Remarks

by

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu
High Representative
and
Under-Secretary-General

Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

side-event on

“Pre-launch of the new PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor”

Monday, 4 March, 13:15-14:30

Conference Room C

50th Session of the UN Statistics Commission
United Nations, New York
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends

Thank you, PARIS21, for inviting me to this important gathering!

Thank you to you the panelists and participants for joining us today at this pre-launch of PARIS21’s new “Statistical Capacity Monitor”.

As you know, I - and that really means OHRLLS - we are a close partner and data champion of PARIS21.

this is an important partnership where all our shared focus is to promote statistical capacity development in a wide group of low income and fragile environments.

it really is about this mantra "that what you can not measure, just does not exist". And we live times where having FACTS just is so critical.

PARIS21 indeed is a key partner in OHRLLS ' efforts to support 91 most vulnerable countries of our shared planet - the Least Developed Countries, the Land-locked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States.

These also happen to be countries are most in need of support in enhancing statistics capacity.

PARIS21 is a key partner in building statistical capacity worldwide.

PARIS 21 as a collaborative effort of several multilateral organizations, bilateral donors and – increasingly - emerging actors is in a unique position to advance capacity and be a repository of this important knowledge.

Lack of data, lack of statistics capacity are still in 2019 a fundamental impediment to designing, measuring and implementing national and global development agendas.

Statistical capacity is of central importance.

Country needs are and always will be different.

However, sharing statistical capacity, sharing experience and knowledge among and across data producing entities will be central to capacity building.
It yields a lot of known benefits to share experience and knowledge on organizational structure, human resources, infrastructure, funding, and the use of administrative data!

On the user side, Member States, the data providers, and the multilateral organizations we all need concrete tools to understand and take stock of existing statistical capacity activities.

Calls for strengthening capacity often overlap with calls for better coordination.

To act on this demand, a comprehensive overview of a country’s level of capacity and challenges is needed.

The *Statistical Capacity Monitor* aims at just doing that.

Just as there is no "one size fits all" there is no one answer to building capacity.

In the past, the international community has focused on improving statistical activities, adhering to international standards or increasing data dissemination.

But we also need to strengthen institutional frameworks and develop the new skills that will be required for the new data ecosystem.

Understanding how these different approaches are intertwined will help us to design better responses and programmes.

We must also take this discussion beyond the data community.

We must much more engage the development community, academia, media and civil society. For this, the data community needs to make its resources available to these other actors.

This must be a shared effort.

In order to have a truly useful tool where different approaches and indicators can be shared and knowledge is built, we need your active involvement and collaboration.

Many PARIS21 partners and friends are already collaborating to make this Platform a useful common tool.
Let us pledge to all working together towards this shared objective.

Let us increase efficiencies at a time where there are competing claims for scarce external resources to support development.

Thank you.

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