Report of the Sub-Regional Workshop on Strengthening Coordination for Measuring Progress on Responsible Consumption and Production and Policy Coherence, East Africa
11-13 January 2022
Venue: MS Teams, VIRTUAL

Background

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development has elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development and how we monitor this dimension. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has implemented Phase I of the project on Enhancing Capacity for Measuring Progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Phase I focused on the methodological development of SDG indicators under UNEP's custodianship and the reclassification of these indicators into Tier II or Tier I. Due to the nature and complexity of some environmental indicators, further capacity building is needed to equip member states with the necessary tools and knowledge to put in place the necessary data collection systems.

UNEP is currently implementing Phase II of the project (2020-2022), funded by the European Commission, that focuses on enhancing national capacities to measure SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production and strengthening policy coherence. One of the project's activities focuses on conducting workshops to enhance the capacities of member states through hosting data producers and users together to emphasize the need for cooperation, as well as improving the understanding of the efforts made to collect data and the need for data for evidence-based policymaking. The Regional Workshop on Strengthening Coordination for Measuring Progress on Responsible Consumption and Production and Policy Coherence serves as one of the tools of development and training capacity under the project's activities.

Day 1, Tuesday 11 January 2022, 10:00 – 13:00 EAT

Session 1: Opening session

Therese El Gemayel, Programme Management Officer, Science Division, UNEP opened the workshop and welcomed the representatives of the various East African countries to the 3-day sub-regional workshop. She then introduced Dr. Ludgarde Coppens and Mr. Charles Sebukeera and invited them to provide their opening remarks. The workshop was attended by more than 13 participants from the following countries (in alphabetical order): Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Sudan. A full list of participants is presented in Annex I.

Ludgarde Coppens, Senior Programme Management Officer, Science Division, UNEP welcomed the participants and focused on how the circular economy concept is gaining prominence in achieving the SDGs and the African Union 2063 Agenda. She highlighted how the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCE) is developing the African Green Stimulus Programme and how SDG 12 on SCP provides an opportunity to rethink how resources are used. She focused on how countries pledged at

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UNEA-4 to scale up efforts in addressing environmental challenges in a balanced and integrated manner through sustainable resource use and management. Her speech also focused on identifying available data, understand measurement gaps, and the importance of developing evidence-based policies and sound policy-based management strategies to advance SCP and waste management. Her remarks were concluded by highlighting the importance of policy coherence to foster synergies and maximize benefits across policy areas.

Charles Sebukeera, Programme Management Officer, Science Division, Africa Office, UNEP welcomed the participants and thanked the organizers for setting up the workshop. He highlighted the importance of the workshop for member states to actively engage with UNEP and collaboratively apply science and data for targeted policy making which he deems critical in the aspect of managing the environment in the area of pollution. He stressed that close collaboration and engagement between the member states by sharing experiences and learning from each other is crucial to integrate science in policy making. He focused on waste management and emphasized the relationship between blue economy and sound waste management as a path to substantially reduce land-based pollution and eventually safeguard marine environments. He concluded his opening remarks by wishing all participants interesting deliberations and reminded participants to actively reach out for assistance if needed.

Therese El Gemayel gave a summary on the European Commission project on Enhancing capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals – Phase II. She explained the objectives, needs and outcomes of the project, as well as activities that were implemented to date and upcoming activities. She also provided an overview on the scope of the project, which has a global, regional covering Africa and Asia, and national scope including six beneficiary countries where activities will be implemented in 2022 (Ghana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda).

Session 2: WASTE SDG INDICATORS: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE

Dany Ghafari, Programme Management Officer, Science Division, UNEP presented the respective internationally adopted methodologies of the seven waste-related SDG Indicators (11.6.1, 12.3.1.a, 12.3.1.b, 12.4.1, 12.4.2, 12.5.1 and 14.1.1.b), including a high-level overview on how to calculate these indicators, their institutional custodian agencies, in addition to the level of data availability.

