

46th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)

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Bangladesh Team

Kaniz Fatema ndc, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) - Team Leader

Md. Aminul Bar Chowdhury - Joint Secretary , SID

Md. Mashud Alam - Director , BBS

About UNSC

Established in 1946, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) is the highest policy formulating entity in the Global Statistical System. It is also the apex decision making body for international statistical activities, especially the setting of the statistical standards, development of concept and methods and their implementation at the national and international levels. It is the functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council and oversees the work of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Agenda item of the 46th session

Agenda items for discussion and decision

(a) Data in Support of the Post -2015 development agenda

(i) Broader measure of Progress.

(ii) Emerging Issue: The Data Revolution

(iii) Big Data

(b) 2020 World Population and Housing Census Program

(C) Crime Statistics

(d) Refugee Statistics

(e) Household Surveys

(f) National accounts

(g) International trade and economic globalization statistics

(h) Environmental-economic accounting

(i) International Comparison Program

(j) Agriculture and Rural Statistics

(k) Governance, Peace and Security Statistics

(l) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Agenda Items for Information

- Health statistics
- Gender statistics
- Civil registration and vital statistics
- Business registers

- Service statistics
- Finance statistics
- Environment statistics
- Statistics for economies based on natural resources
- World Statistics Day
- Coordination of statistical programmes
- Statistics of human development
- International statistical classifications
- Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
- Statistical capacity building
- Development indicators
- Integration of statistical and geospatial information
- Follow up to policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Side events

- Development of an indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda
- The role of earth observations in developing indicators for the post-2015 development agenda
- A road map for country-led data revolution: What's in it for us?
- Inter Agency Expert Group meeting on Food security, Agriculture and Rural Statistics
- Meeting of the ICP Regional Co-ordinating Agencies
- Meeting of the High level group for modernisation of Statistical Production and Services
- Meeting of the International household Survey Management Group
- Strengthening Environment Statistics for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals
- Towards a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics
- Partnership for capacity in the context of data revolution
- Financial need assessment for SDG monitoring
- 4th Meeting of the Global CRVS Group
- Statistics of Human Development: Conversation with the statisticians
- Meeting on the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index
- SDG Indicators and SEEA
- Introduction to SEEA, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- PARIS 21: 15 Years of commitment for statistical development
- Population and Housing Censuses in 2020 Census Round
- Use of administrative data for producing agriculture statistics

- Fundamental principles of official statistics and professional ethics in the era of Big Data: Challenges & Strategies for implementation- A panel discussion
- Strategic advisory body on modernization of statistical processes and services in the Asia and Pacific
- Changing the humanitarian data landscape ; The humanitarian data exchange

Observations of Bangladesh Team

A. Data in Support of the Post -2015 development agenda

(i) Broader measure of Progress

- In the context of Bangladesh, other than GDP, a number of data are available which can be used to measure progress.
- The data sources are Agriculture Census, Population Census, Economic Census, Sample Vital Registration Survey, Health and Morbidity Status Survey, Labor Force Survey, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Child and Mother Nutrition Survey, Price and Wage Rate Survey, Literacy Assessment Survey.
- These data sources provide valuable inputs for measuring progress in the relevant sector. The coverage of these survey need to be enhanced to get reliable estimate. These issues are also addressed in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) of BBS for 2013 to 2023.

(ii) Emerging Issue: The Data Revolution

- Bangladesh was selected as a sample country of assessment by PARIS-21 under their project “Informing Data Revolution”.
- The assessment was done by an independent researcher of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).
- In the assessment the statistical system of Bangladesh was critically examined in light of the National Strategy for the Development of Bangladesh (NSDS). It may be mentioned that in Bangladesh NSDS was prepared through a consultative process.
- It was participated by both the users & producers. A number of goals, targets and indicators were set in NSDS covering the period 2013-2023.
- The assessment report highlighted on the requirement of both technical and financial support from development partners including UN agencies for strengthening capacity of the National Statistical System(NSS) to meet the data need of post-2015 development agenda and the data revolution.

