GCC-Stat Strategic Planning and Road Maps for Development 2015 to 2020

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A. Introduction

1. This document sets out for consideration by the Board of Directors the statistical and cross-cutting supporting strategies proposed for the GCC statistical system up to 2020. The document is a modified version of that submitted to the Board of Directors for its October 2014 meeting. As requested by the Board, presentations of the Road Maps were given in each GCC country during the period November/December 2014 and some changes, mainly in the nature of clarifications, have been made to the previous version to reflect the country feedback.

2. The key themes that are proposed to be pursued by GCC-Stat and its National Statistics Center partners over the period are set out in Section B.

3. Section C sets out road maps for development of statistics in the following fields:

1. National accounts
2. Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics
3. Prices and short-term indicators
4. External trade
5. Labour market
6. Energy and environment
7. Development, Progress and Sustainability indicators
8. Harmonized 2020 population census using administrative records
9. Administrative datasets
10. Statistical standards, classifications, methodology and data quality in the GCC region
11. Ongoing assembly and dissemination of statistics
12. GCC-Stat institutional and other cross-cutting activities

These fields reflect the statistical priorities identified by the Board of Directors at its meeting in September 2013.

4. The road maps are consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Current Status Survey, undertaken by GOPA Consultants during 2014.

5. The statistical road maps highlight the need for harmonized statistics and, in turn, harmonized work programs. These matters are taken up in Section D. The work will be overseen through Standing Committees and progressed through working groups and task forces. These are described in Section E.

6. In addition, there are a number of supporting programs that GCC-Stat must maintain and Section F sets out the objectives being pursued in the following areas:

13. Information, communications and technology development in GCC-Stat

14. Human resources

15. Finance and administration

7. A risk assessment and mitigation strategy for the 2015 and 2016 program of work is set out in Section G. Section H sets out the proposed next steps after the Board meeting scheduled for early 2015.

8. A companion document sets out the proposed work programs for 2015 and 2016 to implement the road maps set out in Sections C and F.

B. Strategic Planning Themes

9. Within the context of the overall Objectives and Strategies that the Board of Directors has established for GCC-Stat, the road maps and work programs have been built around some key themes as follows.

❖ *Implementing international standards and classifications in GCC statistics.*

10. The focus here will be on the priority statistics fields agreed by the Board, as follows:

- ➢ **National accounts:** quarterly and annual national accounts compiled in accordance with the UN System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)
- ➢ **Prices statistics:** compiled in accordance with the Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice and the Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice
- ➢ **Labour statistics:** compiled in accordance with the ILO Resolution Concerning Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour Underutilization
- ➢ **Monetary and financial statistics:** compiled in accordance with IMF Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual; the Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide; and the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM 6)
- ➢ **External trade statistics:** compiled in accordance with UN International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions (IMTS 10)
- ➢ **2020 population census:** conducted in accordance with UN recommendations for the 2020 round of population censuses
- ➢ **Energy statistics:** compiled in accordance with UN International Recommendations on Energy Statistics and the Energy Statistics Manual
- ➢ **Environment statistics:** compiled in accordance with the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and, in due course, the UN System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts
- ➢ **Development, Progress and Sustainability indicators**: MDG and HDR indicators compiled in accordance with UN and HDR Office requirements. Other harmonized indicators to be developed in accordance with the post-2015 UN development agenda and GCC country needs.

11. Contemporary international classifications will also be implemented. These include ISIC Rev 4, the Central Product Classification (CPC V2), ISCO 2008, and ISCED 2011.

12. As appropriate, these international standards and classifications will need adaptation to better reflect GCC regional circumstances. The aim also is that the standards will be implemented in a harmonized way in GCC countries, so that valid inter-country comparisons will be possible and, where appropriate, GCC regional totals can be compiled.

❖ *Strengthening data quality in GCC statistics*

13. Over the next two years, the aim is to develop an agreed Code of Practice and a Data Quality Framework that should be progressively implemented across all statistical work in the region.

❖ *Increasing harmonization of practices and programs*

14. It is envisaged that best practices will be adopted in all stages of the statistical production process. The aim is for common methodologies to be adopted and that there be harmonization of key surveys in terms of their coverage, content, reference period, timing and frequency. This matter is taken up further in Section D below.

15. The aim will be draw on best practice already available in GCC countries, as has been recognized in the Current Status Survey. Countries with particular expertise in the field could take the lead on that subject matter.

❖ *Strengthening statistical capacity in countries*

16. Significant efforts will be made to strengthen statistical capacity in countries and technical assistance and support to countries is a key objective in all of the priority statistics fields. GCC-Stat will develop guidelines, manuals, and reference sites for distance technical assistance, as well as delivering training and technical assistance face to face, with focus on the priority statistical fields.

17. The aim will be for GCC-Stat to complement work that countries may already be doing in this regard. For example, if a country is conducting a training program or a workshop, then GCC-Stat could complement or support such activity.

❖ *Building a sustainable GCC statistical system and partnership between GCC-Stat and the National Statistical Centers*

18. The intention is that National Statistics Centers will be involved in all aspects of the work. The work program will be coordinated through the Standing Committees and progressed through working groups and task forces as appropriate. The GCC-Stat role is envisaged as providing strategic planning, leadership and coordination, a center of expertise, a platform for cooperation and delivering training and technical support. The Standing Committees and other groups are discussed further in Section E.

❖ *Progressively expanding the range and quality of datasets available about GCC countries and the GCC region*

19. While putting significant effort into developing statistics in the priority areas, a critical role for GCC-Stat is that of being a regional center for compiling GCC aggregates and disseminating GCC statistics. GCC-Stat will work with countries to agree on transmission tables, covering both data and metadata, for which countries will submit data to GCC-Stat for dissemination.

❖ *Raising the level of awareness about the importance of statistics in GCC countries*

20. The work program provides for a proactive external relations program directed at all stakeholders and community groups.

❖ *Engagement with the international statistical community*

21. The intention is to involve key international and supra-national statistical agencies in the work activities, as appropriate. Arrangements are also in place to ensure that the GCC region is actively engaged in all key international statistical forums.

❖ *Long term organizational sustainability*

22. The work program provides for continuing implementation of robust internal policies, procedures and systems to support GCC-Stat work. GCC-Stat will continue to recruit high caliber staff and experts to ensure that countries have the best possible support in their work.

C. Road Maps for Statistical Development

23. This part sets out statistical road maps for the following fields:

1. National accounts
2. Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics
3. Prices and short-term indicators
4. External trade
5. Labour market
6. Energy and environment
7. Progress and development indicators
8. Harmonized 2020 population census using administrative records
9. Administrative datasets
10. Standards and data quality
11. Ongoing assembly and dissemination of statistics
12. GCC-Stat institutional and other cross-cutting activities

1. Road Map for National Accounts Development in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

With the overall aim that, within a reasonable period of time, countries will have national accounts statistics that conform with the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard, the data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. GCC-STAT to compile and disseminate national accounts statistics for the GCC region.
2. Compile quarterly GDP in current and constant price terms by 2017.
3. Implement System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and recommended classifications by 2018.
4. Countries to move gradually to chain volume estimates during the period 2018 to 2020.
5. By 2018, the Supply-Use framework is central to annual national accounts compilation in GCC countries.
6. Developing national balance sheets in GCC countries, jointly with the National Central Banks (details to be determined)
7. Develop technical capacity of countries in national accounts.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset (Annual Accounts): Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing annual national accounts statistics	**Minimum dataset (Annual Accounts):** Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing annual national accounts statistics	**Minimum dataset (Annual Accounts):** - GDP in current and constant prices by production approach, with disaggregated components; and - GDP in current and constant prices by expenditure approach, with disaggregated components. - Gross national income, saving - Experimental annual GDP chain volume measure estimates, both from	**Minimum dataset (Annual Accounts):** - GDP in current prices and GDP volume by production approach, with disaggregated components; and - GDP in current prices and GDP volume by expenditure approach, with disaggregated components - Gross national income, saving - National balance sheet (details to be determined)

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
		production approach and expenditure approach; Base period for constant price estimates to be harmonized among the countries	Chain volume estimates rather base period constant price estimates for volume measures Supply/use balancing used by all countries to reconcile the various estimates of annual GDP
Frequency: Annual **Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Frequency:** Annual **Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Frequency:** Annual **Timeliness:** Within 9 months of end of reference year	**Frequency:** Annual **Timeliness:** Within 9 months of end of reference year
Minimum dataset (Quarterly Accounts): For those countries that compile quarterly accounts, each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing quarterly national accounts statistics	**Minimum dataset (Quarterly Accounts):** For those countries that compile quarterly accounts, each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing quarterly national accounts statistics	**Minimum dataset (Quarterly Accounts):** • GDP in current and constant prices by production approach, with disaggregated components; and • GDP in current and constant prices by expenditure approach, with disaggregated components. • Gross national income, saving Base period for constant price estimates to be harmonized among the countries	**Minimum dataset (Quarterly Accounts):** • GDP in current prices and GDP volume by production approach, with disaggregated components; and • GDP in current prices and GDP volume by expenditure approach, with disaggregated components. • Gross national income, saving Chain volume estimates rather base period constant price estimates for volume measures Quarterly data to be available in both original and seasonally adjusted terms

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Frequency: Quarterly for those countries that compile quarterly accounts **Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Frequency:** Quarterly for those countries that compile quarterly accounts **Timeliness:** As per country practice	Quarterly data to be available in both original and seasonally adjusted terms **Frequency:** Quarterly for all countries **Timeliness:** Within two quarters of reference quarter	**Frequency:** Quarterly for all countries **Timeliness:** Within one quarter of reference quarter
Standard for both Annual and Quarterly Accounts: Compiled in accordance with country practices (either SNA 1993 or SNA 2008)	**Standard for both Annual and Quarterly Accounts :** Compiled in accordance with country practices (either SNA 1993 or SNA 2008)	**Standard for both Annual and Quarterly Accounts:** Compiled in accordance with either SNA 1993 or SNA 2008 (Would exceed the IMF GDDS data template)	**Standard for both Annual and Quarterly Accounts:** Compiled in accordance with SNA 2008, ISIC Rev 4 and CPC V2, including the use of chain volume measures rather than base period constant price estimates (Would conform with SDDS data template)
GCC-Stat role: 1. Prepares data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates/consolidates the data to compile annual national accounts for the GCC region[1] 3. Takes the lead in national accounts development within the region.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates/consolidates the data to compile annual national accounts for the GCC region. 3. Takes the lead in national accounts development within the region.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates/consolidates the data to compile quarterly and annual	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates/consolidates the data to compile quarterly and annual national accounts for the GCC region.

