

**Project Evaluation Series**

# **Evaluation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS)**

**Management response**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 2018**

## **Overall response to the evaluation**

The final evaluation has been planned as of accountability and learning towards the end of the first phase of the Global Strategy and the planning and development of the second phase. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess what worked and what did not in the first phase, and at the same time to inform priorities, design and operating model for the second phase. The evaluation was envisaged to assess Global Strategy's results at the national and regional levels and their value and relevance to target beneficiaries, national needs, and priorities, in addition to identifying lessons learned for future interventions on agricultural and rural statistics.

The evaluation team attempted to draw the main strengths and flaws and to identify lessons learned about the design, implementation and management of the programme. Based on this draft, the Global Office has circulated the report to the Global Steering Committee members and to the implementing partners for comments. The evaluation leader presented the main findings, conclusions and recommendation during the 17<sup>th</sup>GSC and during the final conference of the Global Strategy that took place in November 2018.

The present report summarizes implementing partner's reactions to the recommendations made by the evaluation team, presented in pages 56-60 of the Final Evaluation Report and proposes the follow-up actions to the recommendations that will be covered or taken into consideration during Phase 2 of the implementation.

## Management response matrix

Management response to the Evaluation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS)		November 2018
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, Partially Accepted or Rejected	Management plan
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)
<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b></p> <p>Global Strategy should be supported for a longer period to sustain and build on the improvements done in agricultural and rural statistics.</p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p> <p><b>Item 188</b> <i>Global Strategy has made significant strides, within a short period, improving the situation with reference to agricultural and rural statistics. The first phase has laid a good foundation in supporting countries have a policy framework for agricultural statistics for the first time, updated/new methodologies and tools and building national capacities on agricultural and rural statistics among others, Building on this to enable the use of data for informed decision-making would require continued support and facilitation.</i></p> <p><b>Item 189</b> <i>Currently, Global Strategy is only in two regions; it should reach out/expand to other regions to be truly "global." Global Strategy should have a longer horizon at least until 2030, aligned with SDGs' timeframe, split into two phases (one to consolidate and expand and the other to fine-tune and exit). The demand and need for data and statistics are more evident, especially in the SDGs era.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>The implementing partners welcomed the suggestion to expand to other regions and are in agreement with the need to have a longer horizon.</p>	<p>The Global Strategy was designed as a long-term process to be implemented in different phases. The first phase, corresponding to the first Global Action Plan, served to set the ground for the Global Strategy implementation and a solid foundation was laid. The second Global Action Plan will consolidate the efforts started in the first phase and expand not only to other regions but will also cover some domains that remained uncovered during Phase 1 (e.g. use of data for policy purpose).</p> <p>The modular approach proposed in the second Global Action plan will give more flexibility and it will be more appropriate to reach regions that Phase 1 did not cover.</p>

<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b></p> <p>SPARS (process/development/implementation) should be supported to establish itself as a living planning document guiding the integration of agricultural statistical activities into the national development process.</p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p> <p><b>Item 190</b> <i>In addition to the endorsement of SPARS by the government, alignment of SPARS cycle to NSDS, sector and national development plan, national agricultural investment plan cycles and development partner cycles is critical for national ownership and sustainability. This linkage should be internalized in the SPARS design to ensure SPARS implementation and the use of data collected through cost-effective methodologies. Handholding to ensure sustained statistical development process and use could be provided by a development partner in the country (as part of national mechanism – not necessarily funded by Global Strategy). For example, FAO decentralized offices (country/sub-regional/regional) can take the lead in providing technical assistance in this regard.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>The SPARS guidelines, developed in Phase 1, detail the strategic planning approach to support the development of long-term sustainable agricultural and rural statistical systems at national level.</p> <p>The integration of agriculture into NSSs, to raise the profile of agricultural and rural statistics by mainstreaming them into NSDSs,, national development plans and investment plans, as well as to promote a simplified and practical approach as a building block of NSDS is part of the SPARS guidelines.</p>	<p>The second Global Action Plan foresees to support SPARS design, promote peer-review processes and improve alignment of statistical and policy cycles at country level. Indeed, new guidelines will provide recommendations on more sustainable agricultural statistical cycles and practical solutions to enhance the alignment of statistical cycles with policy cycles. Support will be also provided in undertaking or updating a new SPARS cycle to develop a consolidated and harmonized plan, taking into account the various constraints of multipurpose agendas.</p> <p>The modular approach proposed in Phase 2 will allow to select the most suitable partners, including FAO country offices if they have the capacity to do it.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b></p> <p>Focussed demand-driven technical assistance (TA) on cost-effective (CE) methodologies should continue. Ensure a more inclusive approach to identify research topics for CE methodology development to facilitate uptake and use.</p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p>		
<p><b>Item 191</b> <i>A key focus of the Global Strategy in the future should be on providing demand-driven TA to countries on cost-</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>Implementing partners agree with the fact that the</p>	<p>Phase 2 foresees to provide technical assistance on selected cost-effective methodologies developed in Phase 1. Technical assistance remains key in assisting countries in adopting the proposed</p>

