



5th Meeting of Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC)

**17-18 October 2012,
Noumea, New Caledonia**

*Monitoring implementation of the Ten Year Pacific
Statistics Strategy 2011-2020*

Final Report
(19 December 2012)

5th Meeting of Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC)

17-18 October 2012,
Noumea, New Caledonia

1. The Chair welcomed members of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) to its fifth meeting.
2. The Chair introduced Len Cook to the meeting as a friend and mentor to the PSSC Chair and Co-Chairs.
3. An apology was received from the Co-Chair, delegate from Nauru, who could not attend due to flight rescheduling.

Agenda 1: Report by PSSC Secretariat and members on recommended action points from 4th PSSC meeting, 25 – 26 April 2012

4. The SDP Manager provided an update on Action Points from PSSC-4 (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 1 paper*). PSSC discussed the following key points:
5. Action point 1.1 – Tables listing regional training and meeting activities, and PICTs major statistical collections 2012-2020 have been added to the PRISM website. PFTAC, ABS, AusAID and other international development partners are asked to provide information on upcoming events to SDP. The calendars should be used by development partners to better plan and coordinate activities in countries.
6. It was suggested that PSSC review the training calendar at each meeting to ensure a balance of regional/sub-regional activities (workshops) with country-specific activities to build national capacity, including on-the-job-training through side-by-side technical collaboration. NSOs are encouraged to coordinate training around major statistical events which allows for immediate application of newly acquired skills.

Action Point 1.1: SPC to provide partners with a direct link in to the calendar in order to update activities on a regular basis. Add 'partner' or 'collaboration agency' to Host column on the table.

7. Action Point 6.1 – SDP suggested that the peer review of the new Pacific HIES methodology be conducted after completion of current HIES round (Solomon Islands, Nauru) when key facts and figures are available, and the TWG is able to present its findings.
8. Action point 6.2 – Following discussions with ADB, some funds from the ADB contribution to the 2012-2013 Regional household survey programme will be allocated to the 2013 FSM HIES.

9. Action Point 9.1.1 – PSSC agreed that the ToR for the TYPSS mid –term review include options for a long-term funding mechanism to support the regional Census and household survey program. PSSC noted that Australian and New Zealand statistical agencies need to be involved when planning funding arrangements and technical support of major surveys.
10. PSSC acknowledges the funding challenges faced by NSOs. A regional resourcing mechanism faces complex coordination issues, given different national budgetary systems, and different donor funding processes. At the political level, NSOs can collectively leverage the political support of finance ministers and Forum leaders. A regional funding mechanism will be raised for discussion in the development partner meeting, and donors will endeavor to increase dialogue at a bi-lateral level. Partner will report back to PSSC on progress.

Action Point 1.2: Long-term funding mechanism for the regional Census and household survey program:

- a) *Recommendations be included in the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-tem review,*
 - b) *SDP to develop budget estimate to inform discussion,*
 - c) *Development partners to provide an options paper to PSSC-6*
(Note by Gerald: UN expressed concern that with no “lead agency” identified, this action point “might not go anywhere”. Any volunteers – out of session?)
11. Action Point 9.2 – The TWG developing guidelines for micro-data management have drafted a ToR, which will be shared with PSSC-5 for comment and feedback. The TWG requested copies of the draft policy for Vanuatu, and outcomes of 2010 Census round up, to feed into this guideline. The ABS Micro-data report is available in hard copy.
 12. Action Point 9.4.1 – SDP have a donor and technical partner contact list which will be posted on PRISM. In-country donor coordination regarding statistical activities has been occurring in the Solomon Islands relating to the current HIES, and AusAID will review with other countries the possibility to replicate such an approach.

Action Point 1.3: SDP to post the donor technical partner contact list on PRISM

13. 10.c-1 - SDP confirmed that a PSSC folder will be added to PRISM with restricted access. PSSC reports will be posted there to inform HOPS members on PSSC activities.

Action Point 1.4: SDP to create a PSSC folder on PRISM and post PSSC reports.

Agenda 2: Progress report by PSSC Secretariat on Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities undertaken thus far in 2012

14. The SDP Manager provided an update on the implementation of the Action Plan since PSSC-4 (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 2 paper*).

