



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Statistical Division

Findings from Survey on NSOs' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs

April 2017

Survey results summarised by the Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs



The Survey



- ❖ Sent in December 2016 (replies received until February 2017)
- ❖ Objectives
 - Get information on the status of statistics for SDGs in CES countries;
 - Identify concrete actions that would be helpful for countries;
 - Inputs for Road Map and for planning work of CES
- ❖ Prepared and analysed by the **Steering Group on statistics for SDGs**

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Response rate



- ❖ Survey was sent to 70 countries (participants of CES work)

- ❖ Response rate for all countries: 87% (61/70)
 - UNECE+OECD: 92% (57/62)
 - Other countries: 50% (4/8)

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General outcomes



- ❖ Countries are at different stages on implementing measurement for SDGs
 - Human and financial resources are a constraint to the majority of NSOs
 - A number of countries still waiting for government decisions to kick off the process
- ❖ Response rate and % of countries establishing national SDGs show the interest in the topic
- ❖ Assessments of availability of indicators are highly dependent on what NSOs consider their responsibility to produce
- ❖ Work of the Steering Group on Road Map and NRPs can be useful for countries

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Q1. Responsibility of the NSO related to SDG indicators

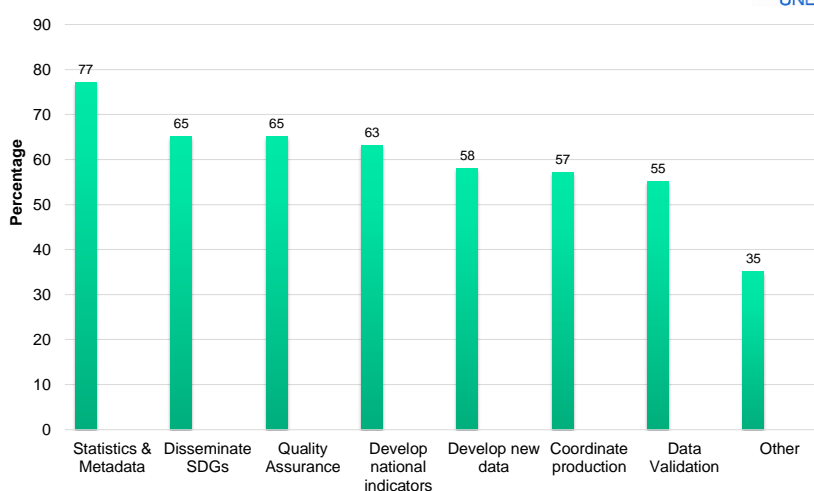


- ❖ 60 country replies
 - 77% (46 countries) provide statistics and metadata
 - 57% (34 countries) coordinate the production
 - 63% (38 countries) develop SDG indicators for the national context
 - 58% (35 countries) develop new data if required
 - 65% (39 countries) disseminate SDGs
 - 65% (39 countries) provide Quality Assurance
 - 55% (33 countries) do data validation
 - 35% (21 countries) undertake “other” activities

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Q1. SDG activities at the NSO



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Q2. Is there a government decision on the role of the NSO related to SDGs?



- ❖ 58 countries replied
 - 24% (14 countries) noted the government has made a decision on the role of the NSO related to SDGs
 - 29% (17 countries) noted they expected a decision (but no decision made at the time of the survey)
 - 31% (18 countries) noted no decision was needed, this is part of the NSO role in general
 - 16% (9 countries) responded that there the government had not defined the role of the NSO

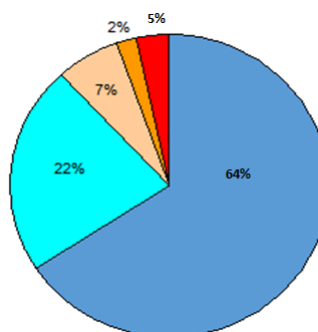
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Q3. Assessing country's capacity to produce SDG indicators



- ❖ 59 countries replied
 - 64% (38 countries) said they have carried out an assessment
 - 22% (13 countries) will carried it out within 2017
 - 7% (4 countries) are waiting for further guidelines from UN or government
 - 2% (1 country) are relying on custodian agencies
 - 5% (3 countries) other reasons



