

**Side Event on**  
**“Building Capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda – UN DESA’s contribution”**

**Concept Note & Programme**  
**27 November 2017 - 1:15-2.30 pm**  
**Conference Room 6**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Background**

As part of its core functions, UN DESA supports Member States in their efforts to translate global development commitments into national strategies and plans. Such support is provided at the policy level through advisory services and capacity development support on a broad range of areas, from statistical methods and systems; to macroeconomic policy analysis; social integration and inclusion of vulnerable groups; sustainable management of natural resources, governance and public administration, and domestic resource mobilization.

The scale and complexity of the sustainable development challenges as well as the ambitious and transformative nature of the new development framework embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development require more sustained support from the UN Development System.

In response to this, UN DESA has adopted a new approach to capacity development that is more strategic, integrated and longer-term in nature. It aims at developing a more coherent portfolio of UNDESA capacity development interventions that capitalize on synergies between different areas of support and that feed back into its analytical and normative work. Clearly identified Departmental goals and objectives will guide the planning and programming of these interventions and enable to monitor their impact and results.

The new approach also draws on a more realistic view of UN DESA’s overall expertise, resources, and comparative advantage vis-à-vis other development actors, and emphasizes strong partnerships and alignment with the UN system. Establishing and expanding existing partnerships will be key to broaden the scope, impact and sustainability of UN DESA capacity development assistance.

The new approach is expected to better position the Department to address more effectively and efficiently the needs of the new Agendas and other relevant frameworks such as the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs (IPOA). It is also expected to enhance the visibility of its support to Member States and UN partners and thus increase opportunities to collaborate with them as beneficiaries, partners and/or donors.

The effective and strategic communication of this approach to Member States and UN system partners will be key to its implementation, which in turn will strengthen UN DESA’s overall contribution to capacity development. The side event provides an important opportunity to do so.

## Objectives of the Side Event:

- Provide a strong rationale for UN DESA's role in capacity development to increase Member States' trust and engagement with UN DESA capacity development work;
- Present capacity development work that showcases how UN DESA leverages its normative and analytical work to provide Member States with practical tools, methodologies and approaches applicable to many countries;
- Demonstrate how UN DESA will work with UN development system partners to disseminate, adapt, and scale up its support at the national level;
- Attract resources for UN DESA capacity development work

## Programme

### 1. Presentation: "Rationale for UN DESA's role in capacity development"

*The presentation will provide the rationale and comparative advantage for the role of UN DESA in capacity development vis-à-vis other UN entities; it will also recognize the need to improve transparency and accountability of UN DESA capacity development work towards Member States.*

**Presenter:** Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UN DESA

### 2. Panel on UN DESA's capacity development strategy, approach, and successful practices

*The panel will provide a brief description of DESA vision, mission and goals for capacity development as well as focus and scale of its support and delivery model. Panellists will highlight good practices in implementing different aspects of the new approach to capacity development and demonstrate how the new approach will help increase the outreach, impact and sustainability of UN DESA interventions.*

**Moderator:** Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General, UN DESA

#### ***Panellists:***

- *Ms. Francesca Perucci*, Assistant Director, Statistics Division
- *Mr. Matthias Bruckner*, Senior Economist, Committee for Development Policy Secretariat
- *Ms. Dominika Halka*, Chief, Multi-stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Branch, Financing for Development Office
- *Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi*, Senior Forest Policy Officer, UN Forum on Forests

### 3. Q&A session

**Invitees** – All delegations, UN system and UN Regional Commissions partners, UN DESA colleagues