15. He made special note of excellent collaboration with ABS on the Brisbane Accord Group process.
16. There has been no progress made on the skills audit analysis due to heavy SDP work commitments and delayed activities in countries. A consultant has been identified to progress the skills audit.

Discussion:

17. Len Cook noted that PSSC activities have achieved significant impact in areas of statistical improvements, but have not made strong headway on broader statistical system transformation and regional solutions to national statistical systems. PSSC suggested that the committee's reporting format and information management be reviewed in the dashboard development and mid-term review process.

Action Point 2.1: PSSC reporting format be reviewed during dashboard development In the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-term review process.

18. The ADB, as the representative of multilateral constituents, can take up PSSC issues with other international agencies. For example the World Bank involvement in the Solomons.
19. Members discussed the current state of statistical strategic planning, including the development of *National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)* in the region, and requested SDP-SPC to provide such information on the PRISM website.

Action Point 2.2: SDP to inform PSSC members when such information is included on PRISM.

20. Members discussed the need for a PSSC leadership on developing administrative databases. Poor quality administrative records may be a reflection of an NSO rather than an NSDS focus in some countries. Change requires work in the broader political environment. It was noted that support for administrative databases has been factored into the TYPSS Action Plan and results are being seen. The mid-term review will provide an opportunity to assess these priorities. Statistics New Zealand and ABS to provide a paper on general lessons and process with options for discussion to be circulated before PSSC.

Action Point 2.3: Statistics NZ and ABS in joint collaboration with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, to provide a discussion paper on administrative databases, to be circulated before PSSC-6, to include:

- a. *Identifying the range of systemic issues that need to be covered and common legislative language,*
- b. *Strategies and mechanisms to track national progress and thereby direct PSSC Strategic directions,*
- c. *Best practice options from the Samoa experience.*

21. SDP informed PSSC about a gradual increase in demands from some countries for it to undertake very basic census and survey activities, including the production of simple outputs such as standard census tables, the Cook & Paunga report regarded as core activities of statistical agencies. While it is acknowledged that skilled staffing issues must be addressed, SDP producing such basic NSO outputs is contrary to capacity building and is unsustainable. South-south cooperation was suggested as a solution, but regional assistance can only be stretched so far, with south-south assistance not to be used in countries which can perfectly undertake such tasks themselves.
22. NSOs expressed concern regarding timely availability of adequate support for valid country technical needs. The ABS confirmed willingness to provide assistance with economic and social statistics, however this support is constrained by budgets and availability of people.
23. PSSC noted that there are many and varied resources available to NSOs beyond TA. Planning, coordination and communication is key to managing SDP, partner agency and south-south support. Countries must clearly identify where additional assistance is required that cannot be met by current TYPSS resources and through agreed-upon activities. National Strategies for the development of Statistics and associated road maps are critical for NSOs to assess their systems and to allay the feeling of uncertainty.
24. PSSC agreed that a strategic discussion on regional training should be a standing agenda item for each PSSC meeting. Larger countries' NSOs facing serious systemic challenges such as PNG and the Solomon Islands, may be better assisted by long-term and very focused bilateral/multi-lateral TA support relative to more targeted ad hoc support by regional technical partners, like SPC and PFTAC. Under TYPSS, SDP will continue to provide middle-sized NSOs with capacity development and technical collaboration. For smaller NSOs, SDP will focus on supplying technical input and building capacity around the five core functions identified in the Ten-Year Strategy, on focus on capacity supplementation with more specialized statistical applications.
25. The mid-term review is an opportunity to assess and revise the approach, to better coordinate support to countries.

Agenda 3: Report by PSSC members (NSO and agency members) on Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities undertaken thus far by them, including provision of summary preview of key activities planned until PSSC-6 meeting in April 2013

FSM - Representing Northern Pacific countries

26. FSM provided a report of activities for the Northern Pacific against objectives spelled out in the Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1 (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 3 presentation*).