[1] Because GCC countries will be compiling national accounts in accordance with differing conceptual standards in the years 2015 to 2017, policy decisions will need to be made on how the aggregation/consolidation is calculated and how the data will be published.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
4. Provides technical assistance and training to countries.	4. Provides technical assistance and training to countries.	national accounts for the GCC region. 3. Takes the lead in national accounts development within the region. 4. Provides technical assistance and training to countries.	3. Takes the lead in national accounts development within the region. 4. Provides technical assistance and training to countries.

2. Road Map for Development of Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (MFBP)[2]

Within the overall objective of positioning countries to be in conformity with the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. GCC-STAT assembles and disseminates Monetary, Financial, Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Foreign Investment Statistics;

2. Establish formal cooperation between the GCC-STAT, the GCC-Monetary Council, the National Statistics Centers (NSCs) and the National Central Banks (NCBs) by establishing a Joint Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (JCFMBP) to:

❖ Improve linkage between those statistics with other areas of economic statistics, in particular national accounts.
❖ Ensure harmonization of production and dissemination standards and formats in these areas of statistics, including metadata;
❖ Develop common GCC methodological standards for those areas that are not yet clearly defined (such as monetary base (MB) and money supply aggregates (MB, M0,M1; M2; M3) and to implement contemporary international standards;
❖ Encourage institutional cooperation and collaboration between the NSCs and the NCBs in implementing foreign investment and other balance of payments surveys, enterprise surveys of financial institutions, and in producing macroeconomic statistics in general.
❖ Facilitate collaboration between IMF, central banks and national statistics centers on Monetary, Financial, Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Foreign Investment Statistics.

3. Lead the implementation in the region of a Coordinated GCC Direct and Portfolio Investment Survey:

❖ Implement a Coordinated GCC Direct and Portfolio Investment Survey.
❖ Aggregate and publish the results of the GCC Direct and Portfolio Investment Survey, covering both Intra-GCC and Extra-GCC direct investment and portfolio investment.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

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[2] The Board of Directors has identified monetary and financial statistics as one of 10 priority projects for GCC-Stat. It is proposed to add foreign investment statistics under this project in recognition of country requests for GCC-Stat to also support the work in the countries in the field of implementation of foreign investment surveys. It is proposed also to add dissemination of balance of payments, international investment statistics, reserve assets and other related statistics compiled by the central banks to meet the user needs of the general public and the GCC Secretariat.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset: Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing Monetary, Financial, Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Foreign Investment Statistics.	**Minimum dataset:** A. Encourage Central Banks to compile and disseminate: 1. Monetary and Financial Statistics (MFS) in conformity with the IMF GDDS Template in accordance with the IMF's *MFS Manual, 2000* (*MFSM*) and the *MFS Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG 2008*): • Depository Corporations Survey (DCS), including *Monetary aggregates* (broad money and narrow money are encouraged); • Central Bank Survey (CBS); • Interest Rates; • Stock Market–Share Price Index (SPI). In countries where no substantial stock market exists, this data category will not be relevant. 2. Balance of payments and international investment position statistics in conformity with the IMF GDDS Template in accordance with the Sixth Edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics Manual* (*BPM6*).	**Minimum dataset:** A. Encourage Central Banks to compile and disseminate: 1. Monetary and Financial Statistics (MFS) in conformity with the IMF GDDS Template in accordance with the IMF's *MFS Manual, 2000* (*MFSM*) and the *MFS Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG 2008*): • Depository Corporations Survey (DCS), including *Monetary aggregates* (broad money and narrow money are encouraged); • Central Bank Survey (CBS); • Interest Rates; • Stock Market–Share Price Index (SPI). In countries where no substantial stock market exists, this data category will not be relevant. 2. Balance of payments and international investment position statistics in conformity with the MF SDDS Template in accordance with the Sixth Edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics Manual* (*BPM6*).	**Minimum dataset:** A. Encourage Central Banks to compile and disseminate: 1. Monetary and Financial Statistics (MFS) in conformity with the IMF GDDS Template in accordance with the IMF's *MFS Manual, 2000* (*MFSM*) and the *MFS Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG 2008*): • Depository Corporations Survey (DCS), including *Monetary aggregates* (broad money and narrow money are encouraged); • Central Bank Survey (CBS); • Interest Rates; • Stock Market–Share Price Index (SPI). In countries where no substantial stock market exists, this data category will not be relevant. 2. Harmonized monetary aggregates based on agreed contemporary GCC methodological standards. 3. Balance of payments and international investment position statistics in conformity with the IMF SDDS Template in accordance with the Sixth Edition of the *Balance of*

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
	3. Official Reserve Assets in conformity with the IMF GDDS Template (for countries with fixed exchange rates or less than fully flexible exchange rates, international reserves can serve as a tracking category, providing a more frequent and timely indicator of external sector developments than the comprehensive framework of balance of payments). B. Produce and disseminate statistics on foreign direct investment and portfolio investment in accordance with the Coordinated Direct Investment and Portfolio Investment Survey.	3. Official Reserve Assets in conformity with the IMF SDDS Template. 4. International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: an extension of official reserve assets; B. Produce and disseminate harmonized statistics on foreign direct investment and portfolio investment in accordance with the Coordinated Direct Investment and Portfolio Investment Survey.	*Payments and International Investment Position Statistics Manual* (*BPM6*). 4. Official Reserve Assets in conformity with the IMF SDDS Template. 5. International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: an extension of official reserve assets B. Produce and disseminate harmonized statistics on foreign direct investment and portfolio investment in accordance with the Coordinated Direct Investment and Portfolio Investment Survey.
Frequency: In accordance with country practice	**Frequency:** • DCS: Monthly; • CBS: Monthly; • Interest Rates: Monthly; • Stock Market–SPI: Monthly; • Balance of payments: Annual and Quarterly; • Official Reserve Assets: Monthly; • Foreign Investment Survey: annual, quarterly encouraged;	**Frequency:** • DCS: Monthly; • CBS: Monthly as a minimum; • Interest Rates: Daily encouraged;; • Financial Soundness Indicators (FSI): quarterly; • Stock Market–SPI: daily - encouraged; • Balance of payments: Quarterly; • Official Reserve Assets: Monthly (weekly periodicity is encouraged); • Data Template on International	**Frequency:** • DCS: Monthly; • CBS: Monthly as a minimum; • Interest Rates: daily encouraged;; • FSI: quarterly; • Stock Market–SPI: Daily encouraged; • Balance of payments: Quarterly; • Official Reserve Assets: Monthly (weekly periodicity is encouraged); • Data Template on International

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020

Timeliness:
In accordance with country practice
	Timeliness:
	• DCS: within 1–3 months after the end of the reference month;
	• CBS: within 1–2 months after the end of the reference month;
	• Interest Rates: Flexible timeliness;
	• Stock Market–SPI: No specific timeliness;
	• Balance of Payments: annual data within two quarters following the reference year; quarterly data within two quarters after the end of the reference quarter;
	• Official Reserve Assets: within one to four weeks after the end of the reference month;
	• Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (encouraged): with no more than a three-months lag;
	• Foreign Investment Survey:
	  - Annual data:
	    ▪ Preliminary core survey results: 9 months after the reference date of the survey;
		Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Monthly;
		• Foreign Investment Survey: annual, quarterly encouraged;
		
		Timeliness:
		• DCS: within 1–2 months after the end of the reference month;
		• CBS: at least within 1–2 months following the reference month;
		• Interest Rates: Flexible timeliness;
		• FSI: within 1-2 quarters after the end of the reference quarter;
		• Stock Market–SPI: No specific timeliness;
		• Balance of Payments, quarterly: within one- two quarters after the end of the reference quarter;
		• Official Reserve Assets: within two weeks after the end of the reference month;
		• Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: with no more than a two-months lag;
		• Foreign Investment Survey:
		  - Annual data:
		    ▪ Preliminary core survey results: 9 months after the reference date of the survey;
			Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Monthly;
			• Foreign Investment Survey: annual, quarterly encouraged;
			
			Timeliness:
			• DCS: within 1 month after the end of the reference month;
			• CBS: at least within 1–2 months following the reference month;
			• Interest Rates: Flexible timeliness;
			• FSI: within one-quarter following the reference quarter;
			• Stock Market–SPI: No specific timeliness;
			• Balance of Payments, quarterly: within one quarter after the end of the reference quarter;
			• Official Reserve Assets: within one week after the end of the reference month;
			• Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: with no more than a one-month lag;
			• Foreign Investment Survey:
			  - Annual data:
			    ▪ Preliminary core survey results: 9 months after the reference date of the survey;

