PACKAGE LEAFLET: UNDERSTAND THE PRAIA GROUP BETTER

National Institute of Statistics

Cabo Verde

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About this document

This document describes the Praia Group, including its mission, objectives, activities, etc. in order to enable public to better understand the Praia Group.

1. How did the Praia Group originate and evolve?

What is the Praia Group?

The "City Groups" are platforms of experts created to work on the harmonization and consolidation of methodologies on a given topic, based on transparency and process documentation. Currently nine city groups are active under the direct coordination of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). Each city group sets its own working agenda while requiring precise terms of reference approved by the Statistical Commission. In this context, the Praia Group, as one of the city groups, is a leading body in terms of governance[1] indicator measurement methodology for official statistics worldwide.

How was the Praia Group created?

The process of creating the Praia Group has attracted interests from several international organizations, especially due to the close relationship with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, which also covers governance issue.

In 2014

- ✓ **February** – Formal invitation from the African Union to Cabo Verde to lead a city group on governance, peace and security.
- ✓ **March** – Proposal of the creation of a new city group, the "Praia group on governance, peace and security statistics" to be discussed at the 46thsession of the UNSC.
- ✓ **April** – Development of the report on governance, peace and security statistics and terms of reference for the Praia Group.
- ✓ **July** – Submission of the report to national statistical offices of all States Members of the United Nations.
- ✓ **October** – Expert consultation meeting on the proposed city group in Praia, Cabo Verde.

In 2015

- ✓ **March** – Creation of the Praia Group at the 46th session of the UNSC.
- ✓ **June** – First meeting of the Praia Group in Praia, Cabo Verde with the main objective of defining Road Map and setting priorities.
- ✓ **June** – Establishment of the Praia Group Steering Committee and the its term of reference.
- ✓ **September** – Virtual consultation regarding the completion of the draft Road Map.

In 2016

- ✓ **March** – Presentation and approval of the Praia Group Road Map at the 47th session of the UNSC.
- ✓ **April** – Creation of working groups on SDG Tier III indicators[2] by the Steering Committee.
- ✓ **June** – Second meeting of the Praia Group organized by National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estatística, INE) Cabo Verde, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) in Paris, France to discuss the activities of the Praia Group to accelerate activities and discuss implementation strategies.
- ✓ **November** – Approval of the report of the second meeting and enlargement of the Secretariat of the Praia Group.

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[1]   According to the *Report of Cabo Verde on governance, peace and security statistics*, the vast majority of actors consulted were of the view that peace and security are constitutive dimensions of governance and should be investigated under the broad conceptual framework of governance. In this sense, term "governance" usually refers to "governance, peace and security" (E/CN.3/2015/17).

[2]   Indicator for which there are no established methodology and standards or methodology/standards are being developed/tested.

✓ **December** – Review and finalization of the Praia Group Work Plan for 2017 and production of the Praia Group brochure.

2. What is the objective of the Praia Group?

The overall objective of the Praia Group is to encourage countries to produce governance statistics based on sound and documented methodologies.

More specifically, the Praia Group aims:

a. **To serve as a forum** among national and international statistical organizations, international agencies, academia, research groups and civil society organizations for sharing and developing expertise in governance statistics;

b. **To review, propose and promote** the definition and harmonization of governance indicators, through the development of manuals and methodological guidelines;

c. **To document sound practices** and provide inputs for the development of an indicator framework for the measurement and monitoring of the goals and targets related to peace and governance in the post-2015 development agenda and in other global initiatives;

d. **To assess** the demand for governance statistics among potential user constituencies and highlight best-practices in their use;

e. **To provide advice** on ways to enhance processes and standards for the public dissemination of governance statistics;

f. **Support** promoting SDG 16 "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, facilitate access to justice for all, and create effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

3. Which institutions are part of the Praia Group Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee[3] of the Praia Group is composed of the INE Cabo Verde (Presidency of the Praia Group), National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Instituto Nacional de Estatística Geografia e Informática, INEGI) Mexico, High Commission for Human Rights, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Transparency International, African Development Bank (AfDB) and PARIS21.

