

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-fifth session

Information items 5(a) – 5(l)

Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Agenda item

Item 5(a) Demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2024/23)

Statement:

1. Malaysia welcomes and appreciates the demographic statistics work conducted by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
2. Malaysia would like to take note the report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and provides an overview of activities conducted by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, focusing on demographic statistics. It addresses the implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda, emphasising the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to national civil registration systems and the production of accurate vital statistics. Notably, the report underscores efforts to sustain UN LIA momentum in the African region.
3. The report highlights the collection of demographic statistics through the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire and outlines capacity-building initiatives to describe urban and rural areas in the field of international and regional statistics. Malaysia is committed to providing data for the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire every year. In addition, Malaysia is conducting a study on underreporting of birth and deaths registration to meet the international standards in the field of CRVS, where each member country needs to carry out periodic assessments through inequality assessment and completeness assessment of births and deaths registration. The study was implemented in East Malaysia in two phases, the first phase in Sabah (2023) and the second phase in Sarawak (2024).
4. Malaysia remains committed to enhancing and modernising its civil registration and vital statistics systems, aiming to incorporate digitisation and integrate them with administrative and survey data.

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Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

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Item 5(b) Disability statistics (E/CN.3/2024/24)

Statement:

1. Malaysia supports the ongoing and planned activities on disability statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to help countries generate good-quality data on disability for policy formation and monitoring.
2. Malaysia acknowledges the United Nations Disability and Development Report prepared by UNDESA. This publication reviews the situation of persons with disabilities vis-à-vis the SDGs and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Malaysia suggests regular updates and broader dissemination of the report's findings to enhance its utility. This would facilitate awareness, engagement, and policy adjustments to address emerging challenges and opportunities for persons with disabilities, ensuring a more dynamic and responsive approach to disability-inclusive development. **The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has compiled administrative data related to disability from various agencies to reduce the gaps in disability statistics.**
3. Malaysia appreciates ESCAP's efforts in producing knowledge products to bridge the disability data gap and strengthen statistical capacities. In line with this, Malaysia calls for capacity building for the development/ enhancement of disability statistics. This could involve collaborative training programs, workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions.

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Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

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Item 5(c) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data (E/CN.3/2024/25)

Statement:

1. Malaysia agrees and supports the mainstreaming of sustainable development, by identifying gaps and developing international guidance and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data into the work of the Commission in line with the United Nations 2030 agenda.
2. Malaysia is committed to undertaking a comprehensive approach to the current situation to establish international standards and methods for compiling statistics and data on ageing and age-disaggregated data and to collaborate with United Nations (UN) bodies and other organisations concerned with specific aspects of ageing and age statistics.
3. Malaysia took note of the work of the Bureau based on the Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated statistics during the inter-sessional period.

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Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Agenda item

Item 5(d) Health statistics (E/CN.3/2024/26)

Statement:

Malaysia acknowledged the present report of the World Health Organization on health statistics, as data and statistics not only monitor health challenges but also help to close inequality gaps through the provision of disaggregated data.

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Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Agenda item

Item 5(e) Service statistics (E/CN.3/2024/27)

Statement:

Malaysia takes note of the Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics and the progress of the Voorburg Group in addressing best practices in service industry output statistics, service industry price statistics and service industry and product classifications. Other progress includes:

- presentation and approval of a revisited sector paper on renting and leasing of other machinery, equipment and tangible goods (ISIC 7730) as well as an addition to the sector paper on data centre colocation (ISIC 6311). There was also a session on education (ISIC 85).
- cross-cutting discussions on issues and best practices concerning price and output measurement during economic shocks as well as the transformation and measurement of e-commerce resulting from the pandemic.
- Established a website on which all its sector papers and related materials are archived for the reference of interested parties (www.voorburggroup.org).

Malaysia also notes that the next meeting is planned for March 2024 which will include a session on measurement challenges for import services, as well as one led by the OECD covering the updated handbook on measuring digital trade across borders.

