

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: coordination of statistical programmes

Document E/CN.3/2021/5 – Report of the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System on coordination within the United Nations statistical system

Statement provided by:

Cameroon

Statement:

Cameroon would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter.

African countries commend the work done by the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System and encourage its members to continue seeking improvement of coordination of UN statistical system. Better coordination will absolutely reduce burden reporting on statistics and avoid discrepancies observed in some cases.

Although lack of coordination is still observed, we found a great hope on OIBC as a start for synergizing statistical support provided to our region as whole and to our respective countries. We reiterate our call for a better coordination with pan African organisations so as to empower their efforts of coordination at regional level through the Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHASA) and through African fora such as Statistical Commission for Africa which has its own bureau and secretariat. At the national level, some African countries, as Cameroon, have signed Memoranda of Understanding for Cooperation between the National Institute of Statistics and the local United Nations System (UNS) with a view to building capacities follow-up to the United Nations 2030 agenda and SHASA. The monitoring committee of this cooperation framework is co-chaired by the Director General of the INS and the resident representative of the UNS at the local level.

Africa region is ready to take part of the inter-agency and expert mechanism on the development and implementation of a new United Nations data hub. Further, we fully concur on the identified priority activities of the network and express our expectation on the sharing of know-how and lessons learned on the implementation of nowcasting/forecasting methodologies, the dissemination of those estimates and the application of those techniques in the context of sustainable development indicators.

Regarding the points for consideration:

Africa region:

(a) Welcome the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics;

(b) Fully commend the Road Map objectives and goals; albeit acknowledging the capacity of UN System agencies to collect and estimate statistics, we therefore ask tight concertation with

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Member States to the sake of sharing knowledge and prior to making public the indicators related to countries;

(c) Africa region invite the Committee to urgently elaborate a canvas for a national statistical capacity development programme to be adapted to realities in each country with the involvement of national statistical systems; in addition, we strongly advocate for effectiveness of the integration and interoperability between geospatial applications and statistics.

Submitted on:

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