<p><i>effective/updated methodologies. Timing and need for TA in a country would be crucial of institutionalization (uptake and use). Linkage of the need/demand and SPARS (including IdCA) should be established, as applicable. TA should include a blend of CE methodologies developed in the first phase. Technical assistance should be at country level, not regional. Workshops should not be considered as TA.</i></p>	<p>line between TA and training workshops has not been always clear. They are also in agreement with the importance of providing TA at country level as it was done through the Accelerated Technical Assistance plan.</p>	<p>methodologies. TA will be provided on a few targeted methodologies to a selected number of countries, according to specific technical assistance delivery models proven to be effective during the first phase. This more targeted approach to technical assistance delivery will facilitate the management of the technical assistance component by implementing partners, while ensuring greater chances of sustainable adoption at country level.</p>
<p><b>Item 192</b> <i>Country readiness to implement the CE methodology as immediately as possible should be a key criterion for selecting countries for TA. It will ensure institutionalization and sustainability. Number of countries collecting data using different CE methodologies (e.g., MSF, CAPI, and COP) should be the measure for the success of for TA on each CE methodology.</i></p>	<p><b>Partially Accepted</b></p> <p>Country readiness is certainly a good criterion for a quick win approach. However, efforts still need to be made for strengthening capacities in low developed statistical systems where specific support on cost-effective methods could bring efficient change</p>	<p>During the implementation of Phase 2, efforts will need to be put on the alignment of capacities between countries: providing specific support in terms of basic capacities to less developed statistical systems for enabling them to adopt more cost-effective methodologies and providing ad hoc support to more advanced countries for adopting rapidly cost-effective methods developed in the framework of the Global strategy.</p>
<p><b>Item 193</b> <i>Inclusiveness should be two-pronged – in terms of people/region and topics. In addition to agriculture (crops), it is important to look at rural (the other part of Global Strategy) as well as other aspects of agriculture, such as forestry, fisheries, environment, post-harvest losses, and emerging topics and technology</i></p>	<p><b>Rejected</b></p> <p>The research agenda established during Phase 1 of the Global Strategy was the result of lengthy participatory and consultative processes that involved almost all countries and stakeholders. Additional topics were added at a later stage upon demands from countries. In Phase 1, the research programme covered 45</p>	<p>Although the focus of Phase 2 is to provide capacity development assistance on selected cost-effective methodologies developed in Phase 1, additional research topics were identified and emphasized as warranting further methodological development during preliminary consultations with countries, experts and other relevant stakeholders. These include cost-effective methodologies for important emerging and priority topics, while updating specific aspects of certain methodologies and the empirical validation of selected research topics covered in Phase 1. The modular approach envisioned for Phase 2 will offer a range of topics and grants funding partners and investors the flexibility to choose topics in which to invest based on their own interests, that is, priorities, relevance and strategic importance.</p>