27. FSM called for a workshop focusing on communicating statistics and influencing decision makers. PSSC noted that development of a one-page DHS flier is an excellent example of how to raise public awareness, as is coordination with other public offices that are regularly communicating information to the public. Members discussed the different workshops and training programs available for statisticians on communicating to different user groups. Soft skills require a continuous learning effort which may not be adequately addressed by one training intervention.
28. PSSC confirmed that the NSO budget issue in Palau may not be totally resolved given they are moving into an election.

Samoa

29. The Samoa Census has been completed and the analytical report will be launched on the 26th October. The Samoa Bureau of Statistics will provide a two hour seminar to Parliament. The ISP is at its half-way point. Training programs will be provided by the ISP team to all NSO staff and other organizations producing statistics.

Vanuatu

30. The Vanuatu NSO is currently focusing on a review of government strategic and business plans, and national indicators. An NSDS roadmap and draft budget has been developed, and is under review by Paris21. Some capacity challenges remain. Its national accounts have just been released, and with further training, this initiative should become sustainable.

Tuvalu

31. The Tuvalu Census will be conducted in November 2012, and the member from Tuvalu thanked development partners for their assistance. Production of economic statistics in Tuvalu will require ongoing technical support. PRISM training was successful and Tuvalu will provide NMDI data to SDP. Tuvalu plans to increase focus on civil registration and vital statistics, specifically creating a population register. Technical assistance with this initiative is requested.

AusAID

32. PSSC discussed the Australian government's \$320 million Pacific Gender Initiative. This program will be built on relevant, quality statistics and country ownership.
33. SDP noted that the Pacific Gender Initiative will increase demand for gender statistics, which are not currently well documented.
34. AusAID also noted challenges and weaknesses with the EMIS program. AusAID currently invests in EMIS systems and is considering a dedicated resourcing system, operating on a regional, sub-regional and bilateral basis.

ADB

35. The ADB is currently supporting a DHS in Tonga and a HIES each in FSM and Nauru. ADB will continue to build exchange arrangements and funding support for south-south cooperation activities. ADB has secured support for participation in PSSC and TYPSS, however future support for surveys is not currently in the funding pipeline.

USP

36. The USP official statistics program has been running for the last two years with UNFPA funding. Re-structuring of the program is on course for completion in early 2013. A consultant will build a program matrix which will link to SPCs information for the region. USP suggested a deeper collaboration with SPC for training on Census and surveys.

37. PSSC noted that the northern Pacific states who are not members of USP are not able to take up this training.

UN

38. UN reporting has changed with addition of an overview of the activities undertaken in the six months between PSSC meetings. Not all UN agencies provided information, so this is a limited overview only (tabled by UNFPA, as current Chair of UNDAF). The production of thematic monographs is partially completed or planned for almost all countries where a Census has been recently completed.

39. Family Health and Safety Studies (WHO methodology) are progressing in five PICs with national task forces. The surveys will not pose a significant burden on NSOs, but impact will vary between countries. SDP is able to assist by providing data from recent Census.

40. A Mini-DHS will be piloted by UNFPA in the Solomon Islands.

Agenda 4: Report by PFTAC on Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities undertaken thus far by them, including summary preview of activities planned until PSSC-6 meeting in April 2013

41. IMF and PFTAC are now better resourced, with two full time national accounts staff. The IMF statistics department has GFS and BOP projects. PFTAC and PSSC must ensure maximum use is made of these resources. Now that more is known about the quality of CPI statistics, relevant agencies can better plan sustainable interventions. A National Accounts workshop is planned for March or April next year. PFTAC will collaborate with SPC for best impact across sectors and topics. BOP projects will be initiated with a workshop in Nadi on the 14th - 16th November, but this is open to IMF fund members only (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 4 paper*).

Action Point 4.1: CPI technical agencies to better coordinate regional approach to workshops on price statistics.

