



Statistics Botswana

Private Bag 0024, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: (267) 367 1300. Fax: (267) 395 2201

PRESS BRIEFING ON THE 47TH UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION

March 22 2016

Statement by STATISTICIAN GENERAL

1. The purpose of this press briefing is to share and disseminate information regarding the just ended 47th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held during the period of March 4 – 11, 2016 in New York - USA
2. *This year's commission was held under the theme '**Better Data, Better Lives**'. You will recall that this is the same theme that was used for the October 2015 World Statistics Day celebrations and this demonstrates the linkages between the provision of quality data and improvement to people's lives.*
3. *The objective of the meetings was to deliberate on different statistics related issues in support of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the methodologies, standards and classifications, guide on addressing new emerging issues that need to be explored and improved. The Commission also addresses issues of appropriate Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) indicators to respond and monitor performance of different countries and come up with responsive strategies to address areas of interest. Issues around resourcing and capacity building were also at the forefront of the commission.*
4. Botswana was represented by members of our UN Representative Office personnel in NY led by Mr C Ntwaagae and Statistics Botswana Officials:- Board Chairperson, Mr Letsema Motsemme; Statistician General, Ms Anna Majelantle and Deputy Statistician General Mr Burton Mguni.
5. *Statistics Botswana has participated in these meetings for a long time, in fact even before the transformation from Government. Participation was not only through attendance but at different levels. Botswana Chaired the UN Statistical Commission for two consecutive years, in 1990 and 1991. In addition, Botswana was also appointed as Vice Chairperson in 2010, Rapporteur for the Commission for a two year period in 2011 and 2012, assigned to different expert groups like the SDGs Inter Agency Expert Group (SDGs-IEAG) representing the Middle and Southern Africa Region to deal with indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, National Accounts, Environment and Disability Expert groups to mention but a few.*

6. *The benefits of attending these meetings is that the office will participate in framework development processes and be abreast with new initiatives, revisions to methodologies, classifications, standards and new areas that are being explored towards statistical development as well as across the spectrum for which statistics is instrumental.*
7. *There is also an opportunity for Countries to show case their national statistical activities in the UN premises for the appreciation and information sharing with other. In the just ended meetings, Statistics Botswana showcased some of the events that were part of our October World Statistics Celebrations agenda through display of videos for the launch of the Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the Statistics Botswana Corporate Strategy as well as the Data Portals. This was a major achievement as countries are encouraged to design strategies towards statistical development as implementation of past Commission Resolution. Participants really appreciated our efforts and some have indicated their intention to benchmark us.*
8. *African countries, through the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa held a consultative meeting-in January 2016 prior to the UNSC to agree on a common position relating to the 14 agenda items that were to be tabled at the 47th session of the UNSC in March. Botswana and Tanzania were assigned to comment on the proposed SDG indicators and indeed did so at the UNSC session.*
9. The 47th Session of Statistical Commission discussed many statistical aspects covering demographic, socio-economic and environment statistics. These included for example, the coordination and capacity building in statistics for the 2030 Sustainable development Agenda; Refugees, Climate change statistics; international statistical classifications; Big Data for official statistics, ICT statistics, Industrial, Environmental-economic accounting, governance statistics and many other topics.
10. *A number of sector statistics resolutions were made by the Commission and these covered a wide range of issues, e.g. Transformative Agenda, Classifications, etc. A number of sector statistics papers discussed during the Commission are available on the UNSD website and will give more detailed background on the agenda of the 47th Session of the Commission.*
11. Major resolutions were :-
 - I. Adoption of the list of global indicators for SDGs.
 - II. To request for support the Statistical Commission in the coordination of substantive and technical work to develop international statistical standards, methods and guidelines necessary to fully implement the list of global indicators to follow up and review the SDGs and targets.
 - III. Urged Countries, the UNFPA, UNSD, Development Partners and Regional Agencies to step up their support for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity building, particularly in developing countries or in areas where quality, accessibility, timely and reliable disaggregated data and geospatial information to follow up and review the SDG are not sufficiently available.

- IV. Called for collaboration and between National Statistical Systems and Development Partners in the collection, harmonisation and dissemination on data and statistics on the global set of indicators to follow up and review SDGs.
- V. Countries were urged to improve data disaggregation by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location or other characteristics.
- VI. The UN High-Level Political forum on SDGs will oversee the national and thematic reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.