	<p>research topics grouped into 16 themes (including AGRIS). Around 70% of the research topics are related to aspects other than crops. The first phase of the Global Strategy took into consideration the rural aspects: research has been conducted, five technical reports and brochures were produced and final guidelines disseminated in December 2018.</p>	
<p><b>Item 194.</b> <i>Getting inputs on regional needs and gaps (from the regions) to identify research topics will increase the relevance of topics for which CE methodologies/tools are produced and is likely to increase uptake and use. Having examples/case studies from all regions (as relevant) would make the guidelines more relevant to the user, across the globe. Having guidelines in more languages would help wider use.</i></p>	<p><b>Partially Accepted</b></p> <p>The Global Office is in agreement with the recommendation of integrating inputs from various regions in the research process. As illustrated in the 4 pages on research produced for the final conference, research has been conducted and tested in more than 50 countries including all the regions. Availability of guidelines in more languages is a great objective, however it has a cost which could not be borne by the project.</p>	<p>Research topics to be developed in Phase 2 were identified through preliminary consultations with countries, experts and other stakeholders. Efforts will be made for testing/piloting research development in different countries and regions. Efforts will be also made for guaranteeing that key products will be made available in more languages in Phase 2.</p>
<p><b>Item 195</b> <i>Continue research work on youth and women (empowerment /employment /statistics) in agricultural and rural</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>One of the priority research topics to be developed in Phase 2 are related to economic, social and environmental aspects including gender</p>

<p><i>contexts. Furthermore, Global Strategy should put more focused effort to mainstream gender and youth aspects because these aspects have important linkages to agricultural sector growth and rural development.</i></p>	<p>The implementing partners are in agreement with this recommendation and acknowledge the importance of youth and women in agricultural and rural statistics. In Phase 1, the GS conducted specific research on youth and gender materialized through two guidelines: <i>Guidelines for collecting data for sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators in national agricultural surveys; Tracking Progress on Women's Land Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa</i> .</p>	<p>and environmental statistics. The modular approach will give the flexibility to deepen to work already undertaken on youth and gender.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4.</b></p> <p><b>Shifting/expanding focus to data use. Develop the capacity of the policy-makers to use data for decision-making.</b></p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p> <p><b>Item 196</b> <i>Utilization of data to direct programme and policy development will be the ultimate success of Global Strategy. The focus of the first phase was primarily on the producers of data (statisticians). Future capacity development should also target the decision makers, in particular those who use data to formulate policies and those who makes investment decision on data generation. Building the capacity on the utilization of data for development planning and on the cost of data generation and maintenance will help countries to make realistic investment</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>The Phase 1 has focused on strategic planning, research, technical assistance and training. An expansion on data use is needed</p>	<p>The fifth arena (output 5) of the second Global Action Plan will seek to increase the capacity of statisticians and policy-makers to analyse and use agricultural data for national policy formulation and monitoring. It will also aim at assisting national statistical services in determining and harmonizing the country's statistical priorities to meet changing country- and global-level data requirements.</p>

<p><i>decision on national statistics in the areas that are most critical to their development needs.</i></p>		
<p><b>Recommendation 5.</b></p> <p><b>Develop and implement a strategic advocacy, communication and dissemination plan to improve awareness about Global Strategy activities, benefits and success in countries.</b></p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p>		
<p><b>Item 197</b> <i>Sending a tailored message to a wider audience highlighting the benefit of Global Strategy activities is important. Agricultural and rural statistics is relevant and essential beyond the ministries of agriculture and NSOs. At country level, in addition to the government, there are development partners, civil society, producer organizations, and private sector funding and/or managing programmes/projects in the food system. Agriculture and rural statistics also extends into health, environment and gender aspects/domains. Many of them are users of data. A detailed plan is required to create awareness at various levels about the activities and how it could help them specifically.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>In Phase 1 all implementing partners have prepared specific communications plans but they were not uniformly implemented. More activities could have been dedicated to dissemination of results and probably in a more centralised way.</p>	<p>Activity 4.3 of the second Global Action Plan foresees the development of practical guidelines and tools to share best practices in implementing cost-effective methodologies, and to guarantee large-scale dissemination of and access to cost-effective methodologies already developed. Brochures and leaflets will be developed and dissemination workshops will be organized.</p> <p>A detailed advocacy and communication plan will be developed at central level for guaranteeing a smooth and efficient dissemination.</p>
<p><b>Item 198</b> <i>Globally advocating and highlighting success stories (of data produced and used using cost-effective methodologies) at various high-level forums/committees (beyond statistical forums) on a regular basis could help attract funding. Furthermore, the Plan should address the issue of creating awareness in the country offices of partners (implementing, technical and resource partners).</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>Examples of implementation were showcased by some of the implementing partners. The implementing partners agree with the recommendation and consider that further outreach efforts could have been undertaken by expanding the scope and scale of dissemination,</p>	<p>For Phase 2, the main objective of the Advocacy and Communications Strategy is to build greater awareness of the activities and impact of the Global Strategy using a more innovative and engaging approach, including outreach, dissemination, visibility and partnership efforts.</p>