Therese El Gemayel gave a presentation on the importance of policy instruments and how the seven waste SDG Indicators can be used for evidence-based policies and their contribution to the circular economy approach. The presentation highlighted how sound waste policies contribute to a reduction in natural resource exploitation, waste generation, and pollution concentrations, while improving human health and reducing adaptation costs related to environmental damages, health care, infrastructure, agriculture, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

Q&A Session

A representative from Mauritius outlined the difficulties to obtain the amount of 'total waste generated' and asked how to proceed in this regard. UNEP acknowledged the question by highlighting that the waste sector is complex and collecting data on waste is challenging. UNEP stressed on the different

aspects of waste generated and the different available data. For instance, one can use waste collected, however this does not include waste discarded into the environment. Municipalities usually collaborate with private sector companies to collect and manage waste. Their data is valuable in terms of understanding what is the magnitude of waste collected. By implementing surveys, countries can further determine how much waste is collected vs. how much waste is generated to get an estimate of how much waste is discarded into the environment.

Additionally, participants asked what base year is used for the food loss index indicator and if waste from the manufacturing sector is considered by the indicator. UNEP noted that there is no specific year used as baseline for the food waste and loss index. It rather depends on the data availability for the respective countries. The first year when data is available serves as the base year and progress is measured based on these first data observations. However, the estimated Food waste index uses 2019 as the base year. UNEP also stated that food waste from the manufacturing sector is not included in the index.

Lastly, participants asked about the availability of templates for raw data collection for indicators. UNEP informed participants that, with regards to the Food Waste Index, the questionnaire to collect data will be integrated in the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics Waste section. For SDG indicators 8.4.1/12.2.1 and 8.4.2/12.2.2, UNEP has tools for the collection of mine operators and NSO compilation of metal ores. UNEP also noted that MFA questionnaire is currently being revised and will include additional calculation tool for raw data. After a question from the participants, it was clarified and suggested by UNEP that a constant price year of 2017 is recommended for the SDG indicators.

Session 3: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE

Dany Ghafari presented the twelve SCP SDG indicators (7.3.1, 8.4.1/12.2.1, 8.4.2/12.2.2, 12.1.1, 12.3.1.b, 12.5.1, 12.6.1, 12.7.1, 12.c.1 and 17.7.1). A high-level overview of the internationally adopted methodology and the level of data availability for each indicator was highlighted. He further pointed out that the three main objectives of SCP are to decouple environmental degradation from economic growth, to apply a life-cycle thinking, and to seize opportunities for developing countries.

Therese El Gemayel gave a presentation on the relevance of the twelve SCP SDG indicators to sound policy-making. The presentation highlighted the importance of SCP in transitioning to a circular economy, which aims at keeping products, materials, and resources within the economy for as long as possible. She also provided examples on how these indicators could be used in developing national policies.

Q&A Session

A representative from Mauritius raised the question whether the GDP is based on market or basic prices. UNEP clarified that, for indicator 7.3.1 and for international comparability, GDP is measured at constant prices based on purchasing power parity (GDP PPP).

Session 4: SDG POLICY COHERENCE

Hyun Sung, Programme Management Officer, Law Division, UNEP presented a comprehensive summary on policy coherence in the SDG context. The presentation highlighted the methodology of SDG indicator 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development. She emphasized the importance of institutionalization of political commitment with the aim of ensuring the achievements of the objectives of policy coherence. She presented steps taken by various countries such as Finland, Bangladesh, and Burkina Faso in ensuring proper monitoring, reporting, and financing towards policy coherence.

Day 2, Wednesday 12 January 2022, 10:00 – 13:00 EAT

Session 5: DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS

Llorenc Mila I Canals, Programme Management officer, Life Cycle Initiative, UNEP gave a presentation on the SCP Hotspots Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT) (http://scp-hat.lifecycleinitiative.org/), which is an online tool to provide science-based support on key areas in the economy that are driving unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and therefore generate more impacts (hotspot-areas). The tool is based on a multi-regional input-output model and highlights two perspectives: Domestic production and consumption footprint. It is not targeted at providing reporting but can help setting priorities and can be used to inform in policy areas such as resource efficiency and climate action. The presentation was concluded with a live demonstration of the SCP-HAT selected Kenya as an example to analyze decoupling of the economy from material use.

Q&A Session

A representative from Mauritius inquired how the environmental performance is computed and if it is a composite index of the 7 categories. Llorenc Mila I Canals responded that the underlying data comes from the multi-regional input-output model (Gloria), which combines input-output tables of countries and extrapolates for countries where tables do not exist. The model is then coupled with satellite-accounts.