Roughly results of the assesment of data availability
 Among the global indicators :
 - for 55 %, indicators or proxy are available
 - for 25 %, no indicator or proxy are available
 - for 20 %, they are not relevant or countries don't know

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Q3. Assessment - General comments



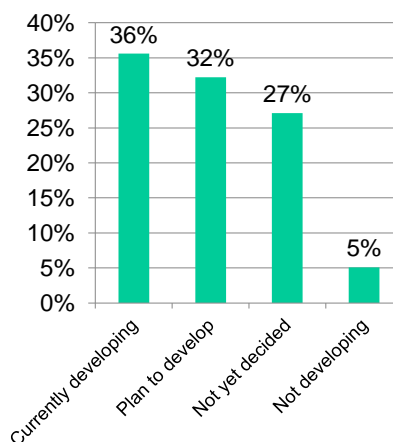
- ❖ When countries don't plan yet to carry out an assessment of their capacity to produce the global SDG indicators (14% of countries), most of the time it is because they are waiting for guidelines from UN or government
- ❖ CES roadmap and the self-assessment template for countries on availability of global indicator might help them (Available on public wiki: <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/SFSDG/>)

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Q4. National SDG indicators



- ❖ 59 countries replied
- ❖ 40 countries (68%) are developing or plan to develop national SDG indicators
- ❖ Among those who are developing or plan to develop, 22 replied when
 - 50% in 2017
 - 14% in 2018
 - 36% have not yet determined a timeframe



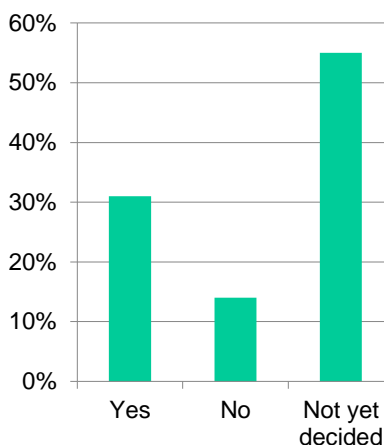
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Q5. Setting up a NRP for global SDG indicators



- ❖ 58 countries replied
 - 31% (18 countries) said they will set up a NRP
 - 14% (8 countries) said that they will not set up a NRP
 - 55% (32 countries) have not yet decided



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Q5. NRPs - General comment



- ❖ Many countries are still undecided regarding which reporting mechanism is more appropriate for them
- ❖ *Work of Task Force on Reporting SDG indicators using National Reporting platforms can facilitate this decision*

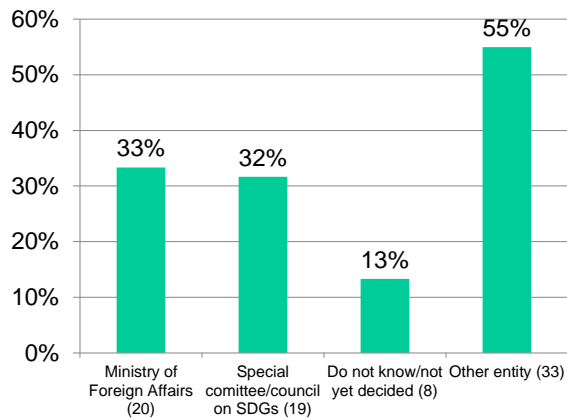
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Q6. Who is in charge of coordination on SDGs at the policy level in your country?



❖ 60 countries replied

- 17 countries said more than one in charge
- Other entity:
 - ♦ 12 Prime Ministers Office (or similar)
 - ♦ 8 Ministry of Finance
 - ♦ 5 Department for development



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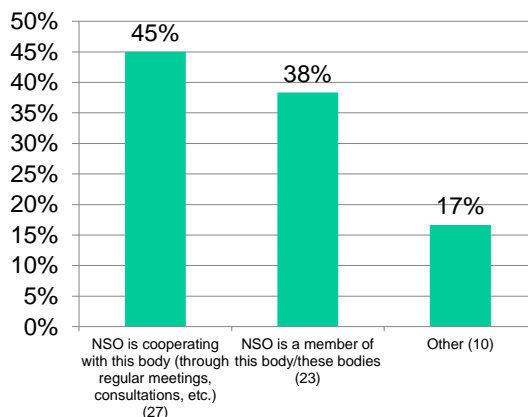
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Q7. How is NSO cooperating with the bodies coordinating SDGs at the policy level?



