

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: economic statistics

Document E/CN.3/2021/7 – Report of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics

Statement provided by:

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Statement:

Malaysia through the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) welcomes the Report of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics for provides recommendations for an agile and more responsive system of economic statistics. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) greatly appreciates and congratulates on productive achievements despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- a) Malaysia **acknowledged and agreed with the recommendations in the present report** including the establishment of a new network of economic statisticians and exploration of the need for and feasibility of a committee of experts on population and well-being. The four themes recommended are very much welcomed and very timely during this current challenging scenario in facing the COVID-19 pandemic. DOSM has implemented and worked intensively on this issue as well. The framework with four key outcomes and the four major themes should adapt to all countries. The system of economic statistics should achieve granularity and timeliness. Greater emphasis should be given to increased awareness, inculcate knowledge and ensure adoption of harmonized operational concepts, definitions and statistical classifications in businesses operations of both private and public sectors agencies. We agree with a forward-looking agenda on emerging topics to build the responsible economic statistics and a network of data science Centre among the countries. A whole-of-system approach is needed to share the best practice and strategies. DOSM also agree to establish a joint sub-task team with a representative from Malaysia national statistical offices expertise and also international experts to facilitate hubs for statistics standards and classification.

International organizations are also playing a significant role progressively by encouraging networking global partnerships to explore new data solutions that originate in the use of alternative data sources held by global data owners, offering targeted statistical services to the providers of data sets and also co-administering global surveys to produce relevant indicators for a rapid assessment of the impact of key and emerging socioeconomic and environmental issues. **DOSM has participated in the regional collaboration programme entitled Statistical Analysis on Global Value Chain (GVC) – Trade in Value Added (TiVA) and Tourism Satellite Accounts assisted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).** The 2-year project which began in 2020 allows the Department to explore further the said areas through sharing of the ADB's knowledge and expertise. Given the global pandemic, we leverage virtual training and thus, an Online Workshop on Global Value Chain Analysis Using Input-Output Tables was conducted for 4 days in November 2020.

DOSM also benefits big data features through Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC)

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by disaggregating trade flows according to the characteristics of trading companies in a very efficient and cost –effective way. TEC integrates a high volume of trade data with Malaysia Statistical Business Register’s information on company characteristics at enterprises level to produce new statistics, i.e. Malaysia’s Export and Import Statistics by State. Besides that, DOSM has embarked on the new initiative using online price data (web scraping) that available from the stores for some items for good and services in compiling CPI, as well price data collected by Ministry of Domestic Affairs and Consumer from the price watch systems. The Price Intelligent (PI) which apply web crawler is among the new initiative to gather data for compiling CPI. During the COVID-19 periods, more secondary data sources were identified to complement the traditional ways of collecting data as well as the maximum used of other collection methods to avoid direct contact with respondents. The online survey filled by establishments and households will become more severe in future.

- b) To dissolve the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics.

Malaysia agreed with the dissolve of Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics. At the same time, Malaysia keen to join any other working group related to Economic Statistics to share and contribute to the system of Statistics globally.

Submitted on:

2/17/2021