Sofie Clausen, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, One Planet Network, UNEP presented the SDG 12 Hub (https://sdg12hub.org/), which is a one-stop-shop for progress on SDG 12. It is the result of a UN inter-agency collaboration for more coherence across SDG indicators and aims to raise the profile of SDG 12 and encourage its implementation, streamline, and simplify reporting processes for member states, and inform voluntary national reviews and policy interventions. Links to other platforms and initiatives that are of help in the implementation of SDG were also provided. In 2022, a dynamic country report and toolboxes to support Member States and UN Country Teams in implementing SDG 12 will be introduced. The presentation concluded with a live demonstration of the SDG 12 Hub.

Session 6: WORKING GROUP

This session focused on having a moderated working group with the objectives of discussing challenges faced by data producers and data users in the respective countries, as well as opportunities

to improve the current situation. The moderator guided the discussion with a set of questions that focused on encouraging countries' representatives to share their experience. The main discussion points were then collected and disseminated to representatives through an online whiteboard tool, "Mural", and are presented in Annex III.

Day 3, Thursday 13 January 2022, 10:00 – 13:00 EAT

Session 6 continued: WORKING GROUP

Countries' representatives were presented with a summary of Day 2 discussions and introduced the objectives of Day 3. Countries' representatives continued to discuss the implementation of a framework for collaboration at the national level, where all stakeholders might be involved, its structure and its objectives. The findings of the discussion were also introduced on Mural and are presented in Annex III.

Session 7: WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION

Ralf Heidrich, Associate Programme Manager, Science Division, UNEP summarized the results of the working group. A common challenge for the workshop participants seemed to be a lack of communication and collaboration between the respective ministries and national statistical offices (NSO). More precisely, no institutionalization of data dissemination exist among the different ministries, especially between the ministries of environment and the NSO. This results in reporting burdens and limits data collection and dissemination for data producers and users. Participants also mentioned a lack of staff and workforce as a limiting factor for sound data collection. Additionally, a lack of resources, in particular power, internet or financial means aggravate data collection and reporting. However, sometimes funding and technical capacity for enhanced monitoring for example for air and water pollution may be available but skilled staff needed to maintain and operate these facilities are lacking. High turnover rates of staff worsen the situation as continuous technical training is necessary to operate observation facilities in a sound manner. Several participants highlighted that environmental data collection and dissemination is often not prioritized by decision makers despite increasing awareness for sustainability and climate change.

Participants pointed out that industrial and household surveys may be conducted to compile and collect waste data, however, often the quality of received data is insufficient or does not meet agreed standards. Furthermore, missing waste infrastructure, for example dumpsites or wastewater treatment facilities, hamper quantifying waste streams and thus data collection. In a similar vein, missing waste infrastructure leads to lack of data disaggregated by type of waste, hence a significant number of data is based on estimates (for example e-waste). It was agreed by the participants that further capacity building and technical training is necessary to make use of and understand the SCP and waste methodologies to conduct and report data in a sound manner. Data users are facing similar issues. A

lack of communication and collaboration amongst the various stakeholders aggravate accessibility of data for end users.

Consequently, participants mentioned that closer collaboration, cooperation, and communication is necessary to enhance data collection and reporting. Centralized national communication structures could be an opportunity to overcome those communication and collaboration obstacles. A specific suggestion to strengthen data collection and reporting was to CC the NSOs on the communications when UN agencies request data from governments. This will facilitate the collection of the data as NSOs will be following up on the requests and have access to the data shared with UN agencies. An additional opportunity is to provide countries with advanced training on SCP and waste indicators but also provision of improved statistical software and training on this software.

Specific frameworks, to strengthen collaboration among various national institutions and to enhance quality and quantity of data collection but also data sharing, were discussed. Participants suggested that official communication channels between the NSO and the ministries, but also other stakeholders should be implemented. In order to do so, further resources and funds would have to be allocated and mobilized. Another vehicle to strengthen the framework for collaboration could be working groups. However, to improve effectiveness of these working groups, official agreements, legislations or mandates for information sharing should be put in place.

Therese El Gemayel presented three main recommendations and action plans based on the outcomes of the working group discussions. First, she pointed out the need to have better capacity building at national level, including financial resources. There is also a need for more commitment from government officials with regards to the work that they are doing, as well as investment in human resources. Second, the possibility of a South-South coordination among African countries was highlighted, to enhance the exchange of knowledge and best practices. Third, there is a need to have working groups or other institutional arrangements to facilitate collaboration among various institutions.