(iii) Big Data

The Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics was created in May 2014, pursuant to UNSC decision 45/110. Bangladesh is one of the members of the GWG

Countries		Agencies
1. Australia	10. Mexico	1. Euro stat
2. Bangladesh	11. Morocco	2. GCC-Stat
3. Cameroon	12. Netherlands	3. ITU
4. China	13. Oman	4. OECD
5. Colombia	14. Pakistan	5. UN Global Pulse
6. Denmark	15. Philippines	6. UNECE
7. Egypt	16. Tanzania	7. UNESCAP/ SIAP
8. Indonesia	17. United Arab Emirates	8. UNSD
9. Italy	18. United States	9. UPU

- The first meeting the WG was held on 31 October 2014 in Beijing, immediately after the international conference on Big Data for official statistics held in Beijing from 28-30 October 2014.
- Two member delegation from Bangladesh led by Secretary SID attended the conference and the meeting of the GWG.
- Team leader of Bangladesh was one of the Panel discussant, along with the High officials of UNSD, NBS China, Mexico & Australian Bureau of Statistics .
- Better cooperation among international agencies and experienced countries were sought to produce statistics using Big Data.
- The challenges in generating official statistics using Big Data, particularly the methodological and skills issues that are facing by the Developing Countries like Bangladesh was highlighted in the conference and in the meeting of the WG.
- Following the decision of the GWG, BBS/SID may take necessary steps to develop a team through specialized training to acquire new skills with international collaboration in the field of Big Data.
- Cooperation between UNSD, experienced countries, China and BBS for mutual experience sharing for the development of Official Statistics using Big Data is need to be strengthened
- Awareness on the Big Data use may be build up among stakeholders through arranging internal workshop/seminar.

B. 2020 World Population and Housing Census

Programme: Bangladesh context

- Use of OCR and iCADE expedited in data capturing of the census 2011 and correction was made using Key From Image (KFI)

- CSPro software was used for data processing. Use of these technology facilitated to complete the data processing of census in 15 months time which was earlier required around 03 years.
- The use of iCADE ensured the quality of data though computer editing system

Bangladesh proposal for 2021 round of census

- Bangladesh is considering to use latest technology in the 2021 Census of population and Housing
- A number of alternatives will be tested before the census to determine the suitability of the census process as per the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) approved by the Government for 2013 to 2023
- The provision of multimodal census has been kept for the 2020 round census which involve data collection through e-mail, telephone and computer assisted personal interview (CAPI). Other alternatives will also be tested
- The principles and recommendation for Population and Housing Census developed by UNSD and revised periodically through regional level consultations & fundamental principle of official statistics will be followed in the upcoming census 2021
- BBS is now working to disseminate census result of 2011 in user friendly manner by using Redatam software
- More user friendly data dissemination system will be explored for the 2021 census so that national and international stakeholders could access census data quickly in the user friendly manner

C. Crime Statistics

- Sporadic Crime Statistics are collected in Bangladesh by the administrative authority
- Only reported cases are considered which partially focus the actual situation of crime in the country
- No victimization survey has so far been conducted in Bangladesh
- BBS conducted Violence Against Women(VAW) survey in 2011-12 and another round of such survey will be conducted in 2015

Strategy of Bangladesh Regarding Crime Statistics

- Bangladesh supported the proposal for preparing International Classification of Crime Statistics (ICCS)
- The classification of crime which will help to take policy measures for minimizing the crime and pave the way towards conducting statistical survey on crime and victimization
- In order to collect, disseminate and analyze crime data international support is inevitable

D. Refugee Statistics

- So far Bangladesh did not conducted any census or survey on refugee;
- Bangladesh had to experience two major influxes of Rohingya from Myanmar. The first influx took place in 1978 and the second in 1991-92.
- It is estimated by different sources that about 500 thousand Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) live in Bangladesh without any legal status, mostly in the villages outside the camps.
- In order to have official statistics on Undocumented Myanmar Nationals staying in Bangladesh, a census of the concerned population has been planned to conduct in 2015 by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