❖ 60 countries replied

- Other: 3 Ad hoc, 2 special responsibility for SDI
- Only 1 country reported no cooperation and 3 “not yet decided”



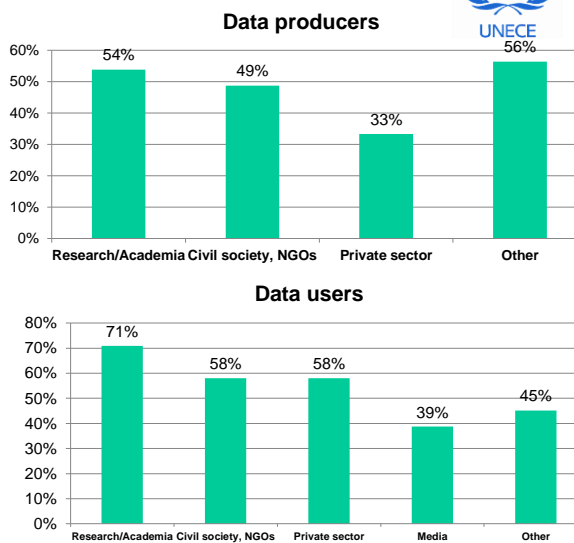
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Q8. Cooperation with data producers and users



- ❖ 39 countries reported cooperation with data producers
- ❖ 31 countries reported cooperation with data users
- ❖ Most common partnership is with research/academia community



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General comments



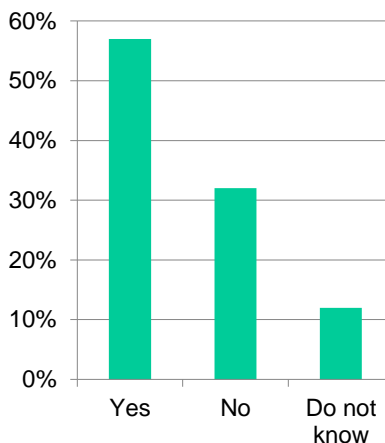
- ❖ Most NSOs are either members of, or cooperating on a regular basis with the body in charge of coordination of SDGs at the policy level in the country.
- ❖ 36% of countries have not indicated any cooperation with data producers; 49% have not indicated cooperation with data users

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Q9: Cooperation mechanisms with International Organizations?



- ❖ 60 countries replied
 - 57% (34 countries) said that there are cooperation mechanisms in place
 - 32% (19 countries) said that there are no cooperation mechanisms in place
 - 12% (7 countries) said that they do not know



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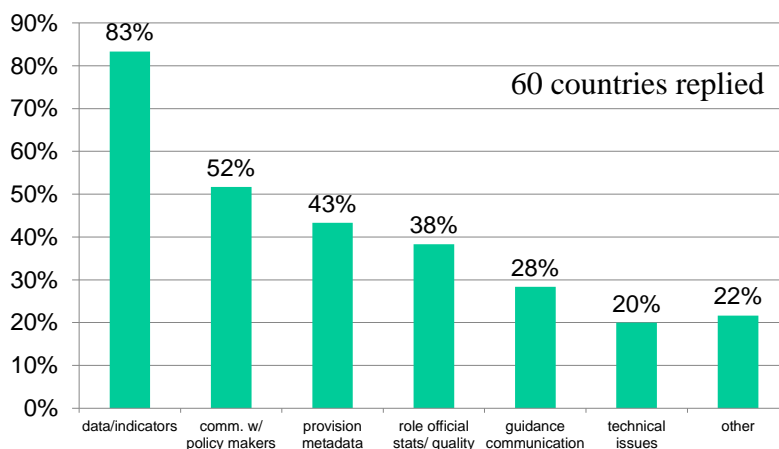
Q9. Cooperation with IOs - General comment



- ❖ 43% of countries have no cooperation mechanism in place or are not aware of it
- ❖ *Work of TF on Reporting SDG indicators using NRPs could facilitate decisions about reporting approach*
- ❖ Many of the cooperation mechanisms already existed and are not specific to the SDGs