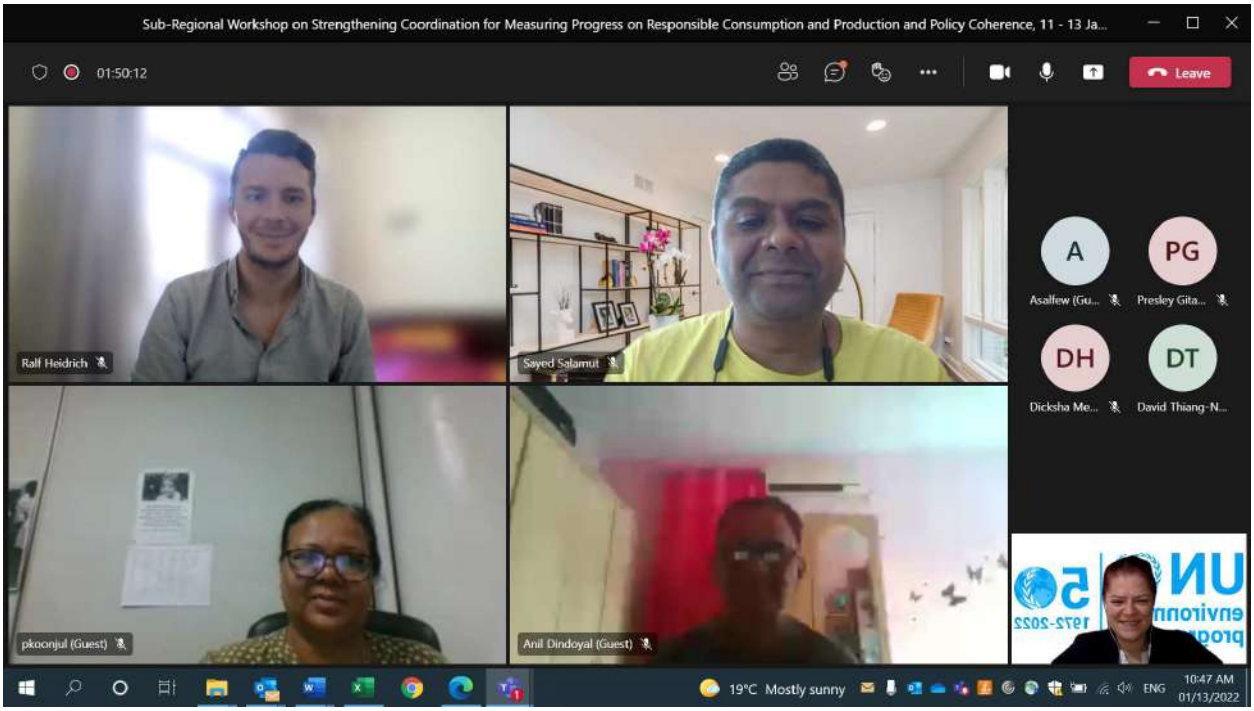
Finally, she highlighted UNEP's readiness to assist member states with capacity building. She advised countries that would like to receive capacity building to send an official request. Capacity building requests concerning the 25 environment-related SDG indicators under UNEP custodianship can be directed to UNEP, using the following email address: unep-science-sdgs@un.org. UNEP will then coordinate with the respective UNEP regional office and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to agree with the country on the best targeted approach to enhance the needed capacities. She also advised about directing requests for other SDG indicators to the respective custodian agencies, which can be found on the following link: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

In terms of immediate needs, she pinpointed to the available technical resources that UNEP recently worked or is working on. The Environmental SDG Indicators Online Course, which was launched earlier this year, provides users with 10 modules related to environment statistics. This free, self-paced online

training material is accessible on the following link: https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/environmental-sdg-indicators

She also advised participants to use the manuals that were developed by UNEP with the purpose of providing detailed information on how to collect data and calculate SDG indicators, specifically the Global Manual on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting (https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/handle/20.500.11822/36253), and the Global Chemicals and Waste Indicators Review Document (https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/36753).

Therese El Gemayel closed the workshop by thanking the representatives of the different countries and the presenters for their participation and the fruitful discussions. She also encouraged countries' representatives to fill the evaluation of the workshop that was sent after the workshop. A group photo was taken prior to closing of the sub-regional workshop.