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
	▪ Revised annual survey results and additional information (if any): 15 months after the reference date of the survey; - Quarterly: 6 months after the reference date of the survey.	▪ Revised annual survey results and additional information (if any): 15 months after the reference date of the survey; - Quarterly: 6 months after the reference date of the survey;	▪ Revised core survey results and additional information (if any): 15 months after the reference date of the survey; - Quarterly: 6 months after the reference date of the survey;
Standard: Compiled in accordance with country practice	**Standard:** • Monetary and Financial Statistics: - *The General Data Dissemination System Guide for Participants and Users (GDDS Guide);* - *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, 2000* (*MFSM 2000*); - *Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG 2008*); - *International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Guidelines for a Data Template (Guidelines), IMF, 2013;*	**Standard:** • Monetary and Financial Statistics: - *The Special Data Dissemination Standard Guide for Participants and Users (SDDS Guide);* - *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, 2000* (*MFSM 2000*); - *Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG 2008*); - *International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Guidelines for a Data Template (Guidelines), IMF, 2013;* • External Sector Statistics: - *SDDS Guide;*	**Standard:** • Monetary and Financial Statistics: - *The Special Data Dissemination Standard Guide for Participants and Users (SDDS Guide);* - *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, 2000* (*MFSM 2000*); - *Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG 2008*); - *International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Guidelines for a Data Template (Guidelines), IMF, 2013;* - *Financial Soundness Indicators Compilation Guide, 2006;* - *Agreed GCC contemporary definitions of monetary aggregates (to be developed).* • External Sector Statistics: - *SDDS Guide;*

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
	• External Sector Statistics: - *GDDS Guide*; - Balance *of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics Manual* (*BPM6*); • Foreign Investment Survey (FIS): - *Coordinated Direct Investment Survey Guide, 2010 (CDIS Guide)*; - Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey Guide, *Second Edition* (*CPIS Guide);* - OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition, 2008.	- Balance *of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics Manual* (*BPM6*); • Foreign Investment Survey (FIS): - *CDIS Guide*, 2010; - *CPIS Guide, Second Edition*; - OECD Benchmark Definition of FDI, Fourth Edition, 2008.	- Balance *of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics Manual* (*BPM6*); • Foreign Investment Survey (FIS): - *CDIS Guide*, 2010; - *CPIS Guide, Second Edition*; - OECD Benchmark Definition of FDI, Fourth Edition, 2008.
GCC-Stat role: 1. Assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Facilitates collaboration between IMF, National Central Banks and National Statistics Centers.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Assembles the datasets on MFS and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them, including regional aggregates where possible; 2. Assembles the datasets on balance of payments and International Investment Position. No attempts to produce regional aggregates; 3. Serves as a secretariat for the JCFMBP to achieve the objectives outlined the above;	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Assembles the datasets on MFS and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them, including regional aggregates where possible; 2. Assembles the datasets on balance of payments and International Investment Position. No attempts to produce regional aggregates; 3. Serves as a secretariat for the JCFMBP to achieve the objectives outlined the above; 4. Encourages and facilitates development by the JCFMBP of	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Assembles the datasets on MFS and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them, including regional aggregates where possible; 2. Assembles the datasets on balance of payments and International Investment Position. No attempts to produce regional aggregates; 3. Serves as a secretariat for the JCFMBP to achieve the objectives outlined the above; 4. Encourages and facilitates implementation by the National

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
	4. Encourages and facilitates development by the JCFMBP of harmonized GCC definitions of monetary aggregates. 5. Aggregates and publishes the results of the GCC Direct and Portfolio Investment Survey, covering both Intra-GCC and Extra-GCC direct investment and portfolio investment.	harmonized GCC definitions of monetary aggregates. 5. Aggregates and publishes the results of the GCC Direct and Portfolio Investment Survey, covering both Intra-GCC and Extra-GCC direct investment and portfolio investment.	Central Banks of harmonized GCC definitions of monetary aggregates. 5. Aggregates and publishes the results of the GCC Direct and Portfolio Investment Survey, covering both Intra-GCC and Extra-GCC direct investment and portfolio investment.

3. Road Map for Development of Price Indices and Short-term Indicators in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The following data strategy is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Regular dissemination of price indices and short-term indicators in accordance with transmission tables to be agreed with countries.

2. By 2020, develop and produce a Harmonized GCC Index of Consumer Prices as a primary measure of GCC market inflation and support the development of national CPIs to comply with international best practices.

3. Develop and harmonize the national methodologies of Producer Price Index (PPI) according to international best practices, working towards meeting SDDS requirements.

4. Develop other regional short-term economic indicators, according to agreed common priorities.

5. Develop technical capacity of the GCC Statistical system in this field of statistics.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset (National Consumer Price Index): Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing monthly CPI statistics. Methodological changes to national indices will be based on international best practices. Compile a temporary aggregate headline CPI for the GCC from the national indices. **Frequency:** Monthly	**Minimum dataset (Consumer Price Index:** Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing monthly CPI statistics. National methodologies better meet international best practices. Compile the aggregate overall CPI for the GCC from the national indices. **Frequency:** Monthly	**Minimum dataset (Consumer Price Index):** Each National CPI compiled and disseminated by COICOP classification. National conceptual basis clearly stated and deviations from best practice methodology explained. Methodology for aggregate GCC CPI improved and 12 more comparable COICOP main groups disseminated. **Frequency:** Monthly	**Minimum dataset (Consumer Price Index):** National CPIs compiled[3], as per country practice. Aggregate GCC CPI replaced by the Harmonized GCC Index of Consumer Prices. **Frequency:** Monthly

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[3] Based on the national needs, the countries may continue compiling national CPIs along with the Harmonized GCC Index.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Timeliness: As per country practice	**Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Timeliness:** Within 1 month of end of reference period	**Timeliness: W**ithin 1 month of end of reference period
Standard for National CPI: Compiled according to National Specifications	**Standard for National CPI:** Compiled according to national specifications, improvements according to *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*	**Standard for National CPI:** Compiled broadly in line with *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*	**Standard for National CPI:** Compiled broadly in line with *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*
Minimum dataset (Harmonized GCC Index of Consumer Prices): Methodology for a Harmonized GCC Index of Consumer Prices is approved and national work plans for Harmonized Index operational.	**Minimum dataset (Harmonized GCC Index):** According to national work plans for Harmonized GCC Index.	**Minimum dataset (Harmonized GCC Index):** Common surveys in place to harmonize the expenditure weights	**Minimum dataset (Harmonized GCC Index):** • **Harmonized GCC Index of Consumer Prices** **Frequency:** Monthly **Timeliness:** Within 1 month of end of reference period
Standard for Harmonized GCC Index: *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*	**Standard for Harmonized GCC Index:** *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*	**Standard for Harmonized GCC Index:** *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*	**Standard for Harmonized GCC Index:** *CPI Manual: Theory and Practice*
Minimum dataset (Producer Price Index): Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing PPIs.	**Minimum dataset (Producer Price Index):** Improvements to the national indices are made based on compliance with *PPI Manual: Theory and Practice*. Common methodology is agreed and national data requirements identified.	**Minimum dataset (Producer Price Index):** Common PPI methodology agreed.	**Minimum dataset (Producer Price Index):** PPI compiled and disseminated based on common methodology

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Frequency: As per country practice **Timeliness:** As per country practice **Standard for PPI:** Compiled according to country practices **Minimum dataset (Other Short-term Statistics):** Agreement on common regional and national priorities **Standard:** Compiled in accordance with country practices	**Frequency:** As per country practice **Timeliness:** As per country practice **Standard for PPI:** Compiled according to country practices (methodology improvements in line with *PPI Manual*) **Minimum dataset (other STS):** National and regional work plans for common STS are in place. **Standard:** Compiled in accordance with country practices **GCC-Stat role:**	**Frequency:** At least Quarterly PPI for all countries **Timeliness:** Within one quarter of reference quarter **Standard for PPI:** Compiled in line with *PPI Manual: Theory and Practice* **Minimum dataset (Other STS):** Common STS compiled as agreed. **Standard:** Compiled in accordance with agreed practices	**Frequency:** Monthly for all countries **Timeliness:** Within one month of reference period **Standard for PPI:** Compiled in accordance with PPI Manual, using ISIC Rev 4 and CPC V2 as agreed (Would conform with SDDS data template) **Minimum dataset (Other STS):** Common STS compiled as agreed. **Standard:** Compiled in accordance with agreed practices

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
GCC-Stat role: 1. Prepares data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates the headline CPI to compile monthly aggregate CPI for the GCC region (if shown to be technically feasible). 3. Leads the development of common index methodologies 4. Provides technical support to countries.	1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates the headline CPI to compile monthly aggregate CPI for the GCC region (if shown to be technically feasible). 3. Leads the development of common index methodologies 4. Provides technical support to countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregates the COICOP main group CPIs to compile monthly aggregate sub-indices for the GCC region (if shown to be technically feasible). 3. Aggregates the available PPI and other STS data to compile aggregate indices for the GCC region. 4. Leads the development of common index methodologies 5. Provides technical support to countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Compiles aggregate Harmonized GCC Index and aggregate PPI data for monthly aggregate indices for the GCC region. 3. Leads the development of common index methodologies 4. Provides technical support to countries.

4. Road Map for Development of External Trade Statistics in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Assemble and disseminate existing external trade statistics.
2. To build the capacity in GSS-Stat for the management of External Trade Statistics systems.
3. To ensure methodological support to member countries and encourage and support harmonization of practices among them to achieve compilation of comparable data sets in member countries.
4. Jointly with the National Statistics Centers (NSCs) to establish close cooperation with GCC Customs administrations to achieve harmonization of External Trade Statistics.
5. To prepare for the publication of the regional trade aggregates and detailed statistics by member countries.
6. To define the needs for training of staff in the GCC countries and to organize the delivery of corresponding methodological training and technical assistance to compilers of External Trade Statistics.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset: Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing external trade statistics. Countries report to the GCC-STAT their external trade statistics based on transmission tables on IMTS submitted to the NSCs in July 2014.	**Minimum dataset:** Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing external trade statistics, progressively moving them close to international guidelines: * Agree on the aggregated and detailed data transmission to the GCC-Stat formats and deadlines on ETS. * To start pilot data reporting to the GCC-STAT on harmonized ETS,	**Minimum dataset:** Countries continue: * Practical implementation of IMTS 2010 methodology (trade systems, coverage (goods excluded and included), specific goods and movements etc.). * Data reporting the GCC-STAT on ETS with increasing frequency and the details; including: - Complete set of data on exports, including oil;	**Minimum dataset:** * Countries finalize implementation of IMTS 2010 methodology; * Data reporting on ETS on a monthly based and at agreed detailed level, including:; - Complete set of data on exports, including oil; - Country of consignment for imports; - goods excluded and included; specific goods and movements etc.;

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020

Frequency:
Annual and monthly
 	
Timeliness:
As per country practice
 	
Methodological Standard:
International merchandise trade statistics, Concepts and Definitions, 2010 (IMTS 2010)
 	
GCC-STAT Role:
1. Prepares data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them.
2. Aggregates the data to GCC level where feasible.
3. Leads the development of External Trade Statistics in the GCC region, including:
  - Methodological support to member countries to implement IMTS 2010 and other international guidelines;
  - Harmonization of practices among them to achieve
	increasing frequency and the details over the years.
	
