

**First Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics
(IAEG-AG)**

New York, 28 February 2015

Minutes

The meeting started as scheduled at 2:30 PM, chaired by Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician, FAO. Of the 15 institutions that have to date confirmed their willingness to participate in the IAEG-AG, twelve were present at the meeting, two had notified in advanced their inability to participate, and one was absent. Nine invited members have not, as of today, confirmed their participation in the IAEG-AG. UNSD and USDA-NASS attended the meeting as observers. The list of meeting participants is provided in the Annex.

After a short opening address by the Chair and a round of introductions from the participants, the agenda was adopted without modifications.

The first point on the agenda concerned the **motivation and objectives** of the IAEG-AG, a point that had substantial areas of overlap with the discussion on the **Terms of Reference** (TORs). The discussions on the two points are therefore jointly summarized here. Some members expressed the need for the TORs to be more specific on the role of the IAEG-AG vis-a-vis the governance mechanisms of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GS).

As a result of the discussion, a consensus emerged that while there is an overlap in terms of people and institutions participating in the two bodies, the IAEG-AG and the GS governing bodies have different roles (see attached chart).

The main objective of the IAEG-AG is to facilitate the development of new international statistical standards: as such, it will serve as an interface between all the initiatives in the fields of food security, agriculture and rural statistics (including the GS) and the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to reach a broad consensus with all key stakeholders before new standards are submitted for endorsement to the Commission. The GS will therefore forward to the IAEG-AG new guidelines that are considered 'mature' enough and of sufficient generality to be endorsed by the UNSC. The GS, in fact, is a time-bound program with a capacity development mandate, whereas the IAEG-AG is a UNSC body with a broader mandate. In this respect, the IAEG-AG may decide to focus on activities that are not necessarily covered by the GS. At the same time, not all guidelines developed by the GS will go through the IAEG-AG to obtain legitimacy.

It was therefore agreed that the Secretariat will amend the current draft of the TORs to reflect this understanding of the relationship between the IAEG-AG and the GS. It was agreed, in particular, that the 'advisory role' of the IAEG-AG included in the current wording of the TORs was misleading and will be changed. Members who have additional inputs are invited to send them to the Secretariat by mid-March. A proposal was made to merge the activities and output sections in the TORs. That suggestion will be considered when a specific wording proposal will be submitted to the Secretariat.

The discussion then moved to the details of the **workplan**. The Secretariat reported on ongoing work on food consumption which can form the first nucleus of activities of the IAEG-AG. Other possible areas of work, including activities for reaching consensus on food security as well as on rural indicators, were not supported by the majority of the members, as the IAEG-AG may not have the capacity to handle them. It was therefore decided to start small with one activity, create a critical mass around it, and then proceed to select other relevant activities over the next few years.

It was emphasized that to successfully pursue its objectives the IAEG-AG will depend on the active participation of its members, who should take the initiative to propose topics, as well as lead activities, and be proactive in contributing to the workplan.