Workshop evaluation

A total of seven participants submitted the evaluation form of the workshop. The majority of participants evaluated the overall value of the workshop as excellent (29%) and good (57%); one participant evaluated it as fairly good (14%). Additionally, all participants rated the extent to which the workshop objectives were reached as excellent or good. 43% of the respondents viewed the quality of material and the quality of presentations shared as excellent and 57% of the participants assessed them as good. Similarly, the balance between the workshop topics was rated either as excellent or good by all respondents.

In terms of workshop organization, all participants rated the overall planning of the workshop as excellent (43%) or good (57%). In a similar vein, all respondents evaluated the format of the workshop

and the registration process as excellent or good. The respondents indicated that the timeliness distribution of materials was excellent (29%), good (57%), and fairly good (14%). The duration of each workshop session was rated excellent by 57% of the participants, good by 29% and fairly good by 14%. Evaluations of the video conference platform were distributed between excellent (29%), good (43%), and fairly good (29%).

Respondents commented that the workshop was excellent, the contents were good, and the discussion was perfect. They highlighted UNEP`s role in facilitating further assistance for environmental indicators and how they can be operationalized and collected. A detailed overview of the responses is presented in Annex IV.

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Annex I - List of Participants

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Annex II - Workshop Agenda

Tuesday 11 January 2022	
SESSION 1	**OPENING AND INTRODUCTION**
10:00 – 10.20	**Welcome and opening addresses** - Dr. Ludgarde Coppens, UNEP - Mr. Charles Sebukeera, UNEP **Project Overview and activities** Therese El Gemayel, Project Manager, UNEP
SESSION 2	**WASTE SDG INDICATORS: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE**
10:20 – 11:15	**Sustainable Development Goals Waste Indicators, Methodologies and data availability** (Dany Ghafari, UNEP) **Waste SDG Indicators – Policy importance** (Therese El Gemayel, UNEP) **Q&A**
11:15 – 11:20	***BREAK***
SESSION 3	**SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE**
11:20 – 12:30	**SCP SDG Indicators, Methodologies and data availability** (Dany Ghafari, UNEP) **SCP SDG Indicators – Policy importance** (Therese El Gemayel, UNEP) **Q&A**
SESSION 4	**SDG POLICY COHERENCE**
12:30 – 12:55	**Policy coherence in the SDG context** (Hyun Sun, UNEP) **Q&A**
12:55 – 13:00	***CLOSING OF DAY 1***

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Wednesday 12 January 2022	
SESSION 5	**DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS**
10:00 – 11:10	**SCP-Hat** (Llorenc Mila I Canals, UNEP) **Q&A** **SDG 12 Hub** (Sofie Clausen, UNEP) **Q&A**
11:10 – 11:15	***BREAK***
SESSION 6	**WORKING GROUPS**
11:10 – 12:55	***Moderated working groups***
12:55 – 13:00	***CLOSING OF DAY 2***

Thursday 13 January 2022	
SESSION 6 - *continued*	**WORKING GROUPS**
10:00 – 11:10	***Moderated working groups***
11:10 – 11:15	***BREAK***
SESSION 7	**WORKING GROUPS PRESENTATIONS**
11:15 – 12:15	***Presentations of each working group***
12:15 – 12:45	**Main Recommendations and Action Plans**
12:45 – 13:00	***CLOSING OF WORKSHOP***

