

## Talking Points for Financing for Development: Data Monitoring

### Interactive Discussion

26 July 2024, 10:00-11:30

*Requested length: 3 minutes*

Ministers and distinguished representatives,

- Agenda 2030 and its accompanying monitoring framework has major implications for national statistical systems worldwide, as they face the complex task of producing reliable, consistent and comparable statistics for an increasing number of goal and targets. For example, the SDGs have 17 Goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators.
- We agree with the statement from the Issue Note that the lack of infrastructure and resources at national level is the single greatest obstacle to data availability and use. Resources for in-person technical assistance, which is crucial for low- and middle-income countries when implementing surveys, are extremely tight and the network of regional statisticians is insufficiently large to address all demands. In addition, tight resources at HQ create a cap on the depth of support and guidance that can be delivered. External funding sources have usefully bridged some of these gaps in recent years, but they are not stable and typically have a narrow focus. Strong advocacy is needed at country level to try to achieve higher resource allocation.
- It is instrumental for international organizations and development partners better cooperate and coordinate to enhance our support to developing countries in building robust national statistical systems. The ILO now collaborates much more closely with World Bank than before, as one example, and this has certainly been of major benefit to countries

who can access the combined funding and technical assistance of both agencies – we need to build further on this.

- We also see strong potential in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The ILO initiated a project among lusophone countries with the technical leadership of Brazil last year to share experiences and provide technical assistance. Projects as such could offer strong value as countries often seek examples of practices in other countries in addition the guidance ILO can provide. However, creating and supporting these types of exchanges requires strong commitments.
- Last but not the least, new measures are indeed needed to recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions. The ILO always tries to push the front while recognizing the multifaceted nature of labour and poverty. However, with the updated standards and expanded range of data, the demand for capacity building for countries to produce and use the data rises rapidly, which demands additional preparedness and commitment from the international community.