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<i>Statement provided by:</i> Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)	
<i>Agenda item</i>	Item 5(f) International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2024/28)
<i>Statement:</i>	
<p>(a) Malaysia supports the implementation of ICP and looks forward to the ICP 2021 results, which is expected to be released in early 2024. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has completed the data collection for the 2021 cycle, consisting of household, construction, machinery & equipment and housing rental data. This information was sent to ADB for coordination. Despite the challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DOSM has implemented various approaches, such as web scraping, phone calls, interviews and online searches, as references to available data. DOSM supports the ICP2021 programs and is committed to meet the time frame set by ADB.</p> <p>(b) Malaysia will participate in implementation of ICP 2024 cycle as the benchmark year and will follow the current ICP cycle's implementation approach. Plans for the 2024 ICP cycle include implementation beginning in Q1 2024, with surveys will be conducted in 2024 and 2025 for the reference year 2024.</p> <p>(c) Malaysia also acknowledges on the e-learning course on the fundamentals of Purchasing Power Parity (PPPs) and other research/ study materials posted in the ICP website as well as the use of ICP data for various indicators.</p>	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/15/2024

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Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Agenda item

Item 5(g) Information and communication technology statistics (E/CN.3/2024/29)

Statement:

- (a) Malaysia would like to welcome the Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development. Malaysia fully supports and acknowledges the recommendations proposed to improve the availability and enhance the core list indicators. Malaysia notes that there are seven ICT indicators related to the SDG monitoring framework and has agreed that capacity development is a priority to help developing countries measure progress, including in the context of the SDGs, as well as build collaboration between the statistical community and the holders of new data sources such as big data and artificial intelligence (AI). Malaysia will also provide statistics for ICT indicators related to the SDGs.
- (b) Malaysia takes note of the meeting of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) in September 2023, which discussed the pilot data collection on mobile money, data collection on ICT price baskets, penetration measurement for fixed broadband, over-the-top (OTT) applications and household e-waste indicators.
- (c) Malaysia appreciates that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) plays a key role within a partnership, focusing on collecting and disseminating core indicators related to ICT use by businesses, the ICT sector, and international trade in ICT goods and services. Malaysia also supports the Working Group on Measuring e-Commerce and the Digital Economy, which has been active in discussing improvements to digital economy statistics, with the next meeting scheduled for December 2024.

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(d) Following the paper related to the Labour Indicator, Malaysia currently uses the Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupations (MASCO) 2020 in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). MASCO 2020 has improved the classification of occupational structure and updated job titles in the current market in accordance with economic growth, new technology and organisational changes in Malaysia. Malaysia fully agreed and supported the ILO's decision to review and update ISCO-08 in real time in the future, particularly in emerging new occupations related to digital skills and digital employment in ICT industries. Malaysia will also support the ILO in creating a working group to discuss the definition of a new statistical standard, particularly for digital platform employment.

(e) Malaysia has actively incorporated handbooks developed by the task team for the exploration of mobile phone data. These resources have been invaluable in enhancing our statistical capabilities and promoting robust data analysis. The exploration of mobile phone data extends beyond tourism statistics, which will take place this year. This includes utilising this data for the production of information and communications technology (ICT) indicators, thereby contributing to a comprehensive understanding of our digital landscape. Recognising the importance of technical support for the success of these initiatives, Malaysia seeks collaborative efforts with ITU. We propose partnerships focused on capacity-building and skill development. Malaysia recognises ITU's exploration of machine learning models for subnational connectivity estimation as highly important. Malaysia supports and encourages continued efforts in this area to advance our collective understanding of connectivity patterns. Malaysia acknowledges and appreciates ITU's collaboration with the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science. This collaboration serves as a potential platform for seeking guidance and sharing experiences with nations pursuing similar initiatives. Malaysia stands ready to actively participate in this collaborative forum.

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<i>Statement provided by:</i> Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)	
<i>Agenda item</i>	Item 5(h) Business registers (E/CN.3/2024/30)
<i>Statement:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) took note of the Wiesbaden Group's report on business registers. By participating in the survey, DOSM is able to evaluate its Statistical Business Register and identify areas for improvement. It also provides an opportunity to learn from and share experiences with other countries.2. The Malaysia Statistical Business Register (MSBR) is a comprehensive list of enterprises and establishments that are registered with the Company Commission of Malaysia, including the Register of Company, Register of Business, and Limited Liability Partnership. Additionally, the list encompasses establishments that are registered with local authorities and professional bodies.3. The MSBR is updated based on the survey and census conducted by DOSM and administrative data. In addition to administrative data obtained through the MoU, DOSM also obtains data from company associations from various sectors and industries. DOSM also used Google Map Crawler to crawl company information from the internet. Further exploration will be on the use of electrical bills of businesses and other similar sources to expand/increase the source of our data in updating the MSBR.4. In Malaysia, profiling is done for publicly listed companies (companies listed with Bursa Malaysia, the stock exchange) since their annual reports are available online, as well as studying their group structures and linking the legal units in the Enterprise Group model in the Malaysia Statistical Business Register (MSBR). Profiling becomes complex once the company has too many subsidiaries and large multinational companies. The challenge for DOSM is profiling non-publicly listed companies because their financial reports are not available to the public.	

