 3 SDG17 indicators on statistical development

- 17.18.2 Number of countries with national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- 17.18.3 Number of countries with national statistical plan fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
- 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries
... and engaged in Asia-Pacific and SIDS

- **50 countries in Asia-Pacific and SIDS**
  - 17 in Asia (7 Southeast Asia, 8 South Asia, 2 others)
  - 33 in SIDS (15 Pacific, 13 Caribbean, 5 AIMS)

- **Areas of statistical support**
  - NSDS
  - NSS institutional strengthening and coordination
  - Data management
  - Statistical advocacy
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS
(in countries PARIS21 worked with)
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

Legislation (Principle 7)

- 16 countries in Asia with statistical legislation
  - 75% updated on or after 2000
  - 13% are over 50 years old

- 31 SIDS countries/territories with statistical legislation
  - 42% updated on or after 2000
  - 10% are 50 years old
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

Legislation (Principle 7)

- Key elements in statistical laws
  - NSO as leading authority in the NSS (mandate to coordinate and set statistical standards; main producer of official statistics in the country)
  - Professional independence of NSO
  - More prominent role of Chief Statistician/Head of NSO
  - Wider access to administrative data and other data sources by NSOs (including NSS data sharing and exchange)
  - Access to public use files for research purposes
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

Legislation (Principle 7)

- Unique elements in statistical laws
  - Preparation of medium-term national statistical plan/strategy (i.e., Philippines)
  - National government as principal source of budget for statistics (i.e., Vietnam)
  - Preparation of annual budget for statistics integrated in government agency budget (i.e., Cambodia)
  - National indicators defined (i.e., Vietnam)
  - Horizontal and vertical coordination of the NSS (i.e., Lao PDR)
  - Support of military/police in the conduct of surveys (i.e., India)
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

Legislation (Principle 7)

- Regional perspectives:
  - CARICOM Statistics Model Bill serves as reference in updating statistical legislations in the region
  - ASEAN Community Statistical System and CARICOM has adopted respective Statistics Code of Practice
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

NSS Coordination (Principle 8)

- 41% (7) in Asia and 27% (9) in SIDS provide for establishing statistics council/committee/advisory board in the statistical law
  - ✓ Policy-making body
  - ✓ Technical coordination

- Other organizational arrangements are in place to coordinate work in the NSS
  - ✓ Standard-setting and “clearing house” function of NSO
  - ✓ Horizontal and vertical coordination in the NSO and NSS
  - ✓ Cross-posting of NSO staff in other Ministries
  - ✓ Interagency working groups on thematic concerns
**Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS**

**NSS Coordination (Principle 8)**

- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as a coordination mechanism for NSS
  - engage data producers and users in the development and implementation of high-quality plan and make strategic choices for statistical development
  - set priorities for data production and dissemination aligned with national development priorities

- NSDS status in Asia and SIDS
  - Implementation: 65% in Asia; 21% in SIDS
  - Development: 12% in Asia; 18% in SIDS
  - Expired: 12% in Asia; 9% in SIDS
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

Use of international standards (Principle 9)

- International standards on national accounts
  - 100% (17) in Asia
  - 79% (26) in SIDS
  - Of which, 77% (33) 1993 SNA version and 21% (9) use 2008

- Other international standards used
  - Standard classifications: industry, product, occupational
  - Economic statistics: BPM, MFMS
  - Census recommendations adopted (UN, CARICOM, Pacific Community)
Use of international standards (Principle 9)

- Data dissemination standards subscribed
  - GDDS – 9 Asia, 22 SIDS
  - SDDS – 4 Asia, 1 AIMS

- National Data Archives
  - Asia – 11 Asia
  - SIDS – 13 Pacific (through Pacific Community’s PRISM), 2 Caribbean and 3 in AIMS (NSO-based)
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

International cooperation (Principle 10)

- Areas of cooperation
  - Capacity building and development
  - South-south learning and exchange
  - Global discussions

- Value-added of international cooperation
  - NSS institutional strengthening and enhancement
  - Development in domain-specific statistics (e.g., economic, social & demographic, etc.)
  - Improved data quality, harmonized and comparable statistics
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

International cooperation (Principle 10)

- Regional statistical cooperation (UN ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA, ASEAN, SAARC, SPC, CARICOM, OECS, AFRISTAT, AUC)
  - Statistics governance mechanism (i.e., steering committee)
  - Regional strategy for the development of statistics or RSDS
    - ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020
    - Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2010-2020;
    - Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
  - Regional statistical training program (i.e., SIAP)
Good Practices in the implementation of FPOS

International cooperation (Principle 10)

- Committed funding for international statistics cooperation (PARIS21 Partnership Report on Support to Statistics)
  - USD 470 M total support to statistics for 2014
    - 30% (USD 141) demographic & social statistics
    - 27% (USD 128) economic statistics
    - 22% (USD 104) general and methodological issues
    - 7% committed to Asia-Pacific region
  - 72% of 2014 total commitments in 2014 provided by Canada, European Commission/EUROSTAT, FAO, IMF, WB
Challenges in FPOS implementation
Challenges in FPOS implementation

- Significant number of countries with statistical legislations needing updates
  - Strengthen role of NSO and ensure its professional independence, stature of Head of NSO
  - Institutionalize NSS coordination and clarify responsibility of data producing agencies

- Statistics and policy link still weak and greater data use need to be extensively promoted

- Clear provisions for use of alternative data sources for official statistics still absent
Challenges in FPOS implementation

- Subnational statistics under-developed and linkage with national statistical system weak
- Statistical standards not widely adopted in NSS (especially other agencies)
- International cooperation needs to be systematic
PARIS21 future support to countries
Towards a Holistic Intervention

- **Knowledge Sharing**
  - Peer Reviews
  - NSS Evaluations
  - Best practices, guidelines
- **Advocacy**
  - Statistics advocacy
  - Dialogue on data
  - Resource mobilization
- **Technical**
  - NSDS, RDS processes
  - Data management
  - Statistics Legislations
- **Monitor**
  - Statistics funding
  - NSS Coordination and M&E
  - SDG 17 monitoring

Platform for Innovations in Statistics

Advanced Data Planning Tool
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