	Frequency:
	Annual and monthly
	
	Timeliness:
	Within 2–3 months after the end of the reference month (GDDS requirement).
	
	Methodological Standard:
	International merchandise trade statistics, Concepts and Definitions, 2010 (IMTS 2010)
	
	GCC-STAT Role:
	1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them.
	2. Aggregates the data to GCC level where feasible.
	3. Leads the development of External Trade Statistics in the GCC region, including:
	  - Methodological support to member countries to implement IMTS 2010 and other international guidelines;
		- Country of consignment for imports;
		
		Frequency:
		Annual and monthly
		
		Timeliness:
		Within eight weeks of the end of the reference month (SDDS requirement).
		
		Methodological Standard:
		International merchandise trade statistics, Concepts and Definitions, 2010 (IMTS 2010)
		
		GCC-STAT Role:
		1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them.
		2. Aggregates the data to GCC level where feasible.
		3. Leads the development of External Trade Statistics in the GCC region, including:
		  - Methodological support to member countries to implement IMTS 2010 and other international guidelines;
			- supplementary units and quantities.
			Frequency: Annual and monthly
			
			Timeliness:
			Within four to six weeks after the end of the reference month (SDDS encouraged).
			
			Methodological Standard:
			International merchandise trade statistics, Concepts and Definitions, 2010 (IMTS 2010)
			
			GCC-STAT Role:
			1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them.
			2. Aggregates the data to GCC level where feasible.
			3. Leads the development of External Trade Statistics in the GCC region, including:
			  - Methodological support to member countries to implement IMTS 2010 and other international guidelines;
			  - Harmonization of practices among them to achieve

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
compilation of comparable data sets in member countries. 4. Work with NSCs to establish close cooperation with the GCC Customs to enhance meeting by Customs of statistical needs to achieve harmonization of ETS. 5. Defines the needs for training of staff in the GCC countries and organises the delivery of corresponding methodological training and technical assistance to compilers of ETS.	- Harmonization of practices among them to achieve compilation of comparable data sets in member countries. 4. Work with NSCs to establish close cooperation with the GCC Customs to enhance meeting by Customs of statistical needs to achieve harmonization of ETS. 5. Defines the needs for training of staff in the GCC countries and organises the delivery of corresponding methodological training and technical assistance to compilers of ETS.	- Harmonization of practices among them to achieve compilation of comparable data sets in member countries. 4. Work with NSCs to establish close cooperation with the GCC Customs to enhance meeting by Customs of statistical needs to achieve harmonization of ETS. 5. Defines the needs for training of staff in the GCC countries and organises the delivery of corresponding methodological training and technical assistance to compilers of ETS.	compilation of comparable data sets in member countries. 4. Work with NSCs to establish close cooperation with the GCC Customs to enhance meeting by Customs of statistical needs to achieve harmonization of ETS. 5. Defines the needs for training of staff in the GCC countries and organises the delivery of corresponding methodological training and technical assistance to compilers of ETS.

5. Road Map for Labour Statistics Development in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Regular dissemination of labour statistics by GCC-Stat, including aggregate GCC level statistics in accordance with agreed standard breakdown and contemporary international standard classifications (ISIC Rev 4, ISCO 2008, ISCED 2011, etc.).

2. By end 2020, harmonized quarterly and annual labour statistics in accordance with the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians resolution for ILO (19th ICLS, 2013) with minimum datasets comprising employment, unemployment, under employment, discouraged workers, wages, and earnings.

3. Technical assistance and support to countries in realizing objectives 1 and 2.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset (Annual labour statistics): Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing annual labour statistics	**Minimum dataset (Annual labour statistics):** Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing harmonized annual labour statistics	**Minimum dataset (Annual labour statistics):** Employment, unemployment, under employment, discouraged workers, wages, and earnings, with agreed standard reference period, methodology, and dissemination breakdown for all countries and aggregate GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (Annual labour statistics):** Employment, unemployment, under employment, discouraged workers, wages, and earnings, with agreed standard reference period, methodology, and dissemination breakdown for all countries and aggregate GCC region.
Frequency: Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual
Timeliness: Existing country practices	**Timeliness:** Existing country practices	**Timeliness:** Within 5 months of end of reference period	**Timeliness:** Within 5 months of end of reference period

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset (Quarterly labour statistics): For those countries that compile quarterly labour force survey, each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing quarterly labour statistics	**Minimum dataset (Quarterly labour statistics):** For those countries that compile quarterly labour force survey, each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing quarterly labour statistics	**Minimum dataset (Quarterly labour statistics):** Employment, unemployment, under employment, discouraged workers, wages, and earnings, with agreed standard reference period, methodology, and dissemination breakdown for all countries and aggregate GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (Quarterly labour statistics):** Employment, unemployment, under employment, discouraged workers, wages, and earnings, with agreed standard reference period, methodology, and dissemination breakdown for all countries and aggregate GCC region.
Frequency: Quarterly for those countries that compile quarterly labour force survey **Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Frequency:** Quarterly for those countries that compile quarterly labour force survey **Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Frequency:** Quarterly for those countries that compile such; six-monthly for the other countries **Timeliness:** Within 3 months after reference quarter	**Frequency:** Quarterly for all countries **Timeliness:** Within 3 months after reference quarter
Standard for both Annual and Quarterly labour statistics: Existing country practice	**Standard for both Annual and Quarterly labour statistics:** Existing country practice	**Standard for both Annual and Quarterly Accounts:** ILO concepts, ISIC4, ISCO2008, ISCED2011	**Standard for both Annual and Quarterly Accounts:** ILO concepts, ISIC4, ISCO2008, ISCED2011
GCC-Stat role: 1. Prepares data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where possible aggregates/consolidates the data to compile annual labour statistics for the GCC region	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Update data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where possible aggregates/consolidates the data to compile annual labour statistics for the GCC region	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Update data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where possible aggregates/consolidates the data to compile annual labour statistics for the GCC region	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Update data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where possible aggregates/consolidates the data to compile annual labour statistics for the GCC region

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
3. Lead the labour statistics development. Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and validation and verification rules for data quality. 4. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries	3. Lead the labour statistics development. Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and validation and verification rules for data quality. 4. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries	3. Lead the labour statistics development. Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and validation and verification rules for data quality. 4. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries	3. Lead the labour statistics development. Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and validation and verification rules for data quality. 4. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries

6. Road Map for Energy and Environment Statistics Development in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

Energy statistics

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. By end 2015, international standards will be adopted, including use of a **standardised catalogue** for all relevant energy commodities based on the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) and corresponding standard calorific values as well as a suitable breakdown of economic sectors based on ISIC Rev.4
   - o Also, all countries will use the **adopted Questionnaires** (used for regional and international reporting), e.g. UNSD questionnaires or IEA/EUROSTAT/UNECE Joint questionnaires and draft a harmonised format for commodity and energy balance in 2015.
2. Within a reasonable period of time (not exceeding five years), countries will have **harmonised Energy Statistics System** based on international standards like the UN International Recommendations on Energy Statistics (IRES) and the Energy Statistics Manual.
   - o Moreover, all countries will have national **Energy Balances** by end 2015 (aggregated level for Final Energy Consumption (**FEC**) mainly for Industry sector).
3. In order to improve gradually the National Energy Balances, all countries will have a common **Survey Plan** in 2016 and conduct the first survey for the Industry sector from last quarter 2016 to end 2017. Other common **Fuel and Energy Consumption (FEC) surveys** will be proposed for the 2018-2020 period.
4. Regular **dissemination** of Energy statistics by GCC-Stat.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset : Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual energy statistics	Minimum dataset : Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual energy statistics	Minimum dataset : Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual energy statistics	Minimum dataset : Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual energy statistics

Each country will prepare national energy balance based on existing data	Each country will prepare national energy balance based on existing data	Each country will prepare national energy balance based on existing data	Each country will prepare national energy balance based on existing data
	Conduct common FEC survey : Industry sector	Conduct common FEC survey : other sector selected by countries	Conduct common FEC survey : alternating between sectors
Frequency: Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual
Timeliness: As per country practice	**Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Timeliness:** Within 9 months of end of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 9 months of end of reference year
Standard: Compiled in accordance with IRES and the Energy Statistics Manual, in addition to SIEC and ISIC.	**Standard :** Compiled in accordance with IRES and the Energy Statistics Manual in addition to SIEC and ISIC.	**Standard :** Compiled in accordance with IRES and the Energy Statistics Manual in addition to SIEC and ISIC.	**Standard :** Compiled in accordance with IRES and the Energy Statistics Manual in addition to SIEC and ISIC.
GCC-Stat role:	**GCC-Stat role:**	**GCC-Stat role:**	**GCC-Stat role:**
1. Prepare data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminate them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of energy statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.	1. Update data transmission tables and assembles the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminate them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of energy statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.	1. Update data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminate them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of energy statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.	1. Update data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminate them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of energy statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.