Agenda 5: Report by ABS on tripartite ABS-AusAID-SPC project activities undertaken in 2011-12, including summary preview of activities planned until PSSC-5 meeting in October 2012

42. The ABS represents the Pacific on international standard setting bodies, G20 data gaps initiatives SDDS+ etc. Therefore PSSC members are encouraged to advise the ABS of their comments, concerns and issues relating to small islands states. Similarly, PSSC members can engage with the ESCAP group through Pacific representatives.
43. The ICP is up and running, though momentum needs to be maintained.
44. FSM noted that the ICP has been a rewarding program in a way that it will improve CPI collection but also a challenging one especially in trying to price similar goods in all the Pacific island countries given the different goods imported and produced in the islands. These concerns can be represented by the ABS. FSM looks forward to seeing the analysis and outcomes of the ICP Program.
45. Tripartite assistance in areas of leadership and mentoring programs were discussed. The ABS supports countries to engage stakeholders, linking to the NSDS process. The 2013 Bilateral program activities will have a collaboration agenda, and the ABS Corporate Plan is focusing on statistics capacity building in the Asia Pacific region. The ABS National Statistics Conference will be held in March 2013, and members are welcome to attend, with the possibility of a back-to-back PSSC meeting. However the PSSC meeting is more likely to be in April due to the availability of the review report.
46. The ABS mentoring program is a new initiative, planned to expand to other countries. Roll-out will be based on readiness/demand of the NSO, outcomes of an evaluation held in June 2013, and further funding. It was noted that a mentoring program should be flexible and tailored to needs and environment. (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 5 executive summary plus paper*).

Action Point 5.1 – ABS to share the mentoring program design document with PSSC members.

Agenda 6: Progress Report by SPC on Pacific Plan Strategic Objective 12.4 associated activities

National Minimum Development Indicator Dataset:

47. The new NMDI format will go live prior to CRGA. PSSC noted the importance of national administrative databases for sustainability of the NMDI.

NSDS development

48. Samoa has release their strategy, PNG has appointed a coordinator and the roadmap has been approved. Two countries are on track, Solomon Islands has stalled and Fiji will defer the process due to political concerns. FSM expressed interest in NSDS development.

Action Point 6.1: SDP will send out an email when NMDI go live and when new versions of PRISM are rolled out

49. SDP informed PSSC about current challenges facing Paris21, with what looks like a sizeable staff turnover. Finalization of the NSDS roadmaps will therefore be accelerated as much as possible.

HIES Technical working group

50. The HIES TWG has completed a workshop on standardization of the HIES questionnaire for the region, and the development of a common methodology is “work-in-progress”. Poverty analysis work has been delayed until technical expertise becomes available. Two countries have thus far adopted the new standardized methodology, and four countries are due to commence field work in 2013. Work remains to refine the questionnaire; clarify outputs (requiring some more work on national accounts and balance of payments); and finalize development of a standard data processing system, which includes more data edit checks, including a functionality that will allow regular production of summary reports for field-supervisors on data quality issues, such as a summary table alerting them to “diary fatigue”.
51. A Pacific COICOP has been developed, and survey forms aligned with international design. Most countries are adopting a twelve month field work approach. Work is still required to:
- a. refine poverty analysis,
 - b. develop a sound series of outputs for a data processing system,
 - c. edit procedure manuals and training materials
 - d. define key concepts to better identify priority outputs from standard HIES to match with user requirements.
52. Lack of appropriate supervision of fieldwork by NSO staff, and over-size and complex survey designs posing a burden to households remain two key areas of concern.
53. The USP PSSC representative has offered his own technical expertise in poverty analysis to the TWG, and ADB also informed PSSC about the availability of a World Bank East Asia and Pacific poverty expert.
54. ADB technical assistance to the HIES TWG has been valuable, with ABS informing PSSC that knowledge management expertise is available from the ABS and Statistics New Zealand if it were required.

55. The ADB representative requested a review of those aspects of the new regional HIES questionnaire which are *not* adopted by all the countries.
56. With a new focus on the Pacific Gender Initiative, AusAID suggested the TWG also include some expertise on Gender issues.

Action point 6.2: The TWG is asked to document what can be referred to as core HIES modules/questions to be adopted by all countries, to help address the issue of comparability of data outputs and collection systems advocated by Pacific Leaders in the Pacific Plan.

Agenda 7: Discussion on recent MDG Tracking report

57. The Pacific MDG Tracking Report is a key deliverable of the Cairns Compact. 2012 is the third annual report managed by PIFS and supported by a TWG, and focuses on Poverty. The report uses national data where possible, so the report can be used as an advocacy tool for NSOs. Media interest has already developed in Fiji. NSOs must engage with other stakeholders in order to collect data to track progress on MDGs.
58. Report preparation could be strengthened to encourage regional ownership. SDP suggested bringing the process forward three to four months, and to include a consultation process with senior Pacific Directors of National planning and Statistical agencies to both validate the data and improve national buy-in.

