

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Fifty-second session**

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

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

**Document E/CN.3/2021/4 – Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*Statement provided by:*

Colombia

*Statement:*

Colombia thanks the efforts of the members of the HLG-PCCB for preparing a detailed report on their recent activities.

Regarding the proposal of the HLG-PCCB on establishing a Working Group within the Commission that develops guidance for National Statistical Offices on issues related to Data Stewardship, besides approving its creation, Colombia manifests its interest of being part of this Working Group and provides the following comments and insights regarding the “approaches to data Stewardship” background document and the TOR’s of the Working Group.

We would like to recognize the efforts of the regional representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean that currently participate on the HLG-PCCB as through their leadership with the support of the team of the Statistical Conference of the Americas we submitted the case studies from the region to contribute to this report. It is worth noting that the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held a specific session during its XIX meeting (august,2020) in which countries from the region were able to share their experiences on the matter, and further agreed that the Statistical Conference of the Americas would evaluate the relevant actions to boost this approach in the region.

As such, we are pleased that both the background document and the report set out an inclusive framework under which the collaboration is enabled. As it was portrayed in the report there are many countries which have already made significant progress in the conceptualization and implementation of the Data Stewardship approach, nonetheless there are some which have not yet adopted and adapted this approach. We consider that the regional commissions could enhance the dissemination of the Data Stewardship.

One of the key messages that Colombia seeks to share with the Commission is that we would like to encourage the Working Group to adopt, as one of its main tasks to establish a strategy for sharing the knowledge acquired so far. The concept of Data Stewardship might be challenging at the start, but by advancing in the development on specific -thematic or sectorial oriented case studies- in which a different maturity of the approach are identified (for example in the reporting of the SDG data or on vital statistics) we might not only be able to reach a wider audience but also demystify the concept of Stewardship.

Regarding the membership of the group, we welcome the proposal of not limiting the composition of the Working Group to the National Statistical Offices, as we consider that there are stakeholders which can make significant contributions to this WG. Particularly, the work led by Paris 21 and the Philippines Statistical Authority within the “Coordinating strategically with key partners – what is new for Official Statistical Agencies? Task Team” could inform the discussions of the WG. Moreover, Colombia considers that as the data ecosystem has evolved, the adoption of an inclusive approach is

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encouraged, as such the inclusion or creation of consultation mechanisms with stakeholders within the different NSS (such as local governments, metropolitan areas, and others) could shed light on ways in which the approach is implemented.

As highlighted on the report, there is a growing consensus regarding the importance of strengthening the collaboration with the private sector. Colombia considers that the group could elaborate practical methods and approaches in which the collaboration with the Private Sector could be enhanced, in a way which bypasses possible legal barriers. Particularly, issues such as big data and data science, privacy and quality assurance could be researched as possible starting points.

Finally, besides manifesting Colombia's approval of the way forward to develop the outcome document for the third United Nations World Data Forum, congratulating the Government of Switzerland and the Programme Committee for their efforts, as well as the proposed workplan of the HLG-PCCB for 2021.

Submitted on:

2/23/2021