

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

Statement Provided by:

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Statistics Authority

The Philippines supports the endeavors related to the continuing management and modernization of statistical systems and their respective institutions, offices, organizations, and other bodies on the national, regional, and subregional levels.

The Philippines would also like to commend the work of the Advisory Group, the Division, and the members of the Commission for their tireless work in revising the Handbook and developing a mechanism to sustainably update the Handbook. This is an essential and crucial step forward in managing and modernizing the descriptive guide for a better statistical system.

Since the Handbook must always be attuned to recent global developments, especially in the midst of the prevailing global pandemic, the Philippines welcomes the revision process and work of the Advisory group and supports the fourth edition of the Handbook. The Handbook is a very useful and comprehensive living document that will guide National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to maintain and develop statistical capacity that is fit for purpose.

The Philippines was involved in the Asian Thematic Conference that was conducted on 12 to 14 February 2020 which was successfully held in the country, co-organized by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The thematic conferences not only promote regional statistical collaboration and linkages among development partners and statistical offices/organizations but also facilitates better understanding, updating and adoption of the United Nation's (UN) Handbook of Statistical Organization.

We also support the delivery of the online Handbook as a web-based solution using appropriate software recommended by the Advisory Group. Further, to make the Handbook more user-friendly or easily understood by all member countries, especially the less developed countries which may not have access to internet due to digital divide, we concur with the idea of disseminating parts of the Handbook, including the Overview, Chapters II and III, and their translation to all Official United Nations language, to truly capture the inclusive and sustainable management and modernization of statistical systems.

In its efforts to conform to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and international standards and practices, the Philippines commits its best effort to contribute in guiding the timely, relevant, and punctual revision of the Handbook by sharing the country's examples, best practices, and linkages to local, national, regional, and subregional advocacy and initiatives.

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