PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A. Introduction/background

1. The Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (‘the Partnership’) was established during the First Meeting of Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific on 14 December 2010¹ as an informal forum for statistical development, enabling improved, combined impact of programmes and activities by international development Partners through enhanced coordination, synergy and complementarity.

B. Objective & goal of the partnership

2. The immediate objective of the Partnership is to improve aid effectiveness through inter-agency coordination and cooperation on global, regional, sub-regional and national statistical programmes and projects implemented in Asia and the Pacific region.

3. The overall goal of the partnership is to build enduring statistical capacities of countries in Asia and the Pacific region to produce a range of population, economic, social and environment statistics.

¹ This meeting was organized in response to a decision by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 40th session calling for the ESCAP secretariat to “establish an informal mechanism for donor coordination for statistical development in the region, taking into account existing mechanisms, roles and responsibilities”. The report of the meeting and the TOR of the Partnership are available at: http://www.unescap.org/stat/partnership/index.asp.
C. Strategic areas of work

4. Aligning its work with the priorities set by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics\(^2\), the Partnership at its first meeting identified the following 6 strategic areas of work:

- **Advocacy**: The importance of engaging governments across line-ministries and policy-makers to highlight the need for investing in statistics was emphasized.

- **Strengthening National Statistics Offices’ role as the leader of National Statistical Systems**: It was recognized that each partner has an important role to play in advocating for better coordination of National Statistical Systems with government officials from their respective counterpart ministries.

- **Modernizing countries’ statistical information systems**: Modernization of statistical information systems was seen as particularly important for increasing the access by users to available data.

- **Coordination in the development of core sets of indicators in the areas of social, economic, environmental and population statistics**.

- **Promoting the improvement and use of administrative data records for statistical purposes**.

- **Coordination of statistical training in the region**.

D. Proposed implementation strategy

5. Partners emphasize that support to the development of statistics in the region should focus on the combined outcomes to be achieved rather than separate inputs provided by each partner agency. They also recognize that coordination among agencies should be realistic and pragmatic by founding the Partnership on solid and gradually increasing building-blocks.

6. On this basis, it is proposed that the Partnership approaches the above strategic areas of work in phases:

7. **Initial phase**: It is proposed that, during 2011-2012, the partnership focuses on adding value in one or two strategic areas (see the menu of options listed in section E below) and fully operationalizing its information sharing mechanism, PRESS (see the proposal by the Partnership Co-Chairs under agenda item 4). The choice & number of strategic focus area(s) to be addressed during the initial phase will be made on the basis of interest and commitment of time and other resource, as necessary,

forthcoming by Partner agencies. At the end of 2012, the Partnership would assess the effectiveness of its work and on that basis consider future work focus and modalities.

8. **Subsequent phases:** Depending on the assessment of the effectiveness of the first phase, it is proposed that the partnership extend its activities to all of the strategic areas outlined above.

**E. Addressing the strategic areas of work: A menu of options**

9. **Advocacy on the need for investment in statistics:** Development of common advocacy tools, to be applied by all Partners during implementation of relevant programmes vis-à-vis project partners, intermediaries and beneficiaries from agencies that are using statistics for decision-making and/or are (potential) sources of investment in statistics.

10. **Advocacy on the need to strengthening National Statistics Offices’ role as the leader of National Statistical Systems:** Development of common advocacy tools, to be applied by all Partners during implementation of relevant programmes vis-à-vis project partners, intermediaries and beneficiaries from national statistical systems, governments or other relevant institutions.

11. **Coordination in the development of core sets of indicators in the areas of social, economic, environmental and population statistics:** To align the work of the Partnership with country priorities and with the work of the Committee on Statistics, it is proposed that Partnership agencies engage or keep abreast with the ongoing efforts to develop a core set of indicators in the area of social statistics, in the context of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics that works under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics.

12. On economic statistics, it is proposed that Partnership agencies use the core set of economic statistics developed by the Committee on Statistics and endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its 68th session (in 2011) to guide the focus of their capacity development efforts at national level. It is further proposed that Partners with relevant programmes engage in the formulation and implementation of the regional implementation plan for economic statistics, which is under development by the Steering Group on Economic Statistics, established under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics and co-chaired by Australia and the Philippines.

13. **Modernizing countries’ statistical information systems:** At a recent meeting of selected experts from national statistical offices in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in June 2011, participants sent a message to heads of national statistical systems to prioritize the modernization of statistical information systems as essential for meeting present and future needs for official statistics, and necessary for
achieving development outcomes. The experts also emphasized the need for regional cooperation on this issue, and, considering work that is already taking place in other regions of the world, called for an in-depth analysis of issues that are specific to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is proposed that the Partnership commissions a study as called for by the expert group meeting.

14. Promotion of the improvement and use of administrative data records for statistical purposes: It is proposed that the Partnership develops a framework for documentation of good practices, to be used as a knowledge source in the formulation and implementation of statistical capacity projects and programmes by Partner agencies.

15. Coordination of statistical training in the region: To align the work of the Partnership with country priorities and with the work of the Committee on Statistics, it is proposed that Partnership agencies, as appropriate, engage or keep abreast with the efforts of the Working Group on Statistical Training, working under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics and chaired by India.