Statement provided by:
Hungary

Statement:

Hungary welcomes that the new and improved Terms of Reference focuses more on Member States' priorities.

The "Task force on supporting Sustainable Development Goal monitoring" proved to be very successful. It would be a great achievement, if the WG’s website worked as an entry point and data hub regarding household surveys SDG monitoring. Uploading several case studies, sharing good practices and guidance notes, working out standards or offering consulting services would foster this goal.

Hungary appreciates the elaboration of the technical guidance for household surveys under COVID-19 as well as of the ‘new normal’ for household surveys. COVID-19 makes the promotion of safe data collection, mixed-mode designs, flexible, adaptive, and innovative survey solutions all the more important.

Besides its many merits, the report does not discuss the problem of the loss of trust in household surveys. The pandemic severely increased the milieu of fear, distrust, and non-response rate in many countries. Being able to produce reliable statistics is of utmost importance in the pandemic situation, but it cannot be achieved without a general cooperative disposition of the respondents. It goes without saying that the cornerstone of cooperation is trust. Therefore, Hungary suggests that the working group should also focus on how to regain lost trust in an atmosphere of fear, rejection, and general distancing. Following safety protocols strictly as well as providing thorough information for respondents as suggested by the working group seems to be an appropriate first step towards this goal.

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