E. Household Surveys

- Household surveys are a vital component of every national statistical system
- These surveys are source of information for the compilation of national accounts, consumer price indices and multiple socioeconomic indicators crucial for managing, measuring and monitoring country's performance towards national and global development targets.
- For monitoring post -2015 development agenda, the development of better information sharing and coordination mechanisms to improve the timing, sequencing and frequency of household surveys is needed.
- Bangladesh is committed to strengthen the current surveys and will take more surveys to meet the data needs of the post -2015 development agenda

F. National accounts

- The System of National Accounts (SNA) is one of the most important international standards and systems in official statistics to provide a comprehensive and integrated set of macroeconomic statistics.
- The 2008 SNA is the latest version that addresses the recent changes in the economic environment, and provides users with a comprehensive understanding of the economy.
- In the context of Bangladesh statistics on national accounts aggregates are exclusively and regularly being published in annual "National Accounts Statistics of Bangladesh" popularly known as Blue Book since FY2000.
- The current publication of national accounts statistics has been used in the revision and rebasing of GDP from 1995-96 to 2005-06 and incorporate extensive methodological improvements following SNA-1993 and partly SNA-2008.

G. International trade and economic globalization statistics

- Collection, compilation and dissemination of International Trade Statistics (ITS) are considered as one of the prime activities of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

- Bangladesh follows General systems of trade and concepts and definitions are used according to International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Manual 2010.
- Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of Bangladesh is concerned for compiling International trade in service following Manual on Statistics of International Trade in service (MSITS) 2010.
- Development of a system of extended international and global accounts as the overarching measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization is needed;
- Establishment by the Commission of an expert group specifically tasked with the development of a handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts;

H. Environmental-economic accounting

- The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is an important framework for monitoring progress in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.
- The Commission recognized at its forty-fifth session that SEEA should contribute significantly to advancing a multidimensional information system for the post 2015 development agenda.
- SEEA can provide an internationally recognized and standardized approach to integrating measures of the environment into a system of information fully consistent with the System of National Accounts (SNA) that is used to measure the economy.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has been initiated with a new Environment Statistics Section, under National Accounting Wing which is responsible for mainstreaming environment in national planning.
- The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in Bangladesh has been prepared in order to focus on the needs of all users of official statistics, to promote the more effective dissemination of statistics and to strengthen all statistical services so that they meet the needs of a rapidly developing nation.
- According to NSDS, BBS has an intension to compile green GDP following the guidelines of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) by 2023. Besides that Compilation of Resource Account on Natural Gas, Water and Forest etc. are to be made.
- A new framework (B-FDES) for compilation of environmental statistics following the broad guidelines of UN-FDES 2013 will also be made by BBS.

I. International Comparison Program

- ICP is a worldwide statistical exercise aimed at estimating purchasing power parities (PPPs), to be used as currency converters to compare the macroeconomic indicators and the economic situation of countries around the world.
- The primary purpose of ICP is to generate relevant PPP data to convert the gross domestic product (GDP) and its sub-aggregates, reported in national currencies, into a common currency that equalizes the purchasing power of the currencies.

- Bangladesh participated in the earlier three rounds (1990, 1993 and 2005) of international comparison programmes (ICP).
- Bangladesh also participated ICP 2011 round for Asia and the Pacific under coordination of Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ADB is the ICP coordinating agency in Asia and the Pacific region.

J. Agriculture and Rural Statistics

- The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is the result of an extensive consultation process with national and international statistical organizations as well as with agriculture ministries and other government institutions represented in FAO governing bodies.
- Considerable input came from the United Nations Statistical Commission Friends of Chair working group and the 2009 meetings of the International Statistical Institute in Maputo and Durban.

The three pillars of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics are:

- Establishment of a minimum set of core data that countries will collect to meet current and emerging demands
- Integration of agriculture statistics into national statistical systems that includes the development of a master sample frame for agriculture, the implementation of an integrated survey framework, and with results available in a data management system
- Provide sustainable agricultural statistic system through governance and statistical capacity building
- In accordance with the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, BBS has successfully implemented the In-depth Capacity Assessment of Agricultural and Rural Statistics of Bangladesh in 2014. The assessment program was done with the technical support of FAO and with financial assistance of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- In line with the Global Strategy, a project of Strengthening Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) in Bangladesh is at the final stage of approval.

