Draft Concept Note

Workshop on "Peer Reviews Mechanism for National Statistical Offices in OIC Member Countries"

19-20 December 2017   Ankara, Turkey

1. Background

The Fifth Session of OIC-StatCom, held on 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara-Turkey, expressed the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems to better plan and to coordinate the future strategies of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). The OIC-StatCom requested the OIC-StatCom secretariat to initiate a project entitled "Peer Review for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries (OIC-Peer)." This project aims to facilitate south-south learning in statistical development through a peer review mechanism to enhance the credibility of the National Statistical Systems (NSS), to strengthen the system's capacity to produce high-quality statistics and to reassure stakeholders about the quality of statistics produced by the NSOs and the trustworthiness of the system. Sound high-quality data and statistical analysis play important role for policy-making at national and international level.

In this regard, the Centre has approached Eurostat and Paris21 to collaborate on the project towards establishing a sound mechanism for peer-review, sector reviews, and a self-assessment based on snapshot tool as the possible modalities of the assessment process. Besides, the Centre also invited Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) to take part in the project as they have significant experience with the Peer Review, Light Peer Review and Global Assessment conducted by the EuroStat in 2015, 2011 and 2002, respectively.

Moreover, Expert Group and Roundtable Meetings on 'Peer Reviews for National Statistical Offices in the OIC Member Countries' were organised by the Centre on 3-4 November 2016 in Konya, Republic of Turkey with the objectives to introduce the Peer Reviews mechanisms in the world including the methodology of different methods, to receive recommendations and inputs on the OIC-Peer project, and to discuss the way forward.

Following-up the meetings, the Centre prepared the OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) together with the partners including Eurostat, Paris21, and Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and circulated the OPRIS to the NSOs of OIC member countries on 10 January 2017. According to the survey results, there is a need to hold a workshop on OIC-Peer to better understand the peer review mechanism and to learn more about the benefits and challenges of the peer review for OIC member countries.

2. Some Samples of Statistical System Peer Reviews

There are some samples of Statistical System Peer Reviews in the world, namely:

1. **Peer Reviews (PR) by Eurostat**

   The Peer Review is based on the structure and procedures of the ESS (European Statistical System) peer reviews and is designed for candidate countries and countries with a developed statistical system. The objectives of these reviews are, in particular, to assess compliance of the reviewed National Statistical Institute (NSI) with principles 1-6 and 15 of the European Statistics Code of Practices, to evaluate the coordination role of the NSI within the statistical system, to highlight transferable practices suitable to foster compliance with the Code of Practice and to recommend improvement actions needed in view of fully complying with the Code.

2. **Global Assessments (GA) by Eurostat together with UNECE and EFTA**

   The Global Assessments are based on traditional global reviews of statistical systems suitable for countries aiming at aligning their statistical production with European/international standards. The objectives of GAs are to assess the administrative and technical capacity of the reviewed statistical systems, to assess the statistical law and other legal acts and its respect of the European and international recommendations and principles, to assess the mechanisms used by the National Statistical Institute to coordinate the statistical system, to review the medium and long-term planning mechanisms in place, to propose a list of actions to be undertaken in order to improve and strengthen the statistical system, and to assess the statistical production against the European/international standards in statistics.

3. **Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems implemented by Paris21**

   The African peer review of NSSs was launched by the Economic Commission for Africa's Committee on Development Information (CODI) meeting in 2003. CODI recommended that African countries, supported by PARIS21, carry out peer reviews to ensure that good practice passes from country to country, based on the firsthand experience of peers, to help accelerate the change processes in reforming statistical systems. The focus of this peer reviews is on governance of the National Statistical System (NSS), its organisation, strategic planning, service to users, funding, and sustainability. Peer review teams typically include both senior statisticians (normally the head or deputy head of the NSS) and senior policy makers from two other countries.

3. OIC Member Countries Experienced in Peer Review Mechanisms (PRs)

There are 18 OIC countries which have been reviewed in coordination with international organisations such as Eurostat, Paris21, UNECE, and EFTA. Additionally, 14 OIC countries have involved in M&E mechanisms through being in the review team. Hence, in total 24 OIC countries have experiences in peer review processes either as the reviewed country or as the reviewer.