Environment statistics

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Within a reasonable period of time, countries will have a harmonised **Environment Statistics System** based on international standards like the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (**FDES)** (not exceeding three years)**,** the UN International Recommendations on Water Statistics (**IRWS)** and the UN System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting **(SEEA)** (five years) and with the support of the most advanced country in the region.
2. All countries will use the adopted **Questionnaires** (used for regional and international reporting), e.g. UNSD/UNEP questionnaires.
3. Promote use of a harmonised **GIS** platform to analyse and publish environment related statistics gradually according to selected themes.
4. Regular dissemination of Environment statistics by GCC-Stat.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset : Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual environment statistics	**Minimum dataset :** Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual environment statistics using adopted questionnaires Conduct common survey : Waste and Water Survey for Industry sector	**Minimum dataset :** Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual environment statistics using adopted questionnaires Conduct common survey : Waste and Water Survey for other sectors	**Minimum dataset :** Each country continues to collect and disseminate its existing annual environment statistics using adopted questionnaires Conduct common survey : Waste and Water Survey for alternating sectors Each country will prepare SEEA-Water based on existing data
Frequency: Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual
Timeliness: As per country practice	**Timeliness:** As per country practice	**Timeliness:** Within 9 months of end of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 9 months of end of reference year

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Standard: Compiled in accordance with FDES IRWS (as far as possible) **GCC-Stat role:** 1. Prepare data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of environment statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.	**Standard:** Compiled in accordance with FDES IRWS and SEEA. **GCC-Stat role:** 1. Update data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of environment statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.	**Standard:** Compiled in accordance with FDES IRWS and SEEA. **GCC-Stat role:** 1. Update data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of environment statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.	**Standard:** Compiled in accordance with FDES IRWS and SEEA. **GCC-Stat role:** 1. Update data transmission tables and assemble the dataset and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Aggregate the data to GCC level where feasible. 3. Lead the development of environment statistics. 4. Provide technical support to countries.

7. Road Map for Development of Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Regular dissemination of development and progress indicators by GCC-Stat, including aggregate GCC level statistics. This objective includes preparing reports on Development, Progress and Sustainability in the GCC region.

2. Harmonized annual development and progress indicators (in terms of concepts, definitions, methodologies, coverage, classifications, dissemination practices) and increased data quality across the region.

3. Technical assistance and support to countries in realizing objectives 1 and 2.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset (MDG's): • Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing MDG indicators. • If feasible, compile MDG's for the GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (MDG's):** • Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing MDG indicators. • If feasible, Compile MDG's for the GCC region. • Implement MDG's in the post 2015 agenda.	**Minimum dataset (MDG's):** MDG's indicators with agreed standard methodology and dissemination for all countries and aggregate GCC region, if the MDG indicators continue in the post-2015 development agenda.	**Minimum dataset (MDG's):** MDG's indicators with agreed standard methodology and dissemination for all countries and aggregate GCC region, if the MDG indicators continue in the post-2015 development agenda.
Frequency: Annual **Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Frequency:** Annual **Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Frequency:** Annual **Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Frequency:** Annual **Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset (HDR Indictors): • Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing human development report indicators. • If feasible, compile HDR for the GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (HDR Indictors):** • Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing human development report indicators. • If feasible, compile HDR for the GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (HDR Indictors):** HDR indicators with agreed standard methodology and dissemination for all countries and aggregate GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (HDR Indictors):** HDR indicators with agreed standard methodology and dissemination for all countries and aggregate GCC region.
Frequency: Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual
Timeliness: Within 12 months of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year
Minimum dataset (Other development, progress and sustainability indicators): • Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing development, progress and sustainability indicators. • If feasible, compile other development and progress indicators for the GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (Other development, progress and sustainability indicators):** • Each country continues to compile and disseminate its existing development, progress and sustainabilityindicators. • If feasible, compile other development and progress indicators for the GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (Other development and progress indicators):** Other development, progress and sustainability indicators with agreed standard methodology and dissemination for all countries and aggregate GCC region.	**Minimum dataset (Other development and progress indicators):** Other development, progress and sustainability indicators with agreed standard methodology and dissemination for all countries and aggregate GCC region.
Frequency: Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual	**Frequency:** Annual
Timeliness: Within 12 months of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year	**Timeliness:** Within 12 months of reference year

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Standard for Development and Progress Indicators: Existing country practice	**Standard for Development and Progress Indicators:** Existing country practice	**Standard for Development and Progress Indicators:** Harmonized standards consistent with international requirements	**Standard for Development and Progress Indicators:** Harmonized standards consistent with international requirements
GCC-Stat role: 1. Assembles and disseminates the datasets and associated metadata for each country for MDG's, HDR and other development, progress and sustainability indicators. 2. If feasible, compile MDG and HDR indicators for the GCC region. 3. Work with countries to implement indicators for the post 2015 agenda. 4. Lead the statistical development work.Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and data quality framework. 5. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Assembles and disseminates the datasets and associated metadata for each country for MDG's, HDR and other development,progress and sustainability indicators. 2. If feasible, compile MDG and HDR indicators for the GCC region. 3. Work with countries to implement indicators for the post 2015 agenda. 4. Lead the statistical development work. Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and data quality framework. 5. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Assembles and disseminates the datasets and associated metadata for each country for MDG's, HDR and other development, progress and sustainability indicators. 2. If feasible, compile indicators for the GCC region. 3. Lead the statistical development work. Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and data quality framework. 4. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Assembles and disseminates the datasets and associated metadata for each country for MDG's, HDR and other development, progress and sustainability indicators. 2. If feasible, compile indicators for the GCC region. 3. Lead the statistical development work.Prepare the methodological documentation, guidelines, standards, and data quality framework. 4. Provide technical assistance and support to GCC countries.

8. Road Map for Harmonized 2020 Population Census in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Using administrative sources, conduct a harmonized population census in 2020 for the GCC region, in such a way that agreed datasets can be validly aggregated to the GCC level and consistent with the UN recommendations for the 2020 round of population censuses. Interim Milestones:
   - Finalise scope of harmonised Census by Q3, 2015
   - Identify administrative data sources in each country by Q4, 2015
   - Identify country level Census designs by Q2,2016
   - Develop legislation changes by Q2,2016
   - Complete development and testing programme across all countries by Q4,2019
   - Complete Census data collection by Q4, 2020
   - First release of Census statistics by Q4, 2021
2. Develop technical capacity of the GCC statistical system in this work.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum datasets: Not applicable.	**Minimum datasets:** Not applicable.	**Minimum datasets:** Not applicable.	**Minimum datasets:** In respect of 2020, an agreed set of harmonized population data suitable for aggregation to GCC level, compiled in accordance with UN standards.
Frequency: Not applicable.	**Frequency:** Not applicable.	**Frequency:** Not applicable.	**Frequency:** In respect of 2020.
Timeliness: Not applicable.	**Timeliness:** Not applicable.	**Timeliness:** Not applicable.	**Timeliness:** To be determined

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Standard: Not applicable.	**Standard:** Not applicable.	**Standard:** Not applicable.	**Standard:** In accordance with UN recommendations for 2020 round of population censuses. Resident population compiled in accordance with international standard.
GCC-Stat role: 1. Identifies the common datasets for which GCC totals are to be compiled. 2. Coordinates development of the 2020 census among GCC countries, including preparation of coordinated work plan. 3. Provides technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Coordinates development of the 2020 census among GCC countries. 2. Provides technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Coordinates development of the 2020 census among GCC countries. 2. Provides technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Coordinates development of the 2020 census among GCC countries. 2. Provides technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.

9. Road Map for Enhanced Use of Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The Current Status Survey focused its attention on the proposed administrative-based 2020 population census and on the need to strengthen business registers in the GCC countries. A separate strategy and work program has been developed for the 2020 census; this strategy focuses on the register of enterprises and establishments (business register), with some experimentation on compilations of other datasets (to be determined) using administrative sources. This project will need to work closely with the 2020 census project. The strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. By end 2017, all countries will have available business registers that reflect the contemporary business populations in the countries, with contemporary international classifications, to support economic census and survey work.
2. Conduct studies into compilation of other datasets (to be determined) using administrative sources.
3. Develop technical capacity of the GCC statistical system in this work.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
A. Business Register **Minimum requirements:** Existing country practices.	**Minimum requirements:** Existing country practices.	**Minimum requirements:** Contemporary business registers incorporating international classifications	**Minimum requirements:** Contemporary business registers incorporating international classifications
Frequency: Existing country practice	**Frequency:** Existing country practice	**Frequency:** Continuously updated	**Frequency:** Continuously updated
Timeliness: Existing country practice	**Timeliness:** Existing country practice	**Timeliness:** Lags in updating registers reduced to be consistent with statistical needs.	**Timeliness:** Lags in updating registers reduced to be consistent with statistical needs.
Standard: Existing country practices	**Standard:** Existing country practices	**Standard:** Consistent definition of statistical units (enterprises,	**Standard:** Consistent definition of statistical units (enterprises,

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
		establishments, etc.) in all registers. All relevant international classifications (e.g. ISIC Rev 4) incorporated on registers	establishments, etc.) in all registers. All relevant international classifications (e.g. ISIC Rev 4) incorporated on registers
B. Other Datasets			
No activity in 2015	Experimentation on compilation of statistics using administrative sources (details to be determined, but would include "Big Data" issues)	If feasible, proceed with ongoing compilation. Further experimentation, including on "Big Data" issues	If feasible, proceed with ongoing compilation. Further experimentation, including on "Big Data" issues
GCC-Stat role: 1. Lead the development of business registers in the GCC region. 2. Provide a platform for monitoring and exchange of information and experience in business registers. 3. Provide technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Lead the development of business registers in the GCC region. 2. Provide a platform for monitoring and exchange of information and experience in business registers. 3. Experiment with producing statistics from administrative sources. 4. Provide technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Lead the development of business registers in the GCC region. 2. Provide a platform for monitoring and exchange of information and experience in business registers. 3. Experiment with producing statistics from administrative sources and compile if feasible. 4. Provide technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Lead the development of business registers in the GCC region. 2. Provide a platform for monitoring and exchange of information and experience in business registers. 3. Experiment with producing statistics from administrative sources and compile if feasible. 4. Provide technical assistance and training, as agreed with countries.

