

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

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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:

Bureau of the UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Statement:

UN ESCAP is a regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, or over 30% of countries worldwide. In 2020, 60% of the estimated 7.8b people globally were in the Asia-Pacific region. The region is also home to 97 of the 100 most air-polluted cities and 5 of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The Bureau of the Asia-Pacific Committee on Statistics **WELCOMES** the report of the High-Level Group on Partnerships, Coordination and Capacity Building and **THANKS** the HLG for a productive year despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We **CONGRATULATE** the organisers of the virtual World Data Forum for the high participation and look forward to the 3rd World Data Forum in Bern, Switzerland in October 2021.

We **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** the HLG to replicate the new practice by the IAEG-SDG Indicators of holding open meetings. This would improve transparency amongst countries.

We **WELCOME** the report of a HLG Sub-group on Data Stewardship and **AGREE** with the proposal to create a working group. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of National Statistics Offices looking beyond their traditional role in official statistics to the wider National Statistical System and national data ecosystem. The sharing of examples and good practices is an important step forward and should include examples of stewardship within and outside National Statistical Offices and National Statistical Systems. We **ENCOURAGE** the notion of public interest vis-à-vis data stewardship be linked with creation of strong national data driven governance ecosystems. The proposed working group may wish to include, as an objective, the instilling of data prudence amongst communities.

Submitted on:

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