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Q10. Main difficulties/challenges communication



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Q10. Communication - General comment



- ❖ Many countries reported problems related to data/indicators/metadata
- ❖ Others referred challenges more related to the communication itself: the generic presentation on the CES road map could help communicate with different audiences
- ❖ Narrative with key messages could help communicate with policy makers

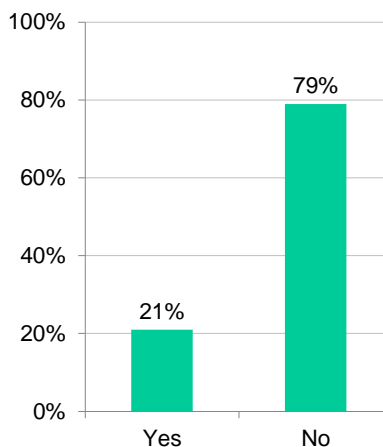
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Assessment of Statistical Training and Capacity Building



Q11. Has it been conducted?

- ❖ 56 countries replied
 - 21% (12 countries) have conducted an assessment
 - 79% (44 countries) have not done an assessment



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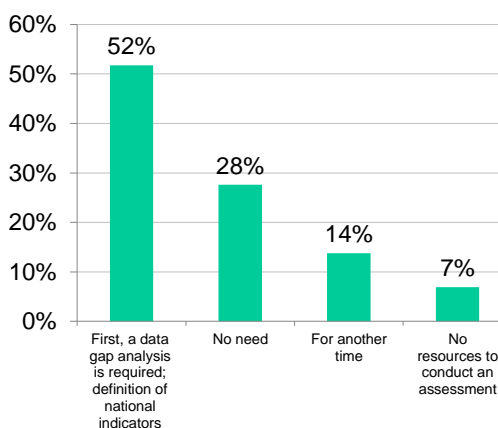
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Assessment of Capacity Building If not, why?



- ❖ Among the 44 countries who have not conducted an assessment, 29 countries replied why:

- 52% (15 countries) said they will first do data analysis
- 28% (8 countries) said they do not need it
- 14% (4 countries) will do it later on
- 2 countries declared they do not have resources to do it

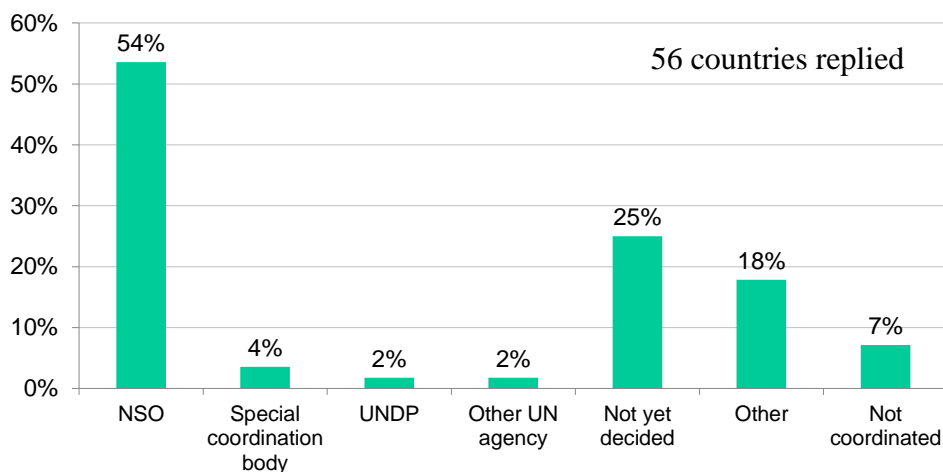


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Q12. Coordination of statistical training and capacity building

