

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (i) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: management and modernization of statistical systems

Document E/CN.3/2021/13 – Report of the Secretary-General on management and modernization of statistical systems

Statement provided by:

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

Statement:

Bangladesh endorses the role of National Statistical Offices to build and sustain resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical system is integral to respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of crisis and will support the 2030 transformative agenda for sustainable development and its transformation and modernization agenda.

We are fully concerned to the management and modernization of statistical system and statistical capacity development. Underlining these issues, Bangladesh has taken two legendary initiatives: enactment of Statistics Act, 2013; and approved the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

In order to strengthen the management and coordination of the statistical system, following steps have been taken.

i) Statistics Act, 2013:

The National Statistical System (NSS) of Bangladesh has entered into a new era through the enactment of Statistics Act-2013. The Act has mandated BBS as the standalone agency for generating official statistics. It has empowered BBS to provide guidance to other agencies for producing official statistics and to authenticate statistics generated by them. Following the provision of the act, the guideline for other agencies to produce statistics has been formulated.

ii) National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

Following the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, Bangladesh has prepared the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for strengthening the statistical system. It is a state-owned policy document as it was approved by the cabinet in October 2013. The aim of the NSDS is to ensure the systematic development of Bangladesh, to produce timely, accurate and reliable statistics to support evidence-based decision making, policy formulation and integrate statistics into the mainstream of planning process. The NSDS is now under implementation through a project supported by World Bank. It is expected that after successful implementation of the NSDS, Bangladesh statistical system will be strengthened in many folds.

iii) National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC):

In order to facilitate effective coordination between data providing agencies and the BBS as well as to provide guidelines for SDGs data generation and international reporting, National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) has been formed with the approval of Honorable Prime Minister. The inter-

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ministerial committee with 55- members, headed by the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) is responsible for coordinating the issue of data generation for SDGs monitoring.

iv) National Advisory Council on Statistics–NACS:

In order to ensure an effective coordination among the data producers, the National Advisory Council on Statistics (NACS) has recently been formed with the approval of the Honorable Prime Minister. The National Advisory Council on Statistics (NACS), headed by the Honorable Planning Minister comprises of 18 members from different corners including the specialist and high-level experts from government and non-government, private sectors and the academic community. The NACS is responsible for providing strategic advices on national statistical priorities to ensure that good quality data are generated and provided at the right time, making efficient use of resources.

v) MOUs:

In Bangladesh there are a number of government agencies that are regularly producing data for their own purposes. Some of the data from some agencies has now been collecting informally. But to channelize these data to BBS formally and transform them into statistics and to make an institutional relationship, BBS has taken the initiative of signing MOUs with other government agencies that are important in terms of volume of data production. These steps will help BBS reduce survey burden which may contributes to save public resources.

Submitted on:

2/19/2021