

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:

Botswana

Statement:

On behalf of the Africa group, Botswana would like to welcome the report on management and modernization of statistical systems.

The Africa Group wants to inform the global statistical community that transformation and modernization of statistical systems to adequately respond to data demands arising from SDG, Africa's agenda 2063, national development plans, other agendas and frameworks, and user's needs is a top priority in our region. The seventh meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa created in October 2020 the African group on transformation and modernization of official statistics to strategically guide and coordinate the work on transformation and modernization of official statistics in the region. The Group is composed of ten Directors-General of national statistical offices. Africa Group calls upon all partners to support the work of this group as well as transformation and modernization of official statistics in the region.

We already value and appreciate work done by key partners in that direction, including ECA with capacity building activities on the use of alternative price data collection methods, focusing in particular on the use of telephone surveys, scanner data and web scrapping methods; publication of [Guidelines for Developing an Integrated User Engagement Strategy for National Statistical Systems](#); establishment of data science campus to promote use of data science in national statistical systems and; establishment of a leadership programme to equip senior leaders with the skills required to lead their organizations on a programme of statistical modernization.

Point (a)

Africa notes and commends the current progress achieved in drafting the substantive and very comprehensive chapters. We appreciate the process for the preparation of the handbook which is among the best practices to be adopted for other similar documents.

Point (b)

Africa supports the delivery of the Handbook as a web-based solution. We recommend to make available in downloadable PDF format the entire document and individual chapters in addition to the user-friendly electronic version as there are still countries with internet connectivity

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issues. As such, it is important to have a standard reference period [month instead of ‘summer’ 2021]

Point (c)

Africa group supports the dissemination of chapter two in electronic and hard-copy versions, and in all official United Nations languages. The group further wishes the entire Handbook to also be translated into these languages to reach the widest audience possible. It is also recommended that other development partners be requested to support the translation if there are funding constraints.

Point (d)

Africa group notes and is in agreement with the proposed update and revision mechanisms of the Handbook. However, it is suggested that the UN Statistics Division informs the Commission on the updates carried out at regular intervals.

Africa group approves the principle to continue organizing rotating thematic conferences to keep the Handbook relevant, but also for wider dissemination of the document, and further suggests organizing virtual thematic conferences in addition to in-person meetings.

Thank you, Chairperson

Submitted on:

2/16/2021