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Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Statement provided by: Republic of Korea
Statement:
The Republic of Korea highly acknowledges the work done by the HLG-PCCB on national cases for data stewardship and welcomes the plan to prepare guidelines regarding the role of a NSO as a data steward.   As a good practices in data stewardship, we would like to introduce Statistics Korea's undertaking of the K-Statistics System initiative.   The K-Statistics System is a cloud-based system which uses a state-of-art cryptography, such as homomorphic encryption, to link data sets dispersed across government departments and public institutions by leveraging statistical databases and statistical registers. The K-Statistics System enables actors in the data ecosystem to flexibly and actively link and integrate data, while concurrently allowing for protection of information.   We expect that this initiative will address some of the following issues presented in the background document: for the first arrangement, in which data stewardship is an expanded mandate for the chief statistician, the NSO has extensive roles and functions to manage data in the government, which can be both empowering and overpowering for the NSO; for the second arrangement, in which the data steward is a clearly distinguished from and mandated with the chief statistician, the decentralization of data stewardship may not fully materialize the potential of national data.   The four pillars characterizing data stewardship, better governance, better collaboration, better methods and capacity, and better access and understanding, will eventually converge into an overarching goal: That is, data stewardship will maximize the value of national data by promoting the production and utilization of high quality data that are responsive to the policy, economic and social needs.   This will be possible when data can be actively linked and combined while the protection of information for each individual is being ensured.   We hope that the K-Statistics System demonstrates one of the best practice cases for simultaneously promoting data utilization and reinforcing data protection.
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