	which would have ensured the visibility, access and therefore the use of methodologies developed in Phase 1.	
<b>Item 199</b> <i>Global Strategy could also act as a more effective knowledge sharing hub/portal (with discussion forum). Global Strategy should also monitor activities on its website including views, downloads among others to assess the effectiveness of its website. Having partners provide a link to Global Strategy website would enhance traffic in addition to social media presence.</i>	<b>Accepted</b> The implementing partners welcomed this recommendation. They consider that the lack of monitoring of website activities was a flaw of Phase 1. Important information collected from the website could be used not only to assess the effectiveness of it but also to get information on downloads, traffic and users.	In Phase 2 the overall website will need to become a stronger tool for communications and advocacy including a social media strategy.
<b>Item 200</b> <i>Better linkage of methodologies to official statistics modernization initiatives could enhance visibility and use of data.</i>	<b>Accepted</b>	Attention will be paid on qualitative impact related to the use and adoption of cost-effective methodologies at country level: the 1 <sup>st</sup> phase of the Global strategy has invested on the use of modern technologies, efforts should be pursued during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase.
<b>Recommendation 6.</b> <b>Efficient models of training in Global Strategy should be scaled up (e.g., scholarships).</b> Detailed recommendations:		
<b>Item 201</b> <i>Capacitating statistical institutes and selected universities in various regions will help deliver training more efficiently with</i>	<b>Accepted</b> In Phase 1, capacity of statistical schools –	The second Global Action Plan will build on the results of the first phase. Indeed, it will provide support to existing training institutions in implementing their training programme, adapting the curricula and in

<p><i>better adaption to the regional context. This will also facilitate training being offered in more number of languages</i></p>	<p>particularly in Africa- was a core activity. This should be expanded towards a larger network of universities, involving partnership in regions using other languages</p>	<p>building the necessary subject-matter knowledge of their trainers. Attention will be paid in expanding the support to other networks, in other regions for guaranteeing larger access to capacity development</p>
<p><b>Item 202</b> <i>Scholarship initiative should be scaled-up in Africa and replicated in other regions, as appropriate</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b> Implementing Partners appreciated the recommendation and acknowledged the benefits of this approach.</p>	<p>The scholarship programme was a huge success in the first phase of implementation. In Phase 2, the scholarship programme will be scaled-up and will be used to facilitate access to relevant training programmes together with distance training and e-learning programmes. The second Action Plan will then assist agricultural statistical services by providing scholarships for long-term training to a number of recruits or existing staff in agricultural statistical services where access to training is most problematic.</p> <p>The flexibility of the modular approach will allow to have targeted investments per region and area. The scholarship programme could be then implemented in regions other than Africa.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 7.</b></p> <p><b>Ensure continued but enhanced involvement and contribution from FAO as a technical partner at various levels (especially at regional, sub-regional and country levels) for short-term and long-term sustainability of improvements made in agricultural and rural statistics.</b></p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p>		
<p><b>Item 203</b> <i>FAO as a technical partner can play a key role in all the regions. The involvement of FAO regional and country offices have demonstrated added value in Global Strategy implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. The country project proposal model could be replicated in other regions, as appropriate</i></p>	<p><b>Partially Accepted</b> While the technical capacity of FAO to support the implementation of the programme is acknowledged, the wide</p>	<p>FAO was designated as the leading agency for the overall implementation of the Global Strategy (UNSC 2010) and will remain the hosting agency of the Global Office for the second phase. The new model of governance and management proposed in the Phase 2 will facilitate the involvement of FAO regional offices and FAO country</p>

