

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (j) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: big data

Document E/CN.3/2021/14 – Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Statement provided by:

National Statistics Office of Georgia - Geostat

Statement:

Georgia welcomes and appreciates the effort of the Committee of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics.

Georgia endorses the change of the name of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics.

Migration is one of the main processes that affect the size and distribution of population. Traditionally, measurement of migration relies on a variety of sources, such as population census and administrative data, with each of them having their own strengths and limitations. Mainly limitations are related to coverage, measurement, timelines and data quality issues. Nowadays, countries face challenges and need more detailed and timely information about population movements. Mobile phone data as one of the big data sources offer a great promise for its use in human mobility measurement. Mobile positioning is often considered to be a novel and exciting source of information for investigating the spatial dynamics of human society as an alternative data sources. There is an expectation that mobile phone data could fill data gaps and make no one left behind.

Starting from 2019, Geostat is the Mobile Phone Data Task Team member of the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics and participating in the preparation of the Handbook on the use of mobile phone data for official statistics in the field of migration and tourism. Geostat is lead of the subgroup on Migration Statistics.

In 2020, Geostat's team was actively participating in the regular meetings organized by the task team on mobile phone data.

We encourage further developments on this direction and express our readiness to join and to contribute to the work ahead.

Submitted on:

2/18/2021