Agenda 8: Report by PSSC Secretariat and PSSC member on recent regional/international statistical meetings attended

59. SDP is currently working with a group of experts convened by the UN Small Islands Developing States unit States harmonizing the Mauritius +15 indicators with RIo + 20 SDGs, and help establish a set of baseline statistics.
60. The Third ESCAP Committee of Statistics meeting (12 – 14 Dec) will be attended by various Pacific Representatives. This meeting will be preceded by a High-Level meeting on the improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. PSSC has been asked to make an intervention to ensure the Pacific strategy and governance mechanisms is recognized and integrated in the Asia-Pacific approach.
61. The Pacific is being represented by Samoa (SBS) and SPC on the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to implement the global strategy on improving agriculture and rural statistics.
62. SDP provided an update on the post-2015 MDG consultation. Harmonization with SDGs, the move to localization or maintain a single set of development indicators and attempts to

have greater ownership and commitment by counties are being considered. PSSC can support the NSOs to prepare for this process. PSSC noted with concern that statisticians were not involved in development of the original MDG indicators, however a Inter-agency Expert Group on MDG indicators convened by the United Nations Statistics Division is involved in the development of baseline statistics and indicators for MDG+15, convening in New York in February 2013 in the margins of the United Nations Statistical Commission meeting.

Agenda 9: Update by PSSC members on pipeline sources of funding, to ensure adequate resources

63. PSSC noted that:

- a. FSM acknowledgement to SDP and ADB for meeting the shortfall in the HIES. SDP congratulated Nauru and FSM NSO for encouraging their respective Governments to fund part of the activities.
- b. ADB-SPC-UNFPA are funding the DHS currently undertaken in Tonga, and will also provide support to the DHS in Vanuatu next year.
- c. UNFPA's five-year multi-country program begins in 2013. The strategy includes support to vital statistics and administrative systems, implemented through the Brisbane Accord Group, coordinating with WHO and UNICEF and University of Queensland to achieve good quality outputs.
- d. SDP noted that under TYPSS, major surveys are to be phased down to ten year intervals as administrative databases are strengthened.
- e. UNFPA support of population registers, for example in Tuvalu, fits well with the UNFPA strategy. It will use the recent population census as its baseline data source. Island population profiles are another key validation project supported by UNDP. These conclude in 2013 and UNFPA would like to see that continued with UNFPA or UNDP funding. It was noted that cultural and religious views need to be considered at the beginning of the population register development process.
- f. AusAID 2012 support financial support to SPC amounts to \$2.75m , with a further \$1m allocated to the ABS and \$300,000 to PARIS21. AusAID is willing to consider funding the program moving forward on a four year basis, and aligning this with planning for the second TYPSS Phase.
- g. Donor coordination is crucial to manage the regional program with bi-lateral support.
- h. The ADB current financial commitment to TYPSS is US\$1m with no future pipeline funding for 2014-15. There is currently a limit to TA support.
- i. NZAID recommitted to provide funding to some SPC programs/divisions, with SDP receiving a much appreciated NZ \$ 300,000 in 2013.
- j. Recommendations of the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-term review will be valuable in determining the scope of future funding support.

Agenda 10: Other Business

Agenda 10.1: Proposed presentation by PSSC Chair to ESCAP Committee on Statistics, on behalf of the *Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) on Vital Statistics and Civil Registration* on progress of implementing the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014.