	<p>scope of the Global strategy requires the contribution of many and diverse other implementing partners. Support from FAO country representations is however recognised in its capacity of catalyser.</p>	<p>representations in finding solutions for implementing activities at country level.</p>
<p><b>Item 204</b> <i>FAO country offices have been providing technical assistance in agriculture and rural development in the countries, as part of its historical mandate. Good agricultural statistics is important for the development of agricultural and rural development policies and programmes. This could include facilitation of SPARS implementation and development of SPARS II, where relevant. FAO Regional/sub-regional Offices should support (as part of its policy work) the development and implementation of SPARS in each country through its country representation (offices) as an ongoing task (even without Global Strategy)</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>FAO Regional Offices will be associated with the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Global strategy in close coordination with other implementing partners.</p>
<p><b>Item 205</b> <i>FAO decentralized offices (country, sub-regional and regional) could play a key role in supporting the continued use of the updated methodologies and tools to collect and use data. FAO Headquarters should internalise Global Strategy methodologies into the normative work for the sustained utilization of the benefit of Global Strategy.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>FAO decentralised offices could play a useful role in assisting in the implementation process. However they do not have all the necessary knowledge that is required for providing and supporting the use of methodologies developed at global level. Concerning the internalisation of methods at FAO HQ levels, the Statistics division has endorsed all the</p>	<p>Ways for strengthening capacities of FAO decentralised offices need to be studied, particularly at regional level.</p>

	methodologies developed in the framework of the Global Strategy.	
<p><b>Item 206</b> <i>In the medium to long-term FAO should become the custodian of Global Strategy documents (new/updated methodologies and guidelines) and continue to promote the use of guidelines and methodologies in all countries/regions as applicable. FAO should also ensure that methodologies and guidelines are updated and adapted, as required.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>This is considered as the best solution for guaranteeing long-term access to all the methodologies developed in the framework of the Global Strategy.</p>	<p>After endorsement of all the methodologies, FAO has proposed to transfer all the material developed by the Global Office (guidelines, technical reports, training, booklets) into the official FAO repository, this guaranteeing the long-term availability and accessibility of all methods developed. All the material will be archived using the FAO logo.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8.</b></p> <p><b>Revisit and fine-tune the existing business model.</b></p> <p>Detailed recommendations:</p>		
<p><b>Item 207</b> <i>Ensure simple governance and programme management mechanism. This may include the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Only one decision-making and oversight body globally for the Global Strategy – Global Steering Committee with not more than 15 to 20 members. There can be observers invited, as required. If the GSC meets less than two times a year, and more frequent decisions are required a GEB can be created from the GSC membership (not more than 5 members) to meet 3-4 times a year (as required) and authority to make decisions on behalf of GSC which will be subsequently ratified by GSC.</i></li> <li>• <i>A Global Office should manage the programme –be accountable and have authority to monitor implementation. The regions could have multiple implementing partners;</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>Even if governance worked quite well during Phase 1, it had a complex structure. Phase 2 foresees to have a simplified governance in line with recommendations. The following structure is proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only one decision-making body: a Global Steering Committee that will provide strategic guidance and oversight for the execution of the Second Global Action Plan. It will be the ultimate decision-making body on the use of the resources for implementing the Global Strategy.</li> <li>- A Global Office (GO), hosted by the Statistics division of FAO, will ensure overall technical coordination of the implementation. The Global Office will report to the GSC. The GO will be responsible for the selection of implementing partners.</li> </ul>