4. What is the operating period of the Praia Group?

The Praia Group is led by the INE Cabo Verde with support from the UNDP. The Group operates a five-year period, from March 2015 to March 2020, after which time a review will be carried out to assess whether the Praia Group is still needed.

5. Is the Praia Group open or closed?

The Praia Group is a dynamic and open group. In other words, members can leave and others can join through the express and formal formulation of interest, which will later be appreciation and

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[3] Saferworld was one of the initial members of the Steering Committee, but it stepped down from the Steering Committee effective January 2017. Saferworld is an international non-governmental organization working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. (http://www.saferworld.org.uk/)

approval of the Steering Committee. As of December 2016, the Praia Group has 62 members worldwide.

6. What are the perspectives & main goals of the Praia Group?

The activities of the Praia Group are monitored by the Steering Committee and other members of the Praia Group through the implementation of the **Work Plan (2016-2020 Road Map)** approved by the Steering Committee.

What is the ultimate goal of the Praia Group?

By March 2020, the Praia Group must develop a manual (Handbook) on governance statistics for national statistical offices, which will cover the conceptualization, measurement methodology and dissemination of governance statistics. The Handbook will focus on:

- ✓ Institutional coordination;
- ✓ Concepts, dimensions and operational definitions;
- ✓ Statistical methodologies;
- ✓ Structure of and procedures relating to administrative records;
- ✓ Analysis plan;
- ✓ Dissemination.

Action Plan (2016-2020 Road Map)

For this, the following activities must be carried out:

- ✓ **Activity I** in 2017 – A mapping, critical assessment and synthesis of available instances of the conceptualization and measurement of governance by various countries and continents, research institutions, agencies of the United Nations System and other actors using different approaches

- ✓ **Activity II** in 2017 and 2019 – A mapping of the demand for governance statistics by various user constituencies;

- ✓ **Activity III** from October 2018 to September 2019 – Expert Consultations on the various constitutive dimensions of governance statistics and user consultations with ministries or other entities responsible for the governance agenda at the national, regional and international levels

- ✓ **Activity IV** by October 2019 – Development of technical documents containing methodological and practical guidelines for improved gathering and compilation of governance statistics at all levels, covering issues of concept definition, data quality, comparability, methodology, possible sources and data compilation and dissemination mechanisms

- ✓ **Activity V** – Support by the Praia Group to the Goal 16 of the SDGs

7. Recognition expressed by the UN of the Praia

46th UN Statistical Commission

Decision 11: Governance, peace and security statistics (Item 3k)

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated Cabo Verde to its excellent report on governance, peace and security statistics which was prepared with assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and commended, in particular, the extensive outreach activities undertaken in preparation of this report;

(b) Endorsed the creation of the Praia City Group on governance statistics which aims to encourage countries to produce governance statistics that are based on sound and documented methodologies and endorsed the proposed terms of reference;

(c) Welcomed and took note of the broad interest to participate in this city group; Thanked UNDP for its technical and financial support;

(d) Requested the group to take into account existing and earlier efforts and challenges in the area of governance, peace and security statistics and coordinate its work with relevant groups;

(e) Requested Cabo Verde to submit a report to the Commission at its 47th session in 2016 for consideration and discussion.

47th UN Statistical Commission

Decision 13: Governance statistics (Item 3l)

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the Praia Group on governance statistics for its report and work conducted in an open, inclusive and transparent manner;

(b) Welcomed and supported the proposed road map and actions towards the development of a handbook on governance statistics for national statistical offices, stressed the importance of identifying best practices and developing common standards, and requested the Praia Group to report back to the

(c) Statistical Commission at its 49th session in 2018;

(d) Welcomed the support of the Praia Group for the relevant development of indicators for targets of SDG 16;

(e) Encouraged the Praia Group to promote participation of all countries and to maintain an inclusive and transparent approach in their work;

(f) Encouraged the Praia Group to consider the roadmap and work derived from it as presented in the "Report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international level" at the Statistical Commission in 2013;

(g) Stressed the importance of capacity building and training pertaining to governance statistics.