64. The SDP vital statistics adviser made a report on progress implementing the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 10-B paper*).
65. The ESCAP regional plan to improve vital statistics will be a parallel activity to the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011 – 2014, with reporting frameworks closely aligned. PSSC has been requested to make a presentation to the 3rd meeting of the ESCAP Committee of Statistics on ongoing vital statistics and civil registration activities in the Pacific. The draft report to be presented at the meeting was approved in principle by PSSC.
66. Responding to questions on BAG membership, SDP-SPC, as one of the two BAG co-facilitators explained that membership [currently limited to agencies who have an active stake in the collection of vital statistics and civil registration at large, and who provide financial and technical assistance to associated activities in the Pacific island region. BAG works closely with other stakeholders, and membership maybe expanded in the future.
67. USP expressed interest in becoming a member of BAG in the future, given the work of its demography and GIS departments for analysis of vital statistics.
68. Rollout to group four countries is scheduled for 2013, with UNICEF and EU support critical to develop sustainable national systems.
69. While the ESCAP Asia-Pacific Plan and support mechanism will apply to all countries, the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011 – 2014 will be the engagement mechanism for the Pacific island region. There will not be duplicate governance processes.

Agenda 10.2: Friend of the Chair Observation

70. Len Cook provided a brief assessment of TYPSS implementation. The original plan underestimated the importance of statisticians meeting to discuss operational issues inherent in statistical systems. Broader statistical transformation and infrastructure, and development of leadership has not occurred. He suggested a new PSSC reporting and meeting arrangement template which focuses and balances priorities according to the plan.

Action Point 10.2.1: Friend of Chair observations to be provided to PSSC, and to the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-term review team as a report

71. PSSC noted that Phase 1 of TYPSS specifically focused on operational issues to address key data gaps pertaining to economic, vital and social statistics (notably education and health), before broader strategic concerns can be addressed. SPC reminded PSSC that this was not accidental, as it was the benchmarking study and ensuing Cook & Paunga report which highlighted the need to address data gaps, and data quality and timeliness issues in specific sectors first, before moving on to broader strategic and systemic concerns. Having said, the mid-term review provides an excellent opportunity to re-assess TYPSS strategic priorities.
72. PSSC must track progress towards delivering the outputs of the strategy, while also acting as a forum for NSOs to share common concerns.

Agenda 10.3: Draft ToR for mid-term review of Pacific Statistics Action Plan Phase 1, 2011 – 2014

73. A first draft TOR was prepared by AusAID and SPC for consideration by PSSC-5 (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 10-C paper*). With most PSSC members requesting more time to review and comment on the TORs, the chair requested feedback to be sent to AusAID by the end of October, to allow for the review to take place in around February/March, in order for initial findings to be discussed at PSSC-6, prior to a more formal review by the 4th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics, scheduled for mid 2013.
74. PSSC suggests that the mid-term review:
 - a. assess PSSC TOR and meeting modalities, and undertake interviews with PSSC members so that the PSSC process can be strengthened.
 - b. Address efficiency and effectiveness of statistical governance and how PSSC deals and manages this within the NSO.
 - c. Review the value of PSSC activities that have developed outside of the original mandate.
 - d. Address structural mandate and oversight issues which will assist PSSC to engage with, and provide feedback to its constituents.
 - e. Re-prioritize national strategies for statistics in the TYPSS [HELP – no idea where that came from and what it means]

Agenda 10.4: Resourcing the Office of the Chair and Co-chairs

75. The Chair proposed a resource budget to facilitate communication between the Chair/Co-chairs and their constituents on PSSC matters.
76. Development partners noted their wish to support the current sub-regional constituency structure under the PSSC mandated functions. They requested a proposal be put forward for consideration if communication cannot be covered by current Secretariat funding, or managed during other regional forums.

77. It was also suggested that more time be allocated at PSSC meetings to support statistical leaders to discuss operational issues.

Action Point 10.4.1: Chair and Co-chairs to provide a proposal for resourcing communication with their constituents

Agenda 10.5: Work by Australian and New Zealand Aid Program and statistics agencies to improve collaboration between the two countries

78. An overarching strategic document will be developed, provide a guideline on development partner collaboration and coordination. Development of a joint strategy will:
- a. Provide an opportunity to look at data sharing and to pool collection systems, for example trade.
 - b. Balance regional versus bilateral work in future program design.
 - c. The document will serve as an internal discussion paper first, which will form the initial ideas on strategic engagement. Content will be directed by the outcomes of the mid-term review.
 - d. Provide Pacific partners with a more efficient avenue to communicate and influence the two donor (AusAID, NZAid) and two technical agencies (ABS, Statistics NZ).
 - e. Complement the commitment to National statistical systems and standardized indicators.
 - f. Provide a set of institutional arrangements that will recognize the roles and contributions of all members of PSSC.
 - g. Support the role of TYPSS while reflecting effectiveness and efficiencies of the partner agencies.