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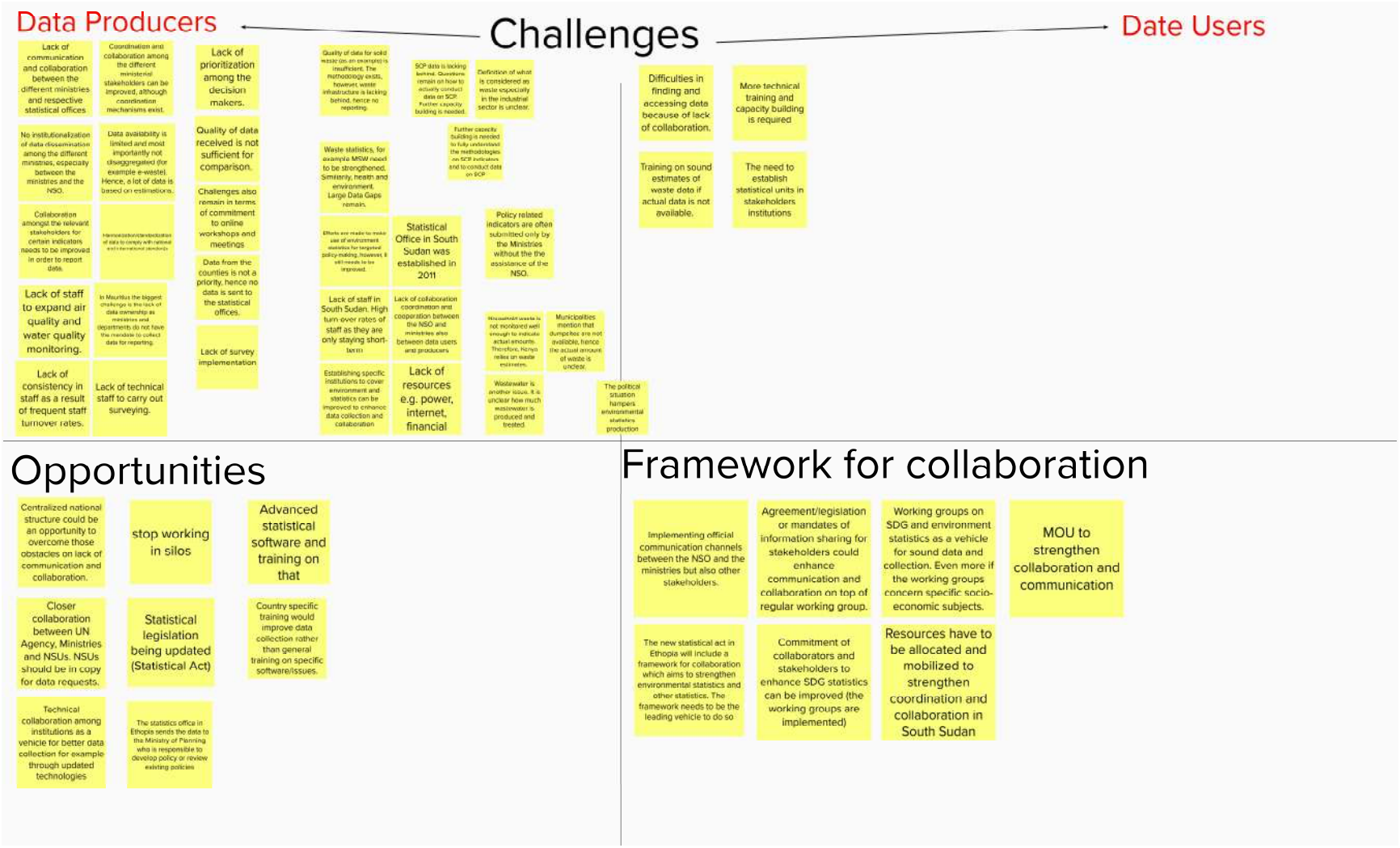
Annex III - Working Groups Discussion Outcomes (Mural)



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Annex IV – Detailed Evaluation Responses

1.Content and conduct of the workshop

Options / Questions	Excellent	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory	Not applicable
Quality of material	3	4	0	0	0
Quality of presentations	3	4	0	0	0
Adequate time for discussion and participation	5	1	1	0	0
Balance between topics	3	4	0	0	0
Clarity of conclusions reached	3	4	0	0	0
Extent to which workshop objectives were reached	3	4	0	0	0
Overall value of the workshop	2	4	1	0	0

2. Comments or suggestions on the content and conduct of presentation

- The workshop was excellent, and contents were good
- The content and conduct of the workshop are good. Keep up!
- Good

3. Comments or suggestions on the content and conduct of break-out rooms

- The discussions were perfect
- Fairly good

4. Organization of the workshop

Options / Questions	Excellent	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory	Not applicable
Timeliness distribution of materials	2	4	1	0	0
Registration procedures	3	4	0	0	0
Duration of each session	4	2	1	0	0
Video conferencing tool	2	3	2	0	0
Format of the workshop	2	5	0	0	0

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Overall planning and organization of the workshop	3	4	0	0	0

5. Comments or suggestions on the organization of the workshop
    - We look forward for more workshops for knowledge enhancements
    - Due to connectivity lost, it was hard to attend some of the sessions. Otherwise, the organization is good
    - Good

6. Additional comments
    - The UNEP required to assist the institutions for planning environmental indicators and how they can be operationalized or collected

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