10. Road Map for Statistical Standards, Classifications, Methodology and Data Quality in the GCC Region Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

Within the overall objective of positioning countries to be in conformity with the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Progressively over the next five years, implement contemporary international statistical standards and recommendations in GCC statistics.

2. Progressively over the next five years, implement contemporary international statistical classifications in GCC statistics.

3. Progressively over the next five years, implement common methodologies across GCC statistics.

4. Implement GCC Quality Assurance Framework by 2017 and undertake data quality assessments thereafter.

5. Develop technical capacity of the GCC statistical system in data quality management

In realizing these statistical objectives, the focus will be on the ten priority projects agreed by the Board of Directors. As such, the data strategy presented below needs to be read in conjunction with the data strategies for the priority projects.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
A. Statistical Standards **1. National Accounts** *System of National Accounts 1993 or 2008* **2. Consumer Price Index**	*System of National Accounts 1993 or 2008*	*System of National Accounts 1993 or 2008* Quarterly national accounts in accordance with IMF *Handbook on Quarterly National Accounts*	*System of National Accounts 2008* Quarterly national accounts in accordance with IMF *Handbook on Quarterly National Accounts* Chain volume measures rather than base period constant price estimates

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices, with progressive move to international best practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices, with progressive move to international best practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices, with progressive move to international best practices (if countries choose to continue with their CPIs once the harmonized index is available).
3. Proposed Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Compiled in accordance with *Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice*
4. Producer Price Index Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with *Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice*	Compiled in accordance with *Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice*
5. Labour statistics Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with *Resolution of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians* on labour statistics	Compiled in accordance with *Resolution of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians* on labour statistics
6. Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with IMF *Manual on Monetary and Financial Statistics 2000* and IMF *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM 6)*	Compiled in accordance with IMF *Manual on Monetary and Financial Statistics 2000* and IMF *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM 6)*

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
			Financial Soundness indicators compiled in accordance with IMF *Handbook*
7. External trade statistics Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with UN *Recommendations on Merchandise Trade Statistics*	Compiled in accordance with UN *Recommendations on Merchandise Trade Statistics*	Compiled in accordance with UN *Recommendations on Merchandise Trade Statistics*
8. Population statistics Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Resident population compiled in accordance with international standards on residency.	Resident population compiled in accordance with international standards on residency. Harmonized 2020 population census.
9. Energy statistics Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with UN *International Recommendations on Energy Statistics* and *Energy Statistics Manual*	Compiled in accordance with UN *International Recommendations on Energy Statistics* and *Energy Statistics Manual*	Compiled in accordance with UN *International Recommendations on Energy Statistics* and *Energy Statistics Manual* and the UN *System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts* (energy balances)
10. Environment statistics Compiled in accordance with existing country practices	Compiled in accordance with the UN *Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* and the *International Recommendations on Water Statistics*	Compiled in accordance with the UN *Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* and the *International Recommendations on Water Statistics*	Compiled in accordance with the UN *Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* and the *International Recommendations on Water Statistics* and the UN *System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts*

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
11. Development, Progress and Sustainability indicators MDG indicators compiled in accordance with UN requirements. HDR indicators compiled in accordance with HDR Office requirements **B. Classifications** Progressively move to adopt international standard classifications, adapted as appropriate to GCC regional circumstances. **C. Statistical Methodologies** Existing country methodologies.	MDG indicators compiled in accordance with UN requirements. HDR indicators compiled in accordance with HDR Office requirements Progressively move to adopt international standard classifications, adapted as appropriate to GCC regional circumstances. For datasets for which inter-country comparison and/or aggregation/consolidation is required, progressively develop and adopt standard methodologies. As appropriate, progressively adopt common statistical techniques for GCC-wide application in areas such as:	Development, progress and sustainability indicators compiled in accordance with the post-2015 development agenda and to meet GCC country needs. Progressively move to adopt international standard classifications, adapted as appropriate to GCC regional circumstances. For datasets for which inter-country comparison and/or aggregation/consolidation is required, progressively develop and adopt standard methodologies. As appropriate, progressively adopt common statistical techniques for GCC-wide application in areas such as:	Development, progress and sustainability indicators compiled in accordance with the post-2015 development agenda and to meet GCC country needs. Progressively move to adopt international standard classifications, adapted as appropriate to GCC regional circumstances. For datasets for which inter-country comparison and/or aggregation/consolidation is required, progressively develop and adopt standard methodologies. As appropriate, progressively adopt common statistical techniques for GCC-wide application in areas such as:

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
	• Seasonal adjustment • Trend analysis • Editing methodologies • Others, as identified	• Seasonal adjustment • Trend analysis • Editing methodologies • Others, as identified	• Seasonal adjustment • Trend analysis • Editing methodologies • Others, as identified
D. Data Quality Frameworks and Management Existing country practices. Formally adopt the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics for all official statistics work in the region. Develop and adopt a Code of Practice for official statistics in the GCC region.	Develop a GCC data quality framework for adoption by GCC-Stat and National Statistics Centres.	Implement the GCC data quality framework. Undertake data quality assurance assessments for the highest priority statistics in accordance with the GCC quality framework.	Implement the GCC data quality framework. Undertake data quality assurance assessments for the highest priority statistics in accordance with the GCC quality framework.
GCC-Stat role: 1. Takes the lead role in all standards, classification, methodology and data quality work. 2. Provides technical assistance and training to countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Takes the lead role in all standards, classification, methodology and data quality work. 2. Provides technical assistance and training to countries.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Takes the lead role in all standards, classification, methodology and data quality work. 2. Provides technical assistance and training to countries. 3. As agreed with countries, undertakes data quality assurance assessments.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Takes the lead role in all standards, classification, methodology and data quality work. 2. Provides technical assistance and training to countries. 3. As agreed with countries, undertakes data quality assurance assessments.

11. Road Map for Ongoing Assembly and Dissemination and Analysis of Statistics by GCC-Stat Based on the Findings from the Current Status Survey

The data strategy presented below is based on the following statistical objectives:

1. Regular assembly and dissemination of population, social, economic and environment statistics by GCC-Stat.
2. Adopt policies and procedures around data dissemination (e.g. advance release calendars, embargo arrangements).
3. Aggregation of statistics to GCC totals where feasible.
4. Produce thematic publications about the GCC region.
5. Use best practice assembly and dissemination systems.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Minimum dataset: To be determined on the basis of the results of the Current Status Survey and the GCC-Stat user survey. As a minimum, GCC-Stat will take over and maintain the datasets previously assembled by the GCC Secretariat. Aggregate/consolidate to GCC totals, as feasible. Produce thematic publications.	**Minimum dataset:** To be determined on the basis of the results of the Current Status Survey and the GCC-Stat user survey. As a minimum, GCC-Stat will take over and maintain the datasets previously assembled by the GCC Secretariat. Aggregate/consolidate to GCC totals, as feasible. Produce thematic publications.	**Minimum dataset:** Progressively expand the range of datasets as additional datasets become available from countries. Aggregate/consolidate to GCC totals, as feasible. Produce thematic publications.	**Minimum dataset** Progressively expand the range of datasets as additional datasets become available from countries. Aggregate/consolidate to GCC totals, as feasible. Produce thematic publications.
Frequency: As available	**Frequency:** As available	**Frequency:** As available	**Frequency:** As available
Timeliness: As available	**Timeliness:** As available	**Timeliness:** As available	**Timeliness:** As available
Standard: Compiled in accordance with country practices	**Standard:** Compiled in accordance with country practices	**Standard:** Compiled in accordance with country practices. It is expected that countries will progressively move to adopt	**Standard:** Compiled in accordance with country practices. It is expected that countries will progressively move to adopt

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
		international standards across all of their statistics, with moves to harmonize them between countries.	international standards across all of their statistics, with moves to harmonize them between countries.
GCC-Stat role: 1. Prepares data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where feasible, aggregates/consolidates the data to compile statistics for the GCC region 3. Implements best practice dissemination systems. 4. Produces thematic publications.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where feasible, aggregates/consolidates the data to compile statistics for the GCC region 3. Implements best practice dissemination systems. 4. Produces thematic publications.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where feasible, aggregates/consolidates the data to compile statistics for the GCC region 3. Implements best practice dissemination systems. 4. Produces thematic publications.	**GCC-Stat role:** 1. Updates data transmission tables and assembles the datasets and associated metadata for each country and disseminates them. 2. Where feasible, aggregates/consolidates the data to compile statistics for the GCC region 3. Implements best practice dissemination systems. 4. Produces thematic publications.