<p><i>however, all of them should report to the Global Office with respective plans and budgets.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Advisory committees/groups could be established for each region, in the model of Scientific Advisory Committee, but with stakeholders/experts from the respective region.</i></li> <li>• <i>All resource partners funding for Global Strategy should be through a Multilateral Trust Fund mechanism.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>A results framework with clear indicators to measure results at different levels - output, immediate outcome, intermediate outcome, and impact. Monitoring of implementing partners should be more frequent. Closer monitoring (with authority) is critical to ensure delivery by implementing partners. Monitoring and feedback mechanism should be strengthened and should be outcome-oriented.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Technical Advisory Boards the technical advisory groups will be responsible for providing consultative advice to the GSC on the implementation of all activities relevant for their region. Each region (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, MENA and CIS) will establish an RTAB, which will coordinate the activities and interventions planned in the Second Global Action Plan.</li> <li>- The option of a unique Multi Trust Fund has been endorsed</li> </ul> <p>The second phase foresees a comprehensive and global logical framework that will help monitor the programme implementation. The proposed modality to select implementing partners as well as the modular approach implies that partners are closely and regularly monitored. This approach also gives the flexibility to discard partners that do not perform ensuring delivery.</p>
<p><b>Item 208</b> <i>The three components of Global Strategy – Technical assistance, research, and training should continue. The key focus should be on regional and national capacity building (technical assistance and training) to produce and use data. Research could have a reduced focus but it should continue to develop methodologies on emerging topics and topics that have not been updated yet. Increasing the number of e-training modules will help reach and train more people cost-effectively. Advocacy and communication could be the fourth component.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>The first global action plan focused on the preparation of cost-effective methodologies. Phase 2 should put more focus on TA and training.</p>	<p>The second Global Action Plan is built around the three main components of the Global Strategy. Focus will be given to technical assistance and training but also some research will be undertaken in the second phase of implementation. A specific component on Use of Data has also been added.</p>
<p><b>Item 209</b> <i>Find alignment with other development partners' strategic focus by expanding the area of the Global Strategy's activities beyond the narrowly-defined agriculture mandate. Focusing on the agriculture-rural-sustainable development nexus would enhance the alignment with other development activities and facilitate resource mobilization</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In Phase 2, complementarity with other initiatives should be ensured mainly through the governance structure put in place for the Global Strategy: the GSC. One of the main tasks of the GSC, as was already the case during Phase 1, will be to ensure the coordination of and promote integration between the activities of the Global Strategy and other related statistical capacity development initiatives.</p>

<p><b>Item 210</b> <i>“Modular” approach or clustering of countries (either by need/demand or by sub-region) could prove to be easier/efficient and/or more effective way to develop initiatives and find resource partners. Aligning to regional/sub-regional economic plans could be explored while clustering.</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>The second Global Action Plan is built around a modular approach that will “distribute” the whole implementation of the Global Strategy into a set of distinct “modules or investments” that can be developed independently, matched in a variety of configurations and implemented by various partners. However, modularity implies that all modules still function as an integrated whole and therefore requires strengthened approaches in terms of governance, fundraising, coordination, monitoring and reporting.</p>
<p><b>Item 211</b> <i>Using champion states (preferably from the region) for peer support and South-South Cooperation, where appropriate</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>During the implementation of the first Global Action Plan with regard to technical assistance, a fast-track model to implement technical assistance with an emphasis on South-South Cooperation has been successfully implemented and could be replicated.</p>	<p>The modular approach will encourage implementation through a variety of partners and this constitutes a good opportunity for south-south cooperation.</p>
<p><b>Item 212</b> <i>Involvement of regional economic bodies and institutions should be considered for broader influence (including political) including a presence in regional initiatives such as CAADP and SHaSA</i></p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>The second Global Action Plan is built on the principle of having better complementarity with other initiatives. One of the main tasks of the GSC will be to ensure the coordination of and promote integration between the activities of the Global Strategy and other related statistical capacity development initiatives. Use of regional economic communities or regional institutions as relays for an efficient and smooth implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Action plan is also a priority,</p>