



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# INSIGHTS ABOUT FAO GOVERNANCE FOR DATA DISSEMINATION USING SDMX

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# 1. MODERNIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF FAO STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The FAO's Strategy for the Modernization of Statistics stems from recommendations of:

- the Internal Evaluation of FAO Statistics
- the External Data User Consultations
- the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2023
- the Secretary General's UN Data Strategy
- the Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

# 1. MODERNIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF FAO STATISTICAL SYSTEM (CONT'D)

An **integrated statistical quality management system**, covering all statistical processes in one Statistical Working System, and an infrastructure that consolidates **all FAO dissemination platforms databases into one SDMX native platform**.

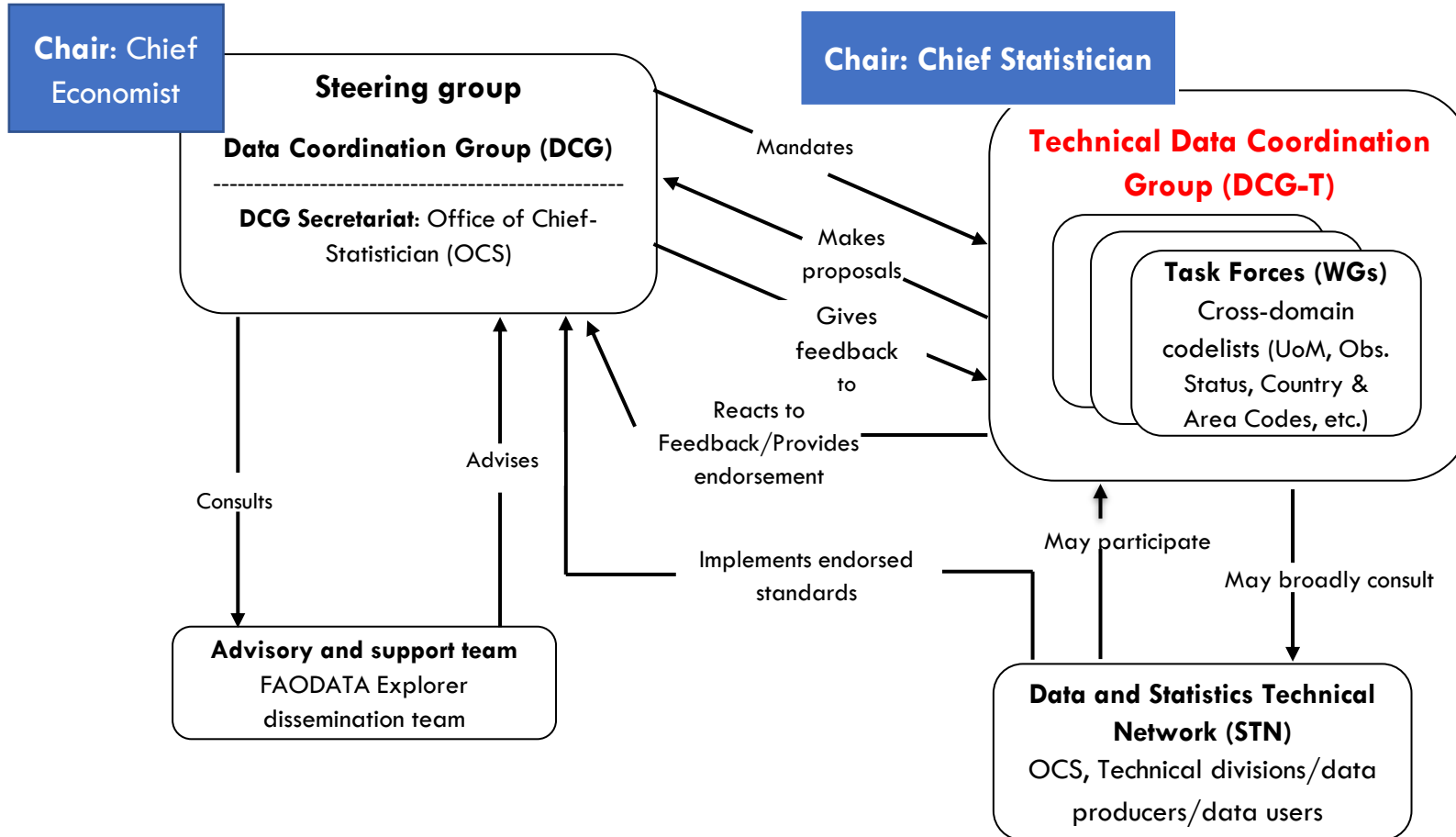
## Objectives

- Integrate and improve the governance of FAO data and statistics
- Improve comparability, interoperability, consistency and quality of FAO data
- Enable users to avoid data silos and to explore and obtain data with an all-in-one approach
- Enable staff to combine cross-domain indicators and conduct policy analyses
- Adopt harmonized codelists, definitions, classifications, statistical standards
- Maximize business value and reduce maintenance budget of disparate dissemination systems based on various technologies

## 2. FAO'S GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE

- The new governance architecture aiming at improving FAO's statistical activities was established by the FAO Council (during its 132<sup>nd</sup> session of November 2021) to reinforce the Strategy for Modernization of FAO Statistics