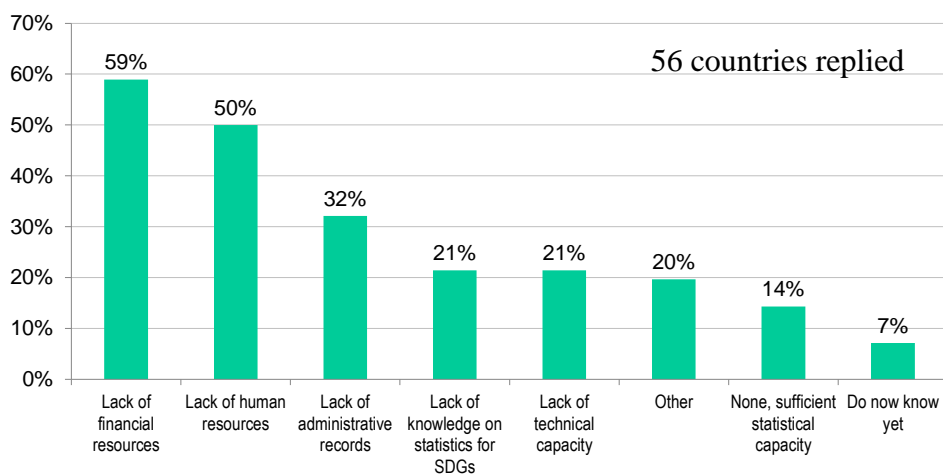


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Q13. Capacity building most lacking



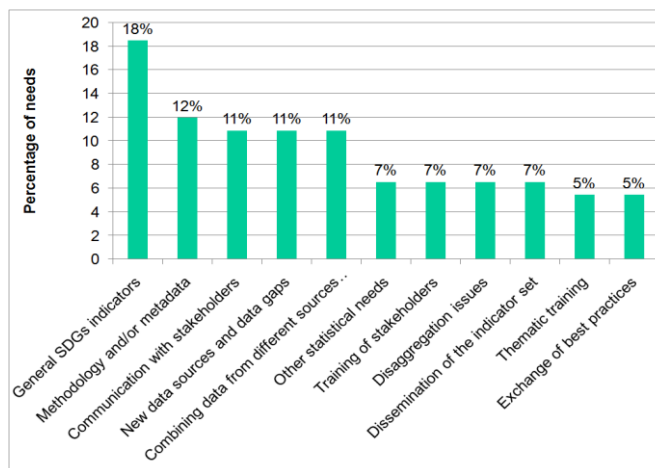
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Q14. Most urgent statistical training



- ❖ 35 countries specified training topics
- ❖ In total, 92 suggestions
- ❖ Chart summarises the most frequent suggestions (among the 92)



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Q14. Most urgent statistical training



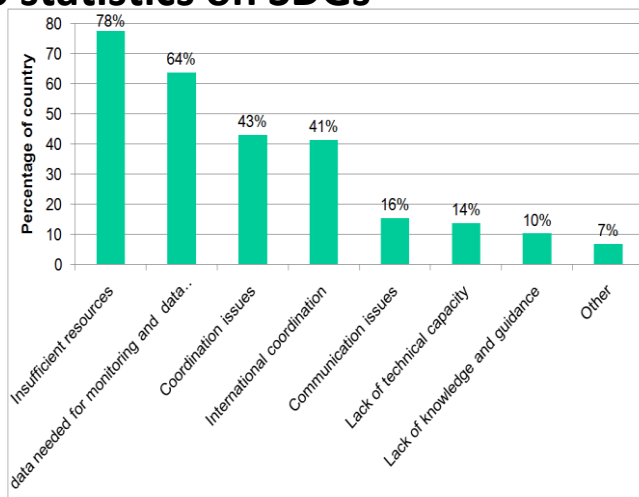
- ❖ Apart from the need of general information, many countries pointed out the issues of methodology & metadata. Also new data sources, disaggregations, administrative data needs, etc. was mentioned.
- ❖ Communication platforms that bring the statisticians and other stakeholders (esp. policy makers) together may prove useful.