Agenda 10.6: High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific upcoming as well as the ESCAP Committee on Statistics meeting that will be held in Bangkok from 10-11 and 12-14 December, respectively.

79. UN introduced the paper provided by UNESCAP on the improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the ESCAP Committee on Statistics meeting (*PSSC-5 Agenda Item 10-E paper*). This may be used to prepare Pacific representation at the two meetings.

Agenda 10.7: Feedback on ongoing challenges in managing ever growing technical assistance request from some NSOs, including delaying agreed-upon census/surveys which had adverse impacts on SDP work and funding arrangements with development partners

SDP sought PSSC advice on how to resolve the following issues:

80. Increasing demands by NSOs for SDP to provide basic outputs: One of the key features of the TYPSS is the ability of all NSOs to undertake key statistical functions. However some NSOs regularly ask partner agencies to undertake these. PSSC agreed that the role of SDP is to provide technical assistance where required and suggested that:
 - a. HOPS regularly review and communicate to members the role of SPC and NSOs.
 - b. Outcomes of the skills audit identifying NSOs capability be aligned with MOUs.
 - c. SDP decline (with PSSC support) supplementation requests not related to capacity building.
81. Unreasonable delays in agreed survey programs (and associated programming and cost implications). PSSC encourages NSOs to:
 - a. Allow adequate planning and lead in time to fully prepare for surveys, which will alleviate burden on SDP to respond.
 - b. Coordinate NSO staff participation in training and regional activities around significant country events.
82. NSO lack of response to requests for official statistics from international agencies: PSSC suggests:
 - a. PSSC will in future lead communication with NSOs when these requests come in.
 - b. PSSC members who attend international meetings will alert NSOs to upcoming data requirements.
 - c. PSSC to communicate to international agencies that data is available on PRISM and NSO websites.
 - d. Larger NSOs designate a focal point to respond to international agency data requests.

Action Point 10.7.1: PSSC to communicate to NSO members the roles and responsibilities of NSOs and their technical partners, outlined by HOPS and spelled out in activity-specific MOUs.

Agenda 10.8: Discussion on the PSSC Terms of Reference

83. PSSC agreed that the review of the PSSC terms of reference is to be included in the mid-term review (see paragraph 74).

Action Point 10.8.1: A review of the PSSC Terms of Reference will be added to the mid-term review, taking note of issues raised in paragraph 74.

Agenda 10.9: Resourcing South-South Cooperation

84. Chair suggested that NSO staff undertaking South-south cooperation activities be offered an honorarium to recognise their efforts.

Action Point 10.9.1: NSO delegates will formulate a proposal to include review of South-south cooperation mechanism including resourcing, to the mid-term review.

85. HOPS date has been proposed for the last two weeks of July with final dates to be confirmed.
86. PSSC-6 meeting to be held in Vanuatu, pending Vanuatu Government confirmation.

Noumea, 19 December 2012

Annex A:
Summary of recommended action points from 5th PSSC meeting, 17 – 18 October 2012

ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBILITY
<u>Action Point 1.1:</u> SPC to provide partners with a direct link in to the calendar in order to update activities on a regular basis. Add 'partner' or 'collaboration agency' to Host column on the table.	SPC
<u>Action Point 1.2:</u> Long-term funding mechanism for the regional Census and household survey program: a. Recommendations be included in the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-tem review, b. SDP to develop budget estimate to inform discussion, c. Development partners to provide an options paper to PSSC-6 .	AusAID SPC
<u>Action Point 1.3:</u> SDP to post the donor technical partner contact list on PRISM	SPC
<u>Action Point 1.4:</u> SDP to create a PSSC folder on PRISM and post PSSC reports.	SPC
<u>Action Point 2.1:</u> PSSC reporting format be reviewed during dashboard development In the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-term review process.	Review
<u>Action Point 2.2:</u> SDP to inform PSSC members when such information is included on PRISM.	SPC
<u>Action Point 2.3:</u> Statistics NZ and ABS in joint collaboration with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, to provide a discussion paper on administrative databases, to be circulated before PSSC-6, to include: a. Identifying the range of systemic issues that need to be covered and common legislative language, b. Strategies and mechanisms to track national progress and thereby direct PSSC Strategic directions, c. Best practice options from the Samoa experience.	Statistics NZ ABS SBS
<u>Action Point 4.1:</u> CPI technical agencies to better coordinate regional approach to workshops on price statistics.	PFTAC, SPC
<u>Action Point 5.1:</u> ABS to share the mentoring program design document with PSSC members.	ABS
<u>Action Point 6.1:</u> SDP will send out an email when NMDI go live and when new versions of PRISM are rolled out	SPC