12. Road Map for GCC-Stat Institutional and Other Cross-cutting Activities

There are many institutional and other cross-cutting issues that GCC-Stat must deal with, over and above the strategies set out for the specific projects. These matters are taken up here, based on the following objectives:

1. Build and strengthen the institutional capacity of the GCC countries.
2. Build the culture of statistics and raise the awareness about statistics and strengthen actual and correct use of data and information in decision making and policy formulation in GCC countries.
3. Ensure that the GCC region has an effective presence in international statistical development.
4. Ensure the long-term organizational sustainability of GCC-Stat.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 1: Build and strengthen institutional capacity of GCC countries Progressively develop and implement harmonized statistics laws, code of practice and data quality framework for the GCC region	Progressively develop and implement harmonized statistics laws, code of practice and data quality framework for the GCC region	Implement harmonized statistics laws, code of practice and data quality framework for the GCC region	Implement harmonized statistics laws, code of practice and data quality framework for the GCC region
Provide technical assistance and training support to countries	Provide technical assistance and training support to countries	Provide technical assistance and training support to countries	Provide technical assistance and training support to countries
	Undertake peer reviews of countries, if requested	Undertake peer reviews of countries, if requested	Undertake peer reviews of countries, if requested
Effective operation of Standing Committees, task forces and working groups	Effective operation of Standing Committees, task forces and working groups	Effective operation of Standing Committees, task forces and working groups	Effective operation of Standing Committees, task forces and working groups

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 2: Build the culture of statistics and raise statistical awareness Effective external relations program within GCC-Stat involving all statistics stakeholders in the different sectors and community segments such as organizations in GCC countries, private sector, and civil societies, etc.	Effective external relations program within GCC-Stat involving all statistics stakeholders in the different sectors and community segments such as organizations in GCC countries, private sector, and civil societies, etc. Biennial conference of data producers and users in GCC countries	Effective external relations program within GCC-Stat involving all statistics stakeholders in the different sectors and community segments such as organizations in GCC countries, private sector, and civil societies, etc.	Effective external relations program within GCC-Stat involving all statistics stakeholders in the different sectors and community segments such as organizations in GCC countries, private sector, and civil societies, etc. Biennial conference of data producers and users in GCC countries
OBJECTIVE 3: GCC Region has an effective presence in international statistical development GCC to be represented in all important international statistical forums Mechanisms in place to ensure attendees in international forums are well briefed on issues of concern in the GCC region	GCC to be represented in all important international statistical forums Mechanisms in place to ensure attendees in international forums are well briefed on issues of concern in the GCC region	GCC to be represented in all important international statistical forums Mechanisms in place to ensure attendees in international forums are well briefed on issues of concern in the GCC region	GCC to be represented in all important international statistical forums Mechanisms in place to ensure attendees in international forums are well briefed on issues of concern in the GCC region

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 4: Long-term organizational sustainability of GCC-Stat Effective support to the Board of Directors			
Recruitment of high calibre staff and experts in accordance with work program priorities, including use of national experts	Effective support to the Board of Directors	Effective support to the Board of Directors	Effective support to the Board of Directors
User group established and supported	Sustaining high calibre staff and experts in accordance with work program priorities, including use of national experts	Sustaining high calibre staff and experts in accordance with work program priorities, including use of national experts	Sustaining calibre staff and experts in accordance with work program priorities, including use of national experts
Effective technical, financial and administrative systems in place	User group established and supported	User group established and supported	User group established and supported
Strong relationships with academia and researchers	Effective technical, financial and administrative systems in place	Effective technical, financial and administrative systems in place	Effective technical, financial and administrative systems in place
Partnership arrangements with international agencies	Strong relationships with academia and researchers	Strong relationships with academia and researchers	Strong relationships with academia and researchers
Policies and procedures manuals developed and implemented	Partnership arrangements with international agencies	Partnership arrangements with international agencies	Partnership arrangements with international agencies
Effective delivery of agreed work program	Policies and procedures manuals developed and implemented	Policies and procedures manuals developed and implemented	Policies and procedures manuals developed and implemented
Risk management strategy implemented	Effective delivery of agreed work program	Effective delivery of agreed work program	Effective delivery of agreed work program

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
Biennial, independent assessment of GCC-Stat	Risk management strategy implemented	Risk management strategy implemented Biennial, independent assessment of GCC-Stat	Risk management strategy implemented
GCC-Stat role: Develops and implements, in conjunction with countries, work programs to ensure the above is achieved	**GCC-Stat role:** Develops and implements, in conjunction with countries, work programs to ensure the above is achieved	**GCC-Stat role:** Develops and implements, in conjunction with countries, work programs to ensure the above is achieved	**GCC-Stat role:** Develops and implements, in conjunction with countries, work programs to ensure the above is achieved

C. Harmonized Statistical Programs

24. Progressing the statistical objectives in accordance with the road maps requires that there be harmonization of key statistical work programs. Harmonization of survey methodologies, timing, processing, analysis and dissemination of the key surveys will enhance the cross-country comparability of national statistics. It will also greatly facilitate accurate aggregation in presenting the GCC region as a unified economic and social group. For successful implementation of household and business surveys, up-to-date population and business registers are a key element. Strengthening these registers is an important part of the road maps for the 2020 population census and the administrative datasets projects.

25. The Road Maps presented above refer to a number of proposed harmonized surveys to be carried out in all countries using a common core methodology that countries may further complement to meet their specific national needs. These are set out in the table below.

Proposed Program of Harmonized Surveys

Project	2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
National accounts	Not applicable	Annual economic survey Quarterly economic survey	Annual economic survey Quarterly economic survey	Annual economic survey Quarterly economic survey
Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics	Not applicable	Not applicable	Coordinated direct and portfolio foreign investment survey	Coordinated direct and portfolio foreign investment survey
Prices and short-term indicators	Not applicable	Not applicable	CPI prices survey	CPI prices survey PPI prices survey Household income and expenditure
Labour statistics	Not applicable	Annual labour force survey	Semi-annual or Quarterly labour force survey	Semi-annual or Quarterly labour force survey
Energy statistics	Not applicable	Fuel and energy consumption survey for Industry sector	Fuel and energy consumption survey for other sectors	Fuel and energy consumption survey for alternating sectors
Environment statistics	Not applicable	Waste and Water survey for Industry sector	Waste and Water survey for other sectors	Waste and Water survey for alternating sectors
Development, Progress and Sustainability indicators	Not applicable	Not applicable	Agreed survey(s) to derive progress and development indicators	Agreed survey(s) to derive progress and development indicators
2020 Population Census	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Harmonized 2020 population census

E. Standing Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces

26. The work program to support the statistical road maps envisages Standing Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces to support the work. The matrix below summarizes what is envisaged. (It must be noted that there are also other committees and working groups dealing with statistical matters that are outside the scope of these road maps.)

Summary of Proposed Standing Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces for 2015 and 2016

Project/Program	Standing Committee	Working Group	Task Force
1. National accounts	Committee on National Accounts (EXISTING)		
2. Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics	Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (EXISTING) Joint Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (NEW)		Task Force on Coordinated Direct and Portfolio Investment Surveys
3. Price and short-term indicators	Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (EXISTING)	Working Group on Price Indices and Short-term Indicators (EXISTING)	
4. External trade	Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (EXISTING)	Working Group on External Trade Statistics	
5. Labour statistics	Standing Committee on Population and Social Statistics (EXISTING)	Working Group on Labour Statistics	
6. Energy statistics	Standing Committee on Geographical, Environmental, Tourism and Energy Statistics (NEW)	Working Group on Energy Statistics	

7. Environment statistics	Standing Committee on Geographical, Environmental, Tourism and Energy Statistics (NEW)	Working Group on Environment Statistics	
8. Development, progress and sustainability indicators	Standing Committee on Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators (NEW)	Working Group on Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators	
9. Harmonized 2020 population census	Standing Committee on Population and Social Statistics (EXISTING) Committee on 2020 Population Census (EXISTING)	Working Group on 2020 Population Census	
10. Enhanced use of administrative data	Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (EXISTING) Standing Committee on Population and Social Statistics (EXISTING)	Working Group on Business Registers	
11. Standards, Classifications, Methodology and Data Quality	Standing Committee on Standards and Data Quality (EXISTING)	Working Group on Standards, Classifications, Methodology and Data Quality	-Classification -Code of practices
12. Ongoing Data Assembly and Dissemination			

13. GCC-Stat institutional and other cross-cutting matters			Task Force of Legal Experts on Harmonized Statistics Laws
14. Information technology	Standing Committee of Heads of ICT (EXISTING)	Working Group on Geographical Information System	
15. Human Resources			
16. Finance and Administration			

F. Road Maps for Supporting Programs

27. This part sets out the objectives for the following supporting programs that GCC-Stat must maintain:

13. Information technology

14. Human resources

15. Finance and administration

13. Road Map for Information, Communications and Technology Development in the GCC-Stat

The strategy presented below is based on the following ICT objectives:

1. Ensure availability of required IT infrastructure in place for developing IT statistical system.

2. Ensure ICT infrastructure and systems support data and statistics availability to all users.

3. Ensure ICT tools support data quality and security.

4. Improve satisfaction of ICT users in GCC-Stat.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and data strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure availability of required IT infrastructure in place for developing IT statistical system 1. Identifying IT applications needed 2. Defining location, Services, Hard Ware & Soft Ware 3. Infrastructure ready (Network, Servers, communications, security, access control, …) 4. Develop ERP system 5. Develop Data Management 6. Prepare Video and Audio conferencing facilities System	1. Infrastructure ready (Network, Servers, communications, security, access control, …) 2. Develop ERP system 3. ICT Policies and Process in Place 4. Prepare Video and Audio conferencing facilities System	1. Infrastructure ready (Network, Servers, communications, security, access control, …) 2. ICT Policies and Process in Place	1. Infrastructure ready (Network, Servers, communications, security, access control, …) 2. ICT Policies and Process in Place

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure ICT infrastructure and systems support data quality and statistics availability to all users 1. Develop data portal and open data 2. Develop GCC-Stat Portal 3. Guidelines for unified e-services (Templates, e-Forms & e-surveys) with member countries 4. Administration data collection process and tools Guidelines 5. Develop GCC-Stat Digital Library 6. Develop and implement data collection and dissemination policies 7. Develop data validation controls 8. Explore implementing SDMX for data exchange 9. Develop mechanism for administration of data collection and exchange with countries	1. Enhance data portal and open data 2. Enhance mobile application 3. Develop data Bases (Experts, Statisticians, Datasets, GIS, Knowledge Management...). 4. Develop e-services joint program 5. Implement data collection and dissemination policies 6. Develop data validation controls 7. Explore implementing SDMX for data exchange 8. Develop mechanism for administration of data collection and exchange with countries	1. Enhance data portal and open data 2. Develop data Bases (Experts, Statisticians, Datasets, GIS, Knowledge Management...). 3. Enhance e-services joint program 4. Implement data collection and dissemination policies 5. Implement data validation controls 6. Progressively implement mechanism for administration of data collection and exchange with countries	1. Enhance data portal and open data 2. Develop data Bases (Experts, Statisticians, Datasets, GIS, Knowledge Management...). 3. Enhance e-services joint program 4. Implement data collection and dissemination policies 5. Implement data validation controls 6. Progressively implement mechanism for administration of data collection and exchange with countries
OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure ICT tools support security 1. Develop and draft ICT and information security policies 2. Establish ICT service catalogue 3. Work towards ISO 27001 certification	1. Implement ICT and information security policies 2. Update ICT service catalogue 3. Work towards ISO 27001 certification	1. Implement ICT and information security policies 2. Update ICT service catalogue	1. Implement ICT and information security policies 2. Update ICT service catalogue