K. Governance, Peace and Security Statistics

- The issue of governance formed one of the themes of the global Thematic consultations on the post 2015 development framework undertaken by the United Nations, and the various aspects of governance, including criteria for the choice of targets and indicators, were considered in several expert meetings organized by different United Nations entities, on governance and human rights; on conflict, violence and disaster; on security and justice; and on the rule of law.
- Good governance, peace and security are prerequisite for sustainable development and Bangladesh is committed to these aspects as governance statistics help to ensure that the relationship between the state and citizen is transparent and accountable but, the measurement process of such issues are the most crucial and challenging which need international support.
- Bangladesh could take initiative once the definition and methodological guidelines are obtained from UNSD.

L. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

- Friends of the Chair group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was established by the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session in 2011.
- The group was initially mandated to revise and update the language of the preamble of the Fundamental Principles, to assess how the Principles can be reinforced and to develop a practical guide for the implementation of the Principles to include new developments and good practices by national statistical offices and other producers and users of statistics.
- The group developed a first draft of an implementation guide based on existing sources, such as the Statistics Division website, including its good practices database, and the Handbook of Statistical Organization.
- Government of Bangladesh enacted “Statistics Act, 2013” on 03 March, 2013 and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) on 28 October 2013.
- The fundamental principles of official statistics have been included in the Statistics Act-2013 and rules for collection and dissemination of official statistics.

Comments of Bangladesh on CRVS (Agenda item for information)

- As regards civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), the head of Bangladesh delegation, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics informed the session that in November 2014 the first Ministerial Conference on CRVS was held in Bangkok, Thailand under the auspices of the ESCAP.
- Bangladesh was elected chair of the conference represented by the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning. The ministerial declaration “ To get everyone in the picture” was historic which represents most comprehensive and progressive international agreed document related to CVRS.
- The declaration of the of the CRVS is a shared vision that by 2024 all people in Asia and Pacific benefits from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistical systems.

Side event

Development of an indicator framework for the post -2015 development agenda

- Regarding the indicator framework, the leader of the Bangladesh delegation opined that while framing any global policy framework individual country context such as cultural diversity, ethnicity etc. should be taken into consideration.

Major Decisions Take

Decision 1: Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda (Item 3a)

3(a)(i) Broader measures of progress

- (i) Endorsed the proposal roadmap for the development and implementation of an indicator framework and in particular its suggested time table aiming at an endorsement of the indicator framework at the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2016.

- (ii) Emphasized that, given the capacity constraints of member states, the global indicator framework should only contain a limited number of indicators, should build on the experiences of the MDGs and take into account conceptual indicator frameworks that have already been developed.

3(a)(ii) Emerging issue: the data revolution

- (i) Acknowledge that managing the data revolution will require new skills from official statisticians recommended that the conclusions of the High Level Forum on Partnership for Capacity in the context of the Data Revolution, held on 2 March 2015, be taken into considerations;
- (ii) Recognized that a World Forum on Sustainable Development Data would be a suitable platform for intensifying cooperation with various professional groups such as IT, geospatial information managers and data scientists, users as well as with civil society stakeholders.

3(a)(iii) Big data

- (i) Requested the GWG to look into the use of other Big Data sources in addition to mobile phone data, social media data and satellite imagery, such as transaction data through e-commerce, and also to look into the trans-boundary aspects and associated challenges of the Big data sources
- (ii) Stressed that Big Data should be seen as part of secondary data sources, and that in that respect the use of administrative data source should receive due attention as well.