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DOSM refers to available guidelines on profiling and may seek technical assistance from the expert.

5. DOSM take note of the work done on Globalization and Large Case Units (GLCU). DOSM would like to learn more about the application of GLCU in SBR and business statistics. This is also an area in which DOSM may seek technical assistance from the expert.
6. DOSM will be updating the Malaysia Standard Industrial Classification based on ISIC Rev 5. Work on identifying new industries in Malaysia has been going on with various stakeholders. Automation of the classification of activity units using Artificial Intelligence is an area that DOSM could explore.
7. The Malaysia Standard Industrial Classification was prepared by the DOSM for use in the collection, compilation and publication of statistics. These statistics range from the classifications of economic activities arising from censuses and surveys to data compiled from administrative records. The MSIC is intended to be a standard classification of productive economic activities. Its primary purpose is to provide a set of activity categories that can be utilised for the collection and presentation of statistics according to such activities. Therefore, MSIC aims to present this set of activity categories in such a way that entities can be classified according to the economic activity they carry out.
8. DOSM finds that the SBR Maturity Model is comprehensive enough to guide us through the process of upgrading MSBR, which is ongoing now.
9. We take the pleasure of learning about the initiative taken by UK, Switzerland and the Netherland in redesigning their SBR and take note of where DOSM can incorporate them in upgrading the MSBR systems.

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Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

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Item 5(i) Integration of statistical and geospatial information (E/CN.3/2024/31)

Statement:

1. Malaysia welcomes the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information that summarises the activities it has undertaken since the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission, in accordance with Commission decision 54/118.
2. Malaysia appreciates the efforts taken by the Expert Group in focusing on the continued promotion, implementation and operationalisation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework. Malaysia acknowledged the importance of the five principles of the global statistical geospatial framework, as these principles lay a strong foundation on which detailed guidance can be built to support the integration of statistical and geospatial and facilitate the consolidation and implementation of the Global Framework.
3. In implementing and operationalizing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, Malaysia joined the High-Level Seminar on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, held from 28 to 30 November 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, to help countries examine their current geostatistical capacity and identify actions that would help strengthen capacity in that area based on the self-assessment tool for the GSGF. With regard to that, DOSM will collaborate further with agencies to strengthen geospatial initiatives, such as the Malaysian Space Agency, the National Geospatial Center, the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia and PLANMalaysia to enable geostatistical integration.

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4. Malaysia is adopting the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework in the implementation of our geospatial development plan for 2023–2025. The objectives of this plan are to improve spatial analysis in the provision of statistical services and to increase the use of GIS in data dissemination using a web-based platform. Besides that, the plan also highlights strengthening human capital development through training programs, such as the ArcGIS Training Program for ArcGIS Pro Professional Certification 2201 with multinational GIS software company ESRI and ArcGIS Training with Malaysia Statistical Training Institute.
5. Malaysia takes note of the progress of the Expert Group in developing guidance for Member States to enable them to maximise the outputs of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses with a view to meeting the integrated data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. Malaysia continuously engages with the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group for the Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the relevant agencies, especially PLANMalaysia, in developing and implementing Sustainable Development Goals 11 (11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1 and 11.7.1) and 9 (9.1.1).
7. Apart from that, Malaysia has developed Stats Geoportal to encourage the wider use of geospatial information at the disaggregation level at the Malaysian, State and District levels. Besides that, DOSM collaborated with the Malaysian Space Agency to explore satellite imagery and the application of the DEGURBA method for urban observation.