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 4: Improve satisfaction of ICT users in GCC-Stat 1. Establish PMO 2. ICT policies and processes in place	1. Implement PMO 2. Develop SLAs for services, and other services to enhance user satisfaction	1. Implement PMO 2. Develop SLAs for services, and other services to enhance user satisfaction	1. Implement PMO 2. Develop SLAs for services, and other services to enhance user satisfaction

14. Human Resources Strategy for GCC-Stat

Effective human resources are critical to the long term organizational sustainability of GCC-Stat. The following objectives have been set for human resources:

1. Effectively close all vacant positions to ensure timely availability of staff.

2. Ensure effectiveness of HR processes and systems.

3. Build people skill sets and capabilities to ensure organizational growth.

4. Implement a performance-oriented culture at GCC-Stat.

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 1: Effectively close all vacant positions to ensure timely availability of staff Timely fulfilment of manpower requirements at GCC Stat Development and adherence to recruitment budget plans and cost	Sustained fulfilment of manpower requirements at GCC Stat Development and adherence to recruitment budget plans and cost Develop employment brand	Sustained fulfilment of manpower requirements at GCC Stat Development and adherence to recruitment budget plans and cost Employment brand implemented	sustained fulfilment of manpower requirements at GCC Stat Development and adherence to recruitment budget plans and cost Employment brand implemented
OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure effectiveness of HR processes and systems Policies and procedures manuals developed and implemented Effective technical, financial and administrative systems in place	HR system effectiveness measured through internal audit or external consultant	HR system effectiveness measured through internal audit or external consultant	HR system effectiveness measured through internal audit or external consultant Effectiveness of the HR function

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 3: Build people skill sets and capabilities to support organizational growth Identify critical positions, develop career path ladders and succession planning Develop employees career path framework Training plan for new/ existing skills implemented Propose a rewarding system for implementation **OBJECTIVE 4: Implement a performance-oriented culture at GCC Stat** Develop recognition framework to foster culture of innovation Completion of performance appraisal of organization as per specified date	Effectiveness of the HR function assessed through feedback from other Department Heads Employees career path framework reviewed Training plan for new/ existing skills implemented Effectiveness of the training and performance function and reward system evaluated Employee engagement and satisfaction across GCC Stat enhanced Implement and improve recognition framework to foster culture of innovation	Effectiveness of the HR function assessed through feedback from other Department Heads Employees career path framework reviewed Training plan for new/ existing skills implemented Evaluating effectiveness of the training and performance function and reward system Enhance employee engagement and satisfaction across GCC Stat Implement and improve recognition framework to foster culture of innovation	Assessed through feedback from other Department Heads Review employees career path framework Implement training plan for new/ existing skills Evaluating effectiveness of the training and performance function and reward system Enhance employee engagement and satisfaction across GCC Stat Implement and improve recognition framework to foster culture of innovation Completion of performance appraisal of organization as per specified date

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
GCC-Stat Role: Undertakes human resources function	Completion of performance appraisal of organization as per specified date Review critical positions, career paths, ladders and succession planning **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes human resources function	Completion of performance appraisal of organization as per specified date Review critical positions, career paths, ladders and succession planning **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes human resources function	Review critical positions, career paths, ladders and succession planning **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes human resources function

15. Road Map for Finance and Administration in GCC-Stat

Effective finance and administration is critical to the long-term organizational sustainability of GCC-Stat. The following objectives have been set for finance and administration:

1. Effective financial management in GCC-Stat.
2. Effective budget processes.
3. Effective monitoring of expenditure against budget.
4. Financial reporting obligations met.
5. Effective administrative support

A companion document sets out the program of work required in 2015 and 2016 to advance the above objectives and strategy.

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 1: Effective financial management in GCC-Stat Financial, operational and budget system established for internal and external use for GCC-Stat Financial policies and procedures well documented and understood Financial training for GCC-Stat staff implemented Financial risk assessments undertaken prior to decision making	Financial, operational and budget system established for internal and external use for GCC-Stat Financial policies and procedures well documented and understood Financial training for GCC-Stat staff implemented Financial risk assessments undertaken prior to decision making	Financial, operational and budget system established for internal and external use for GCC-Stat Financial policies and procedures well documented and understood Financial training for GCC-Stat staff implemented Financial risk assessments undertaken prior to decision making	Financial, operational and budget system established for internal and external use for GCC-Stat Financial policies and procedures well documented and understood Financial training for GCC-Stat staff implemented Financial risk assessments undertaken prior to decision making

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 2: Effective budget processes Budget proposals linked to forward work program Timely budget proposals submitted for Board deliberation **OBJECTIVE 3: Effective monitoring of expenditure against budget** Regular reporting of expenditures against budget with timely advice on emerging issues **OBJECTIVE 4: Financial reporting obligations met** External financial reporting of GCC-stat requirements are met Periodical internal and external audits on GCC-Stat are undertaken Sharing Financial closeouts with GCC members on yearly bases Firming the budget allocation of GCC-Stat	Budget proposals linked to forward work program Timely budget proposals submitted for Board deliberation Regular reporting of expenditures against budget with timely advice on emerging issues External financial reporting of GCC-stat requirements are met Periodical internal and external audits on GCC-Stat are undertaken Sharing Financial closeouts with GCC members on yearly bases Firming the budget allocation of GCC-Stat	Budget proposals linked to forward work program Timely budget proposals submitted for Board deliberation Regular reporting of expenditures against budget with timely advice on emerging issues External financial reporting of GCC-stat requirements are met Periodical internal and external audits on GCC-Stat are undertaken Sharing Financial closeouts with GCC members on yearly bases Firming the budget allocation of GCC-Stat	Budget proposals linked to forward work program Timely budget proposals submitted for Board deliberation Regular reporting of expenditures against budget with timely advice on emerging issues External financial reporting of GCC-stat requirements are met Periodical internal and external audits on GCC-Stat are undertaken Sharing Financial closeouts with GCC members on yearly bases Firming the budget allocation of GCC-Stat

2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2020
OBJECTIVE 5: Effective administrative support Effective office services function in place Effective and auditable purchasing processes in place Office accommodation requirements satisfied **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes the finance and administration function	Effective office services function in place Effective and auditable purchasing processes in place Office accommodation requirements satisfied **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes the finance and administration function	Effective office services function in place Effective and auditable purchasing processes in place Office accommodation requirements satisfied **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes the finance and administration function	Effective office services function in place Effective and auditable purchasing processes in place Office accommodation requirements satisfied **GCC-Stat Role:** Undertakes the finance and administration function

G. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

28. It has to be said that the road maps presented above represent a significant body of work, not only for GCC-Stat, but especially for the National Statistics Centers. The Current Status Survey has already identified that, in many cases, the National Statistics Centers lack the human resources to adequately support their current statistical programs. Insufficient resources is one of a number of risks that has been identified and needs to be managed. The matrix below presents a risk analysis, including possible mitigation strategies to deal with the risks.

29. In the event that countries and GCC-Stat are unable to adequately resource the work program (risks 1 and 2 in the matrix), GCC-Stat has given some consideration to priority setting among the statistical projects agreed by the Board. The following categorization of projects is suggested:

Priority 1

- 2020 population census. An essential requirement for all countries.
- Trade statistics. Identified in 2013 by the GCC Secretariat as "number 1 priority".
- National accounts. A key economic indicator for policy makers.
- Harmonized price index of consumer prices (a subset of the prices project). Needed so as to be able to validly compile a measure of consumer price change for the GCC region.
- Energy statistics. Given the importance of the energy sector in all countries.

Priority 2

- Data quality and standards
- Producer price index
- Labour statistics
- Environment statistics
- Development, Progress and Sustainability indicators

Priority 3

- Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics
- Administrative datasets

30. An alternative approach would be to push ahead with all of the statistical projects, but to extend some of them (the obvious exception being the 2020 population census) over a longer timeframe.

Risk Assessment for 2015 and 2016 Work Program

Risk	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigation measures
1. GCC-Stat unable to recruit suitable staff/experts.	Medium	High	Wide advertising of vacancies. Job search firms used to identify talent. National Statistics Centers assist. Ensure employment conditions are attractive.
2. National Statistics Centers unable to recruit suitable staff/experts.	High	High	Scale back work program in accordance with Board priorities or extend the timeframe over which the work is undertaken.
3. Standing Committees, Working Groups, task forces do not function properly	Low	High	Terms of reference for each group agreed with NSCs. Work of groups closely monitored and a biennial review of the effectiveness of the groups.
4. GCC-Stat fails to deliver the agreed work program.	Low	High	Ensure work plans balanced with staff and resources available. Ensure adequate monitoring of progress (e.g. mid-year review).
5. GCC-Stat seen by key stakeholders as not adequately fulfilling its role.	Low	High	Ensure strong relationships with key stakeholders. Explain plans and issues. Conduct periodic user surveys.
6. Relevant international agencies do not support the work program as envisaged.	Low	Medium	Establish and maintain strong relationships with the key agencies. Work programs agreed in advance with international agencies

H. Next Steps

31. The Board of Directors is invited to formally sign off on the road maps for development. The work needed to implement the road maps begins in earnest in 2015 and it is critical that this work proceed to schedule if the region is to collectively realize the project objectives in the time frames proposed. An early task for 2015 is for GCC-Stat to work with the National Statistics Centers to develop country specific implementation plans.