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Q15. Main problems and challenges in relation to statistics on SDGs



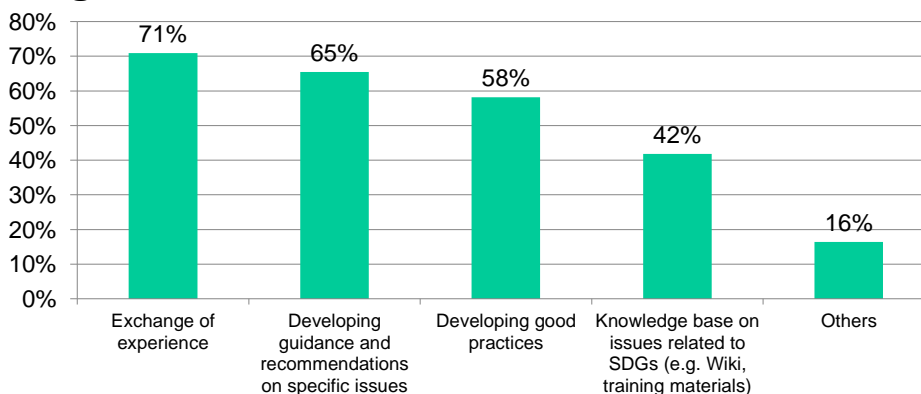
- ❖ 58 countries replied
- ❖ 44 countries (76%) considered insufficient financial and human resources a challenge
- ❖ Coordination at every level is a big challenge



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Q16. Most helpful support from UN agencies



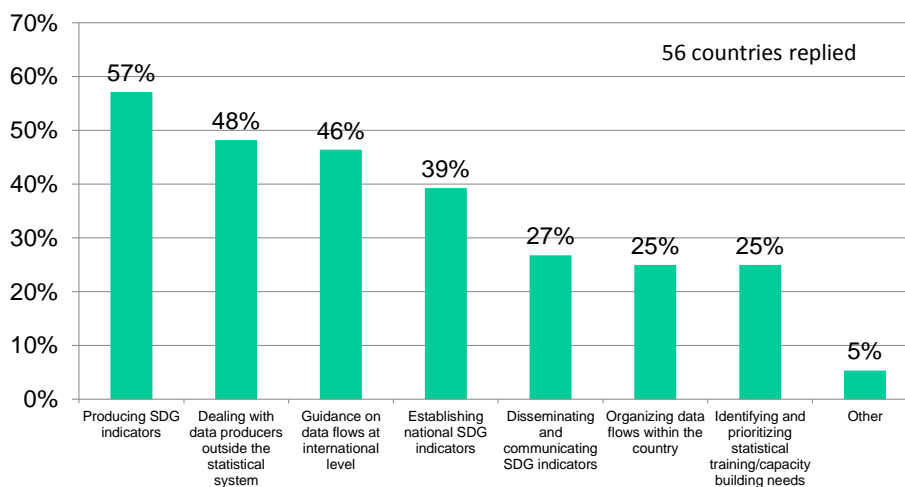
- ❖ 55 countries replied
- ❖ «Others» include financial support, information on data flows, assessment of data requirements

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Q17. Priority areas for recommendations, guidelines and best practices

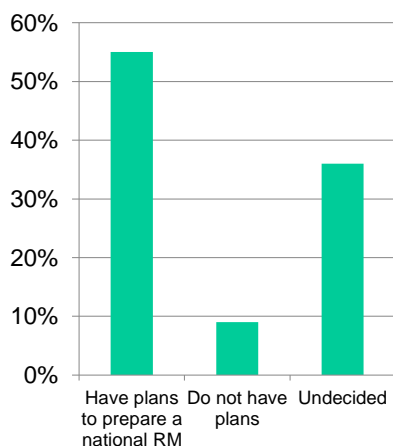


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Q18. National road map



- ❖ 58 countries replied
- ❖ 32 countries plan to have a national road map
- ❖ 25 countries indicated who will coordinate national road map
 - 68%: NSO
 - 12%: MFA
 - 4%: International Development Department
 - 4%: PM office
 - 12%: not yet known

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Q19. Suggestions for Expert meeting



- ❖ 47 suggestions. Recurrent themes:
 - International data flows (“a single voice from the UN”) and related issues (i.e. metadata)
 - National experiences (national data flows – within the NSS and with external producers --, role and mandate of NSOs)
 - National SDG indicators (how to adapt, make them relevant, sharing experiences)
 - Good examples in communication
 - Information on development of Tier II and III indicators
 - Data (disaggregation, new data sources)
 - Capacity building
- ❖ EM agenda tried to reflect these suggestions as much as possible

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For more information



- ❖ Wiki on Statistics for SDGs:
www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/SFSDG



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