No	Country	Year of Review	Peer Review Coordination	Reviewed By	Type of Review
1	*Albania*	2015, 2013, 2010	Eurostat		Limited Peer Review, Light Peer Review, Adapted Global Assessment
2	*Azerbaijan*	2010, 2016/2017	Eurostat, EFTA, UNECE		Adapted Global Assessment, Global Assessment
3	*Benin*	2010	Paris21	Burundi and *Guinea*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
4	*Burkina Faso*	2009	Paris21	*Cameroon* and *Niger*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
5	Cambodia	2016	Paris21	*Indonesia,* Philippines and ASEAN Secretariat	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
6	Congo	2010	Paris21	*Benin* and Democratic Republic of the Congo	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
7	*Cameroon*	2015	Paris21	*Chad* and *Senegal*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
8	*Cote d'Ivoire*	2017	Paris21	*Cameroon* and *Senegal*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
9	*Egypt*	2014	Eurostat		Sector Review of the Implementation of the Labour Force Survey
10	*Jordan*	2014, 2017	Eurostat		Sector Review of the Implementation of the Labour Force Survey, Peer Review
11	*Kazakhstan*	2008, 2017	Eurostat, UNECE, UNESCAP		Adapted Global Assessment, Second Global Assessment
12	*Kyrgyzstan*	2011	Eurostat, EFTA, UNECE		Adapted Global Assessment

13	Malawi	2009	Paris21	*Mozambique* and Tanzania	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
14	*Mauritania*	2014	Paris21	*Djibouti* and *Mali*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
15	*Mozambique*	2009	Paris21	Malawi and Tanzania	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
16	Myanmar	2016	Paris21	*Malaysia*, Philippines and ASEAN Secretariat	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
17	*Niger*	2009	Paris21	*Burkina Faso* and *Mauritania*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
18	*Palestine*	2012	Eurostat		Light Peer Review
19	*Senegal*	2011	Paris21	*Cote d'Ivoire* and *Guinea*	Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Systems
20	*Tajikistan*	2013	Eurostat, EFTA, UNECE		Adapted Global Assessment
21	*Tunisia*	2014, 2015	Eurostat		Adapted Global Assessment, Sector Review of the Implementation of the Labour Force Survey
22	*Turkey*	2015, 2011, 2002	Eurostat		Peer Review, Light Peer Review, Global Assessment

4. Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of NSSs of OIC Member Countries to produce high-quality statistics.

- To reassure stakeholders about the quality of data that the NSS produces and the trustworthiness of the NSS.

- To encourage OIC Member Countries to benefit from the Peer Review mechanism to objectively learn the strengths (including the identification of innovative practices) and weaknesses of their NSOs and to get effective recommendations to improve their systems.

- To provide information on the peer review mechanism including preparatory materials that countries need to prepare before the conduct of peer review.

- To share experiences by the countries who have involved in any type of peer review mechanisms.

5. Expected Results

- The quality of statistics produced by the NSOs will be assured.

- The coordination role of the NSOs within the NSS will be identified.

- Recommendation for improvements of the NSOs in view of fully complying with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics will be pinpointed.

- Underlying criteria/benchmarks (or in another word a methodology/mechanism to conduct peer review for the NSOs of OIC member countries) will be identified.

- Awareness of the importance of peer review in order to improve NSSs of OIC ountries will be increased.

6. Target Group

The National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC member countries, international agencies including Eurostat, Paris21, African Union Commission, African Development Bank, AFRISTAT, GCCSTAT, UNECA, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, UNSD, etc.

7. Activities Conducted and To Be Carried Out

- **Activity 1 – Organisation of Expert Group and Roundtable Meetings (EGM and RM)**. The meetings were held on 3-4 November 2016 attended by EuroStat and the delegates from 14 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC member countries, namely Azerbaijan, Albania, Benin, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uganda. Paris21 also attended the meeting virtually. The meeting had the objectives to introduce the Peer Reviews mechanisms in the world including the methodology of different methods, to receive recommendations and inputs on the OIC-Peer project, and to discuss the way forward.

- **Activity 2 – OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) Design and Circulation**: Questionnaire on the current situation about the implementation of Peer Reviews in the OIC Member Countries. The questionnaires were designed and circulated in three official languages of the OIC on 10 January 2017.

- **Activity 3 – Collection and Collation of OPRIS:** to collect and collate the questionnaire responses. As of 1 August 2017, 31 responses were received (23 of them were completed while 8 of them still have missing information in the OPRIS part).

- **Activity 4 – Organisation of Virtual Meetings**. The meetings had been conducted since 2016 with the participation of Eurostat, Paris21 and TurkStat. Last virtual meeting was held

on 18 October 2017 with the aim to finalise the draft concept note and agenda for the OIC-Peer Workshop to be held on 19-20 December 2017.

- **Activity 5 – Organisation of Workshop**: to provide information on the peer review mechanism and methodology including preparatory materials that need to be prepared by the countries before conducting peer review. This workshop also give a chance to the countries to voluntary engage in the Peer Review process. Plan to be conducted on 19-20 December 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

- **Future Activity – Organisation of Peer Reviews and Peer Review Missions to the Selected Pilot Study Countries.**

8. Work Plan

No	Activity	2016		2017											
		Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Organisation of Expert Group and Roundtable Meetings (EGM and RM)	X													
2	OIC-Peer Review Inclination Survey (OPRIS) Design and Circulation		X	X											
3	Collection and Collation of OPRIS				X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
4	Organisation of Virtual Meetings											X	X	X	
5	Organisation of Workshop												X	X	X