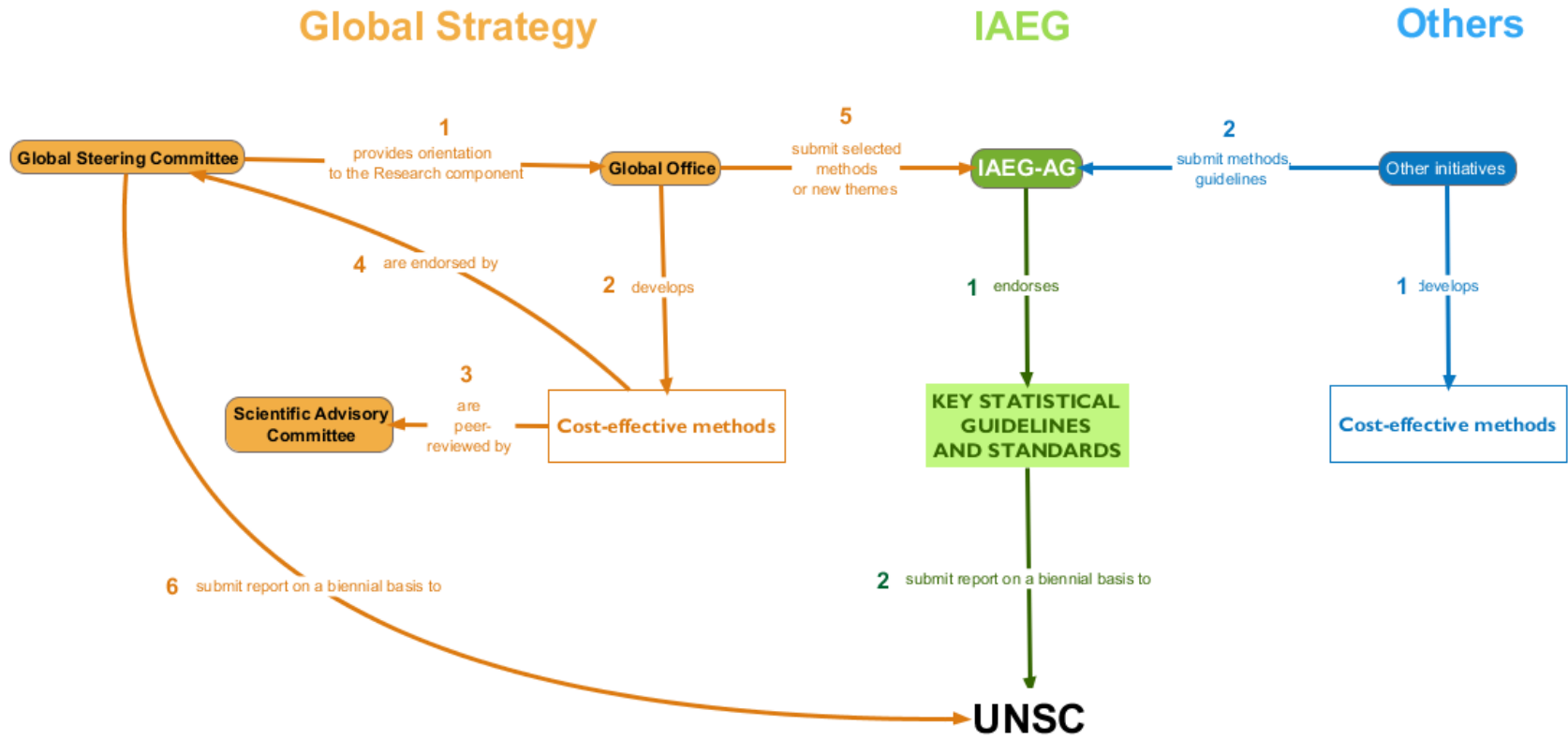
Regarding the **membership** of the IAEG-AG, it was suggested that the Coordinator of the GS Global Office should become member *ex officio*. It was also suggested to invite other members, both countries and Institutions, in order to ensure a more balanced regional representativity.

The Secretariat will submit a revised version of the TORs document to the members for their comments.

The second part of the meeting consisted of two presentations reporting on the ongoing work on food consumption data in general, and on the activities on Food Away From Home led by Peru's INEI in collaboration with the World Bank.

In the discussion that followed members highlighted the importance of this topic worldwide and endorsed the continuation of the current research program under the auspices of the IAEG with the goals of (1) translating the analytical work into practical guidelines for survey design, and (2) furthering our understanding of key issues such as, but not limited to, Food Away From Home. Achieving both goals requires continued international collaboration and coordination among agencies and international experts, which is what the IAEG was created to provide.

Chart 1 – The functional relationship between the Global Strategy, the IAEG and other initiatives



ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Title	First Name	Last Name	Institution
1.	Mr	Oliver	Chinganya	African Development Bank
2.	Mr	Biratu	Yigezu	Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopia
3.	Mr	Pieter	Everaers	Eurostat
4.	Ms	Philomena	Nyarko	Ghana Statistical Service
5.	Mr	Pedro	Córdova Barreto	Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Peru
6.	Mr	Jorge	Gomez	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), Ecuador
7.	Mr	Julio	Muñoz	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), Ecuador
8.	Mr	José	Rosero	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), Ecuador
9.	Mr	Gerald	Haberkorn	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
10.	Mr	Ulf	Svensson	Statistics Division, Swedish Board of Agriculture
11.	Ms	Marge	Guerrero	UN-ESCAP
12.	Ms	Julia	Krasevec	Unicef
13.	Ms	Mary	Bohman	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
14.	Ms	Marca	Weinberg	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
15.	Mr	Mark R.	Miller	NASS (Observer)
16.	Mr	Joe	Reilly	NASS (Observer)
17.	Mr	Christophe	Duhamel	FAO
18.	Mr	Carola	Fabi	FAO
19.	Mr	Pietro	Gennari	FAO
20.	Mr	Naman	Keita	FAO
21.	Mr	Calogero (Gero)	Carletto	World Bank
22.	Mr	Olivier	Dupriez	World Bank
23.	Ms	Maria Gabriela	Farfan Bertran	World Bank
24.	Mr	Dean M.	Jolliffe	World Bank
25.	Mr	Alberto	Zezza	World Bank