



Programme

National Capacity Building Training on Statistical, Methodological and Computational aspects of the Productive Capacities Index (PCI)

(Convention Center, Ministry of External Affairs,
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 5-6 February 2026)

Target audience:

- **Statisticians and analysts from the institutions of the National Statistical System (NSS) who:**
 - Have experience in database management and in economic and/or structural statistics;
 - Have a background in quantitative methods and indicator analysis, and preferably some familiarity with statistical tools or programming languages (such as R, Stata, or others);
 - Act as institutional focal points with the capacity to replicate the knowledge acquired and help ensure the sustainable use of the Productive Capacities Index (PCI) at the national level.

The identification and selection of participants **will be coordinated jointly by ONE and UNCTAD.**

Main objectives:

- To build statistical capacities of Dominican Republic through training of national statistical experts to compute and interpret country-specific PCI;
- To share statistical and methodological as well as computational aspects of the PCI and to expose national statisticians to UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI);

- To enhance the capacity of Dominican Republic's statistical experts to initiate processes to enhance the validity of the results for Dominican Republic;
- To explore how the PCI can be used in national statistics and policy-making processes;
- To foster a network of national statisticians who work and exchange on PCI, including the SIDS satellite PCI;
- To collect feedback for the Statistical and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) of the PCI.

At the end of the training, participants are expected to:

- Be sensitized to the concept of Productive Capacities and informed about the statistical challenges and methodological approaches involved in measuring them;
- Be able to use UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI) for economic analysis and evidence-based policymaking, understand how it is constructed, and assess its strengths and limitations;
- Acquire practical tools to design their own tailored measures of productive capacities, adapted to the specific policy needs of their institutions;
- Contribute to efforts to strengthen statistical capacity for the collection of key input indicators, supporting the overall measurement of productive capacities in the Dominican Republic.



To participate in the training sessions, all trainees must have access to a computer with R and RStudio installed.

- ✓ The R software (which is the engine that performs the calculations) and R Studio Desktop (which is integrated development environment for R and makes working with R much more manageable) can be both easily downloaded from <https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/> (Steps 1 & 2 respectively)

Thursday, 05 February 2026

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and introduction of participants
09:00 – 09:05	Official photo of authorities
09:05 – 09:15	Welcome remarks by <i>Ms. Perla Massiel Rosario Fabián, Director of Economic Statistical (ONE)</i> .
09:15 – 09:25	Introductory remarks by UNCTAD, Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD
09:25 – 09:35	Opening remarks by <i>Mr. José Guillermo Sarita, Director of Trade Negotiations (MIREX)</i> .
09:35 – 09:50	Overall objectives of the training, economic concepts around productive capacities and articulation with official statistics. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nested structure of the PCI
09:50 – 10:35	<u>Session 0: Setting the stage</u> Introduction to the UNCTAD Stat PCI database: Access and use; Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNCTADstat table - UNCTADstat exploration tool - UNCTADstat insights - Exercise S0.a
10:35 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Overall presentation and visualization of the PCI package: pipelines, inputs, outputs, options and objects; Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD
11:30 – 12:30	Introduction to R and hands-on exercises; Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCI25 package - Plotting functions - Data files - Exercise S0.b
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break

- 13:30 – 14:10 **Session 1: Reading data:**
Indicators for productive capacities as input for PCI: Sources and data availability;
Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD Statistics
- Presentation with input indicator tables and data availability graphs
 - Update for reference country
- 14:10 – 15:00 Drills on input datasets and NA diagnostics;
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer & Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD
- Exercise S1
- 15:00 – 15:15 Tea/coffee break
- 15:15 – 16:00 **Session 2: Transforming input indicators**
Overview of options and exercises;
Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD
- Purpose
 - Input
 - Methods
 - Output
 - Checks

Friday, 06 February 2026

- 09:00 – 10:00 **Session 3: Computing the PCI**
Presentation of Principal Component Analysis, applications to the PCI and drills;
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer
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- 10:00 – 10:30 **Session 4: Interpolating, extrapolating and accounting for COVID-19**
Overview of methods used and drills;
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer & Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD
- Purpose
 - Input
 - Methods
 - Output
 - Checks
- 10:30 – 10:45 Tea/Coffee break

- 10:45 – 11:45 **Session 5: Imputing missing values**
 Presentation of techniques used (random forests, PCA and gravity models) and drills;
Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD
- Purpose
 - Input
 - Methods
 - Output
 - Checks
- 11:45 – 12:15 Presentation and discussion on the SIDS Satellite PCI. **Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD**
- 12:15 – 13:15 Lunch
- 13:15 – 14:15 Group exercises and presentations on PCI analysis;
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer & Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD
- 14:15 – 14:30 Tea/coffee break
- 14:30 – 15:50 (Continued) Group exercises and presentations on PCI analysis;
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer & Mr. Benny Salo, Statistician, UNCTAD
- 15:50 – 16:00 **The way forward;**
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer & Mr. Mussie Delelegn Arega, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD.
- 16:00 – 16:10 **Closing remarks**
 Mr. Jose R. Sanchez-Fung, Ambassador of DR in Geneva