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Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

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Item 5(j) Data stewardship (E/CN.3/2024/32)

Statement:

1. On September 6, 2023, Malaysia responded to the Global Consultation Questionnaire from the Working Group on Data Stewardship and noted the highlighted global results throughout the questionnaire.
2. Malaysia took note, overall response rate of 58% from national statistical offices to the global consultation questionnaire on data stewardship is quite significant. This high response rate indicates a strong level of engagement and interest from the national statistical offices in sharing their perspectives and experiences on data stewardship. A response rate of this magnitude suggests that the topic of data stewardship is of great importance to the statistical community and that there is a willingness to participate in shaping the future direction of data management practices. The substantial participation also enhances the credibility and reliability of the findings and recommendations that will be derived from the survey data.
3. The finding that approximately 80% of national statistical offices reported being mandated to coordinate the production and integration of official statistics into the national statistical system is a significant and noteworthy result. This high percentage indicates a widespread recognition among national statistical offices of the importance of their role as coordinators in ensuring the quality and coherence of official statistics within their respective countries. The agreement among a large majority of national statistical offices on this mandate highlights a common understanding of the pivotal role that they play in managing and integrating official statistics to support evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.

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4. The feedback from the approximately 12% of national statistical offices that disagreed with the national statistical office taking a coordinator role for all data sources provides valuable insights into the challenges and considerations faced by some countries in this regard. The reasons cited, such as perceived boundaries between data and official statistics, capacity limitations to cover a diverse range of data, and constraints related to the decentralized nature of their statistical system, shed light on the complexities and nuances involved in data coordination at the national level. In the case of Malaysia, it is important to acknowledge and address these concerns raised by the dissenting national statistical offices. By recognizing the perceived boundaries between data and official statistics, addressing capacity limitations, and finding solutions to overcome constraints posed by a decentralized statistical system, Malaysia can work towards enhancing its data coordination efforts. Understanding and accommodating diverse perspectives within the statistical community can lead to more effective and inclusive data stewardship practices that align with the specific needs and contexts of each country.
5. Malaysia took note of the report on the Working Group on Data Stewardship, which outlines its recent activities related to five (5) workstreams: data governance (workstream 1); equity and inclusion (workstream 2); sharing and collaboration (workstream 3); links with the city data agenda (workstream 4); and development of an overall conceptual framework (workstream 5).
6. Malaysia agrees with reports on the progress of the five (5) workstreams defined within the working group. The workstreams aim to achieve comprehensive goals, including:
 - i. Supporting national statistical offices in becoming better data stewards by providing guidance on legal frameworks and data governance. Malaysia has taken initiatives towards Data Governance by strengthening the National Statistical System through:

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- a) Formation of the National Statistics and Data Council (NSDC), acting as the highest advisory body in giving direction to the National Statistical System and coordinating information at the national level;
 - b) Appointment of Chief Data Officers (CDO) at every ministry or departmental level, both in state and federal agencies, by NSDC. The roles of CDO include emphasizing data regulation for quality, standardization, collection, storage, management, and protection, besides harmonizing core data elements and provide guidelines (metadata) to Other Government Agencies;
 - c) Empowering and supporting the strengthening of the National Statistical System through Amendments to the Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989); and
 - d) DOSM, as the Central Agency, is responsible in coordinating and controlling the production of statistics from Ministries, Departments and government agencies.
- ii. Developing an extensive checklist of functions for the data steward and creating a global glossary of terms and an inventory of national legislation on data privacy, protection, and governance. This endeavor aims to enhance mutual understanding among institutions carrying data governance responsibilities.
 - iii. Enhancing the availability of data for use by increasing trust in data intermediaries and improving data-sharing mechanism;
 - iv. Developing a better understanding of issues and current challenges related to access, data-sharing and collaboration within the data ecosystem; and
 - v. Promoting knowledge exchange, identifying areas of mutual interest, and proposing solutions to enhance and integrate data stewardship at both the national and local levels

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7. Malaysia also agrees on additional aspects recommended by present reports, such as:

- i. Encouraging data-sharing using best practices and GitHub repositories to share DOSM datasets more widely across government agencies, including administrative data (<https://open.dosm.gov.my> / and <https://data.gov.my/>). Malaysia took note of the deliverables from the workstream that will include a guide and templates for negotiating data-sharing agreements with members of the data ecosystem and also instruments which best suit data sharing needs.
- ii. Supporting the capacity development of national statistical offices;
- iii. Promoting cooperation with relevant stakeholders through an observatory on data stewardship; and
- iv. Ensuring the best practices align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to nurture progress.