Annex A: (continued)

ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBILITY
<i>Action point 6.2: The TWG is asked to document what can be referred to as core HIES modules/questions to be adopted by all countries, to help address the issue of comparability of data outputs and collection systems advocated by Pacific Leaders in the Pacific Plan.</i>	HIES TWG
<i>Action Point 10.2: Friend of Chair observations to be provided to PSSC, and to the TYPSS Phase 1 mid-term review team as a report</i>	Friend of the Chair
<i>Action Point 10.4: Chair and Co-chairs to provide a proposal for resourcing communication with their constituents</i>	PSSC Chair, co-chairs
<i>Action Point 10.7: PSSC to communicate to NSO members the roles and responsibilities of NSOs and their technical partners, outlined by HOPS and spelled out in activity-specific MOUs.</i>	PSSC Chair (when needed)
<i>Action Point 10.8: A review of the PSSC Terms of Reference will be added to the mid-term review, taking note of issues raised in paragraph 74.</i>	AusAID
<i>Action Point 10.9: NSO delegates will formulate a proposal to include review of South-south cooperation mechanism including resourcing, to the mid-term review.</i>	PSSC Chair

Annex B: List of participants

- Chair: Mr. Sefuiva Reupena Muagututi'a, Government Statistician, Samoa
- Vice-chairs: Mr. Simil Johnson, Government Statistician, Vanuatu
Mr. Ipia Gadabu, Government Statistician, Nauru (By teleconference Day 2)
- Members: National Statistics agencies
Mr. Epli Waqavonovono, Acting Government Statistician, Fiji
Mr. Semu Malona, Government Statistician, Tuvalu
Mr. Mathew Chigiya, FSM Government Statistician
- Financial and technical partners
Mr. Anthony Gill, ADB
Ms. Jodie Mc Allistar, AusAID
Mrs. Jessica Ireland, AusAID
Mr. Eduard Jongstra, UNFPA
Mr. Sunil Kumar, USP
- Advisors to PSSC: Mr. Michael Andrews (advisor on macro-economic matters)
Mr. Gregory Legoff (Second PFTAC advisor)
Mr. Michael Davies and Ms Roksana Khan, ABS (AusAID-ABS-SPC tripartite project 2011-2013 in support of TYPSS)
- Secretariat: Mr. Gerald Haberkorn, SPC Statistics for Development Programme
- Rapporteur: Ms. Vicci Lawrence

Annex C: References in report to PSSC-5 papers/presentations (copies of which you have)

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 1:

Report by PSSC Secretariat and members on recommended action points from 4th PSSC meeting, 25 – 26 April 2012

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 2:

Progress report by PSSC Secretariat on *Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan*, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities undertaken thus far in 2012

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 3:

Report by FSM on *Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan*, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 4:

Report by PFTAC on *Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan*, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 5:

Executive Summary and report provided by ABS on *Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan*, Phase 1 (2011-2014) activities.

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 10-B:

Proposed presentation by PSSC Chair to ESCAP Committee on Statistics, on behalf of the *Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) on Vital Statistics and Civil Registration* on progress of implementing the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014.

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 10-C:

Draft ToR for mid-term review of Pacific Statistics Action Plan Phase 1, 2011 – 2014

PSSC-5 Agenda Item 10-E:

Information note on the third-session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics and the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific to be held in Bangkok, 10 – 14 December 2012 (prepared by ESCAP Secretariat, and tabled by UNFPA representative).