- This governance includes **Data Coordination Group (DCG)** that ensures a strategic and technical coordination mechanisms with recognized authority to make decisions of corporate relevance for both data for statistics and statistics (e.g., big data, geospatial information).

# 2. FAO'S GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE (CONT'D)



- ✓ The DCG (Steering group) **endorses and promulgates internal policies, processes and standards for data and statistics**
- ✓ The DCG-T, with support from its Task Forces (WGs), **identifies and recommends common standards** for implementation by all FAO technical divisions
- ✓ **The FAO technical divisions, merged into the STN, have representatives (focal points) in the TTF**
- ✓ The FAODATA Explorer team, composed of experts in SDMX structural modelling & SDMX concept-oriented guidelines, **serves as an advisory and support team to the DCG.**

With reference to the [Framework for SDMX Structural Metadata Governance](#)

## 2. FAO'S GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE (CONT'D)

The FAO's Governance architecture can be qualified as a **Balanced decisions and ownership with centralized maintenance.**

The comparative indicator scores can therefore be set at the following levels [1 (worst) to 5 (best)]:

Indicator	Score
Metadata quality	● ● ●
Metadata reuse	● ● ● ●
Agility	● ● ● ●
Efficiency	● ● ●

In addition, these scores can be supported as follows:

- The DCG/OCS, with advisory support from the FAODATA Explorer team, **makes informed and expediate decisions (improved Agility) on the shared metadata, with a trade off in more resources, as the team has to demonstrate greater expertise in carrying out its role.**

