United Nations Statistical Commission
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Item 3 (m) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: data and metadata presentation and dissemination

Document E/CN.3/2021/17 – Report of the Secretary-General on data and metadata presentation and dissemination

Statement provided by:
National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India

Statement:
NSO applauds the development of Global UN Data Hub and UN data portal. It endorses the establishment of an inter-agency and expert mechanism for the full development and implementation of UN data hub. NSO calls for developing a uniform metadata structure for dissemination to be followed by all agencies. The systems should be devised in such a way that the metadata for dissemination is generated as much as through automation and very limited posterior interventions are allowed. The compliance of a uniform metadata structure would reduce the respondents burden. The development of metadata structure inter alia be centered around building trust, brand value and vote of confidence. Meta data structure should instill a strong culture of transparent and personal/institutional privacy of the National Statistical System and may not only remain restricted to IT.

All data presentation and dissemination need to be accompanied by sufficient, up-to-date metadata and explanatory comments, written by the responsible producer, to enable users to understand the resulting statistics. Metadata presentation and dissemination should describe statistical data and statistical processes in a standardized and harmonized way by providing information on data sources, methods, definitions, classifications and data quality. Metadatamay provide information on the attributes of the data, such as the length and consistency of time series or average revisions to be expected. Expert users will need more detailed metadata to evaluate the statistical methods applied and the quality of the statistics. Metadata should be objective and impartial and not contain any policy-prescriptive statements. Also important is to communicate revisions/corrections to the users at the earliest possible time. The detailed procedures for handling such cases may be part of a coordinated dissemination policy.

Thus, India supports formulation of a dedicated inter-agency and expert mechanism to develop a coordinated vision for United Nations data hub. |

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