Annex

Seoul Declaration

Recalling the mandate of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics to provide strategic vision, direction and coordination for a global programme on the use of big data and advanced technologies in the compilation of official statistics and of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, including developing the necessary capacity and skills in national statistical systems,

Recalling the adoption of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, in March 2017, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at local, national, regional and global levels and by multiple stakeholders, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing necessary resources,

Reiterating the Kigali Declaration of the Global Working Group that the United Nations Global Platform:

- Should provide technological infrastructure as a service for all States Members of the United Nations, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, to facilitate their access to global data sets and state-of-the-art tools and services,

- Should also connect all its partners, including the United Nations agencies as well as government agencies, private sector companies, research institutes, academia and civil society organizations, to work jointly on common goals,

- Should facilitate the exchange, development and sharing of data, methods, tools and expertise, and accelerate data innovation for official statistics and Sustainable Development Goal indicators,

- Should provide an environment for capacity development activities to teach and develop new competencies in the areas of artificial intelligence, data science, machine learning and privacy-preserving techniques,

Reiterating the Kigali Declaration of the Global Working Group that the United Nations Global Platform should have multiple hubs in various regions of the world to build capacity and deliver regional support, including for official statistics, working under a well-defined governance framework,

The Global Working Group, at the sixth International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, is:

- Calling on the statistical community to embrace the use of big data for the compilation of official statistics and Sustainable Development Goal indicators by establishing new partnerships with multiple stakeholders, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing necessary resources;

- Calling on the statistical community and its stakeholder communities to increase support to the United Nations Global Platform through in-kind and financial contributions, to ensure the sustainability of the platform for the longer term;

- Calling on the statistical community to promote the use of the regional hubs of the United Nations Global Platform for training and project activities;

- Encouraging all statistical institutes, especially those from least developed countries and small island developing States, to use the capabilities of the United Nations Global Platform in their own service delivery;

- Calling on the statistical community and its public and private sector partners to continue their efforts in finding secure and trusted solutions for data-sharing using appropriate privacy-preserving techniques;

- Encouraging all stakeholder communities, including the private sector, to share data, methods, technology and learning materials on the United Nations Global Platform for social good;

- Promoting the use of the United Nations Global Platform for the compilation of fast indicators to inform policies on emerging issues and key priority agendas in real time, making swift course adjustments possible;

- Moving forward quickly on the implementation of a global programme on training and certification in the use of big data and data science for official statistics.

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