

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.3/2021/3 – Report of the Secretary-General on work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Statement provided by:

National Bureau of Statistics of China

Statement:

Unofficial translation:

(1) We endorse in principle the work and next steps of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and related systems. The following opinions are put forward for the submission mechanism of SDG indicator 5.a.2. The current data reporting mechanism for indicator 5.a.2¹ is that countries provide the relevant legal provisions to FAO, and FAO legal experts rate countries according to the legal provisions of each country. In our view, this approach is not consistent with the principles of "voluntary, country-led" and "global review will be primarily based on national official data sources" as set out in the 2030 Agenda. The indicators used in the Global Indicator Framework to assess a country's progress should be based on data from official national statistics. SDG data assessed in accordance with the legal provisions of a country should not be considered as official data of that country. Other legal frameworks related to SDG indicators under the Global Indicator Framework mostly adopt the principle of "national self-assessment and feedback of assessment results through questionnaires" to report data. We believe indicator 5.a.2 should also refer to a similar guide.

(2) We commend the first batch of participating countries to explore innovative data solutions supported by the "Data4Now " initiative and hard works to incorporate new methodology and new data sources into existing national statistical systems.

(3) We agree to initiate a collaborative mechanism for the use of administrative record data for statistical purposes. In recent years, the implementation of the Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs has achieved results, but for many countries, particularly developing countries, the lack of data availability remains a concern. It is recommended that the three working groups under the IAEG-SDGs work closely and efficiently to improve the data availability of the Global Indicator Framework and form a feasible path to improve the data availability using new data sources such as administrative records data as soon as possible for developing countries. It is also suggested to provide more statistical capacity-building support and share more experiences and statistical monitoring best practices at the national level.

(4) We propose to accelerate the development of a joint information system for the Sustainable Development Goals. Under the guidance of the National Bureau of Statistics of China, Deqing County

¹ SDG 5.a.2: Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

in Zhejiang Province has successfully carried out the SDG statistical monitoring pilot project based on geographic information data. We are willing to share with the relevant information and experience of the pilot project.

(5) We commend the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST). As a founding member of the GIST, China has actively participated in online conferences and working groups on "*Online Portal and E-Learning community of practice*" and provided the latest research results on sustainable development in China. In addition to providing training resources, it is planned to further introduce relevant professional training courses to enhance the professional level of statisticians in China.

(6) We endorse the launch of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians.

(7) The National Bureau of Statistics of China will continue to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division to investigate the Covid-19 epidemic.

Submitted on: 2/22