# Statistical Standard Series

Units of Measure  
Version 2

Endorsed by the Technical Data Coordination Group (DCG-T)  
on 18 May 2023

# Statistical Standard Series

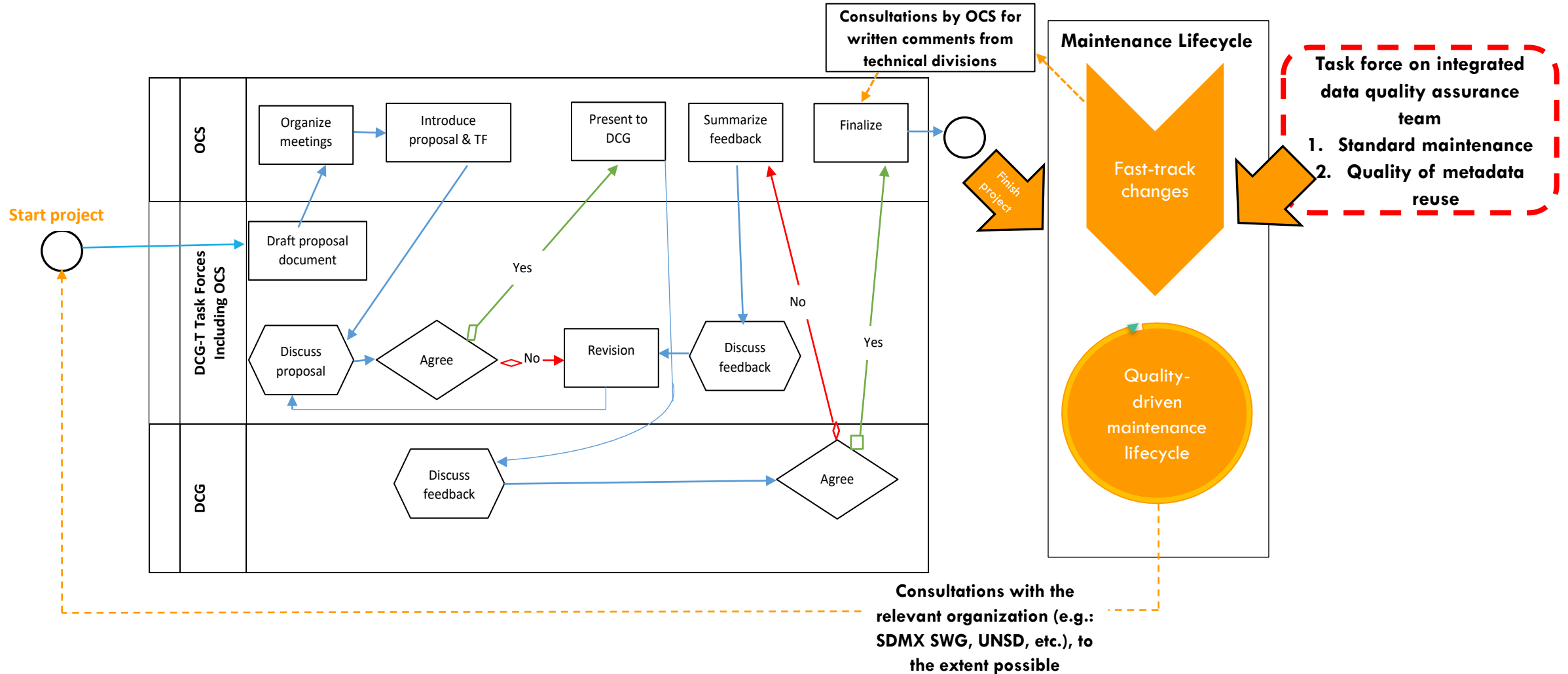
Metadata dissemination for FAO  
statistical databases  
Version 2

Endorsed by the Technical Data Coordination Group (DCG-T)  
23 June 2023

# The FAO Statistics Quality Assurance Framework

**Examples of corporate standards**

# 3. CREATION AND MAINTENANCE CYCLE OF SHARED METADATA





# 4. SDG DATA & METADATA QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS

In the process of the dissemination and reporting of SDG data using FAODATA explorer, the following activities were performed:

- **Validation of the collected data and metadata in comparison to the endorsed shared standards**
- **Documentation of inconsistencies and discussions with data producers**
- **Proposals for revisions to OCS and the relevant groups of DCG**
- **Implementation of adjustments in line with the revised standards and metadata**

# 4. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

## ➤ At Management level

- Strong commitment from Top Management (DCG chair) to support of the Strategy for Modernization of FAO Statistics, break down silos and strengthen cross-divisional collaboration.
- Middle management (technical units): awareness, ownership and implementation of the statistical standards, including shared metadata, available in the organization by technical units to improve compliance.

## 4. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED (CONT'D)

### ➤ **At implementation level: creation and maintenance**

- Ownership and pro-active feedback from technical units, necessary to enable the implementation of fast-track changes and finalize new artefacts.
- Composition of the TTFs: it is important to have subject-matter members as well as members from dedicated support teams (IT, Legal, etc.) whose expertise is relevant to data and statistics.
- The advisory support from the FAODATA Explorer team underlines the need to establish a dedicated Practices advisory team, giving the broader scope of mandate of DCG.
- Need to give authority to a Data Quality Assurance team to assess the metadata reuse, implementation and its quality. The reference framework can have a broader scope and include a compliance assessment.



# FAODATA

## Explorer

BETA

The "FAODATA explorer" is FAO's new dissemination platform to access, filter, explore, download and share FAO statistics. The platform is currently a beta version as it is under development and will gradually be populated with existing FAO statistics on food, agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture currently disseminated through FAOSTAT and FishSTAT.

Note to users: As for now, FAODATA explorer (Beta version) includes SDG data of the 21 indicators under FAO custodianship, also disseminated in FAOSTAT and the UN Global SDG Database. Your feedback and suggested improvements on the new platform are welcome. Please contact: [data-explorer@fao.org](mailto:data-explorer@fao.org)

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Domain



Sustainable Development Goals  
(SDGs)



# Thank you

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