

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (l) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: household surveys

Document E/CN.3/2021/16 – Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS)

Statement provided by:

Malawi

Statement:

Malawi would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter

Household surveys are unavoidable source of statistical indicators required for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of development programs and the implementation of poverty reduction strategies at national level. The document clearly highlights the limits preventing the implementation of a sustainable system for collecting data from household surveys. These include: (i) lack of coordination between different partners; and (ii) The unpredictability of funds allocated.

However, it is important and effective to highlight the lack of technical skills and local expertise in African countries as an obstacle to the establishment of a sustainable infrastructure to carry out household surveys. The critical dependence of African countries on international expertise, mainly in terms of data analysis, should be remedied by setting up a capacity building program.

Pan-African institutions [AUC, AfDB and ECA] are requested to develop and strengthen the institutional capacities of National Statistical Offices with a view to improving good practices, rigor, and diagnosis in terms of data collection, processing, and dissemination. This specifically involves: (i) supporting NSOs in the analysis of household surveys in accordance with international best practices; (ii) strengthening participatory processes to ensure transparency in the analysis of poverty; and (iii) providing an analytical basis to assist policies for decision making and, providing a rigorous diagnosis of the determinants of poverty and vulnerability.

Finally, household surveys constitute valuable and irreplaceable assets and should be managed in a way that encourages their widest possible use and re-use. Making household surveys microdata accessible through data archiving and documentation should be promoted and strongly recommended in the document. We therefore note and welcome ‘the work on spatial anonymization for survey data providers in defining an informed dissemination strategy that incorporates a certain level of location information’ and look forward to the completed methodological publication when it is made public

We endorse the terms of reference of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys.

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