Decision 2: Population and housing censuses (Item 3b)

- (i) Recognized with appreciation the timely work of the international expert group in preparing the 3rd revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses
- (ii) Recognized that countries may face technical and financial constraints and require support, including in the utilization of advanced technologies and administrative data sources in the 2020 census round;
- (iii) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international and regional organizations to enhance their technical assistance to national statistical offices, especially in early stages of planning, in order to strengthen national capacity for carrying out the 2020 rounds of Population and Housing Censuses.

Decision 3: Crime statistics (Item 3c)

- (i) Encouraged Member States and international organizations to sustain their efforts and strengthening their statistical systems on crime and criminal justice, to include crime statistics in their National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, and to provide support to the activities laid out for 2015-2020 in the report.

Decision 4: Refugee statistics (Item 3d)

- (i) Urged international organizations to provide technical assistance and facilitate exchange of national experience with a view to enhancing the capacity of countries to collect, analysis and disseminate statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons

Decision 5: Household surveys (Item 3e)

- (i) Acknowledgement that households surveys have served as a major source of data for development planning and policy decisions, and that the data demand from household surveys would further grow in light of monitoring progress on the post-2015 development agenda;
- (ii) Noted with concern that changes and improvements are needed in the timing, content, quality funding, national capacity building and coordination of the household surveys, for them to be effective for monitoring the SDGs.

Decision 6: National accounts (Item 3f)

- (i) Appreciated the completion of a number of manuals, handbooks and guidelines that facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, urged the Working Groups to expedite the development of the newly proposed handbooks and guidelines, including the handbook on Back casting, as well as those in progress and requested that these materials be made available in all the United Nations official languages.

Decision 7: International trade and economic globalization statistics (Item 3g)

- (i) Agreed with the proposal of the FOC group to draft a handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts as the measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization. Building on work accomplished on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization by others, including the work undertaken under auspices of the Eurostat, OECD and UNECE.

Decision 8: Environmental-economic accounting (Item 3h)

- (i) Requested the Committee of Expert to closely collaborate with relevant groups to advocate and promote that the SEEA is properly reflected in the formulation of the sustainable development goals indicators, as well as follow up discussions related to the measurement of these indicators and building capacity in countries to develop SEEA-based indicators
- (ii) Urged the Committee of Experts to advocate and promote scaling up its implementation program exercising strong leadership in developing a concrete and well-resourced program to support countries in implementing the SEEA, with a clear timeline of objective and deliverables.

Decision 9: International Comparison Program (Item 3i)

- (i) Welcomed the FOC report's initial finding of the ICP 2011 round demonstrating an increased country participation, improvements in PPP methodology, increased transparency and documentation, streamlined quality assessment processes, and improve outreach to increase the uses of PPP; and stressed that ICP should become a permanent elements of the global statistical program with ICP rounds be held on a more frequent basis.

Decision 10: Agriculture and rural statistics (Item 3j)

- (i) Congratulated the Global Steering Committee on the excellent work done, took note with appreciation of the significant progress made in implementing all key components of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and endorsed the proposed priorities and the way forward.
- (i) Welcome the establishment of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on food security, agriculture and rural statistics (IAEG) as an essential forum for the development of international statistical standards in these domains.

Decision 11: Governance, peace and security statistics (Item 3k)

- (i) Endorsed the creation of the Praia City Group on governance statistics which aims to encourage countries to produce governance statistics that are based on sound and documented methodologies and endorsed the proposed terms of reference.

Decision 12: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Item 3l)

- (i) Welcomed the work done by the FOC Group to incorporate the proposals and examples of good practices provided by countries to enrich the draft of the implementation guidelines and invited countries to annually update their country profiles and best practices on the UNSD website;
- (ii) Asked the UN Statistics Division to provide technical assistance to countries for the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Recommendations

- (1) SID / BBS should try to implement the decision of the 46th session of UNSC
- (2) A work plan with timeline should be prepared to implement the decisions of the 46th session of UNSC
- (3) Specific responsibility should be assigned to BBS wings / projects to implement the decisions
- (4) A monitoring team headed by Secretary SID can be formed to oversee the progress of implementation of the decision
- (5) BBS / SID should explore the feasibility to take new program / project to implement the decisions of UNSC.