8. Malaysia agrees with the proposed 2024 workplan of the Working Group with the specified deliverables in the report, such as the development of data stewardship ethical guidelines and the establishment of negotiating data-sharing agreements in order to create a robust and adaptable data stewardship framework. This ultimately will benefit the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) as a whole.

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Statement provided by:

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

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Item 5(k) Coordination of statistical programme (E/CN.3/2024/33)

Statement:

1. Malaysia extends its congratulations to the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System for their close collaboration in coordinating international organisations in the field of official statistics. Malaysia appreciates the committee's first joint report, highlighting their work's interconnected nature. This marks the inaugural submission under the new two-year reporting cycle.
2. Malaysia acknowledges and appreciates the progress made by the Committee of the Chief Statisticians in implementing the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics, focusing on transforming the data.un.org portal, promoting data literacy, and embedding predictive analytics.
3. Malaysia also supports the close collaboration between the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and the co-chairs of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators. At the thirteenth Inter-Agency and Expert Group meeting in November 2022, the Committee was asked to provide input for the final comprehensive review of the global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Malaysia noted the following issues highlighted during a special session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held on 28 March 2023 including:
 - a. concerns about the potential exclusion of Tier 2 indicators and the need to consider the expansion of the boundaries of official statistics and the subsequent investment and effort made by custodian agencies and countries.

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- b. The importance of not altering politically sensitive indicators unless they were demonstrably non-performing and offered assistance in facilitating consultations if needed.
 - c. recommendations for reactivation of regional consultation mechanisms and ensuring to include subject matter expertise, maintaining the highest level of transparency and engagement in decision-making.
 - d. the importance of inclusivity in global initiatives, stating that no countries, regions, or groups should be left behind.
 - e. Acknowledging varying capacities among Member States, it stresses the need for all opinions to be considered.
 - f. Additionally, the group is urged to promote the collection of disaggregated data for monitoring inequalities and to employ robust methodologies for delineating urban areas.
 - g. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities is invited to contribute further reflections in an upcoming meeting, emphasising ongoing collaboration between custodian agencies and Member States.
5. Malaysia commends a major initiative led by the Committee of the Chief Statisticians, launched at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023, which focuses on leveraging data for goal achievement, with collaborative efforts from the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to enhance the use of population data and explore progress measures beyond GDP.
6. Malaysia supports collaborations between the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System **with various entities** to enhance coordination in statistical activities, including working with the Development Coordination Office to support United Nations resident coordinator offices and improve country team support for national statistical systems.
7. Malaysia appreciates the data governance initiative taken by the Committee to assist the High-level Committee on Programmes **in developing a global data governance framework and exploring universal data principles**. The Committee is engaged in discussions with the High-level Committee on Management to improve data governance and data-sharing within the United

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Nations, aiming to develop a generic data governance framework for UN entities. This work aligns with broader efforts to establish a secure digital future and is informed by global reports and policy briefs emphasising the importance of data governance in digital transformation.

8. Malaysia supports the planning of the Committees to continue various activities, including liaising with relevant groups, working on the 2030 Agenda, and engaging in data governance. New areas of work have emerged, such as reviewing international data collection on the number of households, measuring gender identity, and exploring the role of artificial intelligence in member states. Task teams have been established to address these areas and outline the resources and timelines needed for their completion.
9. Malaysia acknowledges the use of population data for the global monitoring of the Goals, which the Committee formed a task team led by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to review the use of population data for the global monitoring of the Goals as such data are one of the main sources of differences between Goal indicators published by custodian agencies and national indicators.
10. Malaysia appreciates the effort of implementing World Population Prospects (WPP), which provides annual time series and population estimates and projections disaggregated by single age and sex for all countries or areas with at least 1,000 inhabitants. The World Urbanisation Prospects (WUP), planned for mid-2025, will provide a comprehensive set of estimates and projections of the urban and rural population for all countries and areas in the world, based on national definitions and the degree of urbanisation.
11. Malaysia appreciates that the DESA Statistics Division has enhanced and improved the collection and dissemination of the metadata for national population estimates and made it available through the Demographic Yearbook.

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