

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Document E/CN.3/2022/2 - Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Statement provided by:

The National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)

Statement:

Statement by Mr. Gogita Todradze, Executive Director of the National Statistics Office of Georgia

At the 53rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

28 February – 4 March 2022

Agenda item 3(a)

Items for discussion and decision: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and great pleasure to greet you on behalf of the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) at the 53rd Session of the Statistical Commission. I avail myself of this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the representatives of international organizations, our friends from ECOSOC, and the Statistical Commission.

After almost two years when COVID has diverted most of our attention, it's time to focus on our core interests, common solidarity values, and common projects. This is a significant milestone in the history of the international statistical community under the leadership of the United Nations.

Let me refer to agenda item 3(a) - for discussion and decision: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We actively work on achieving the set of objectives and concrete activities that have already been successfully implemented.

Georgia highly values the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination, and Capacity building (HLG-PCCB) established to develop an indicator framework, for monitoring the Goals and targets of agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

In my own country, Georgia, we are also aware of the importance of data and statistics for the formulation of targeted and inclusive policies for sustainable development. Without objective and reliable official statistics, Georgia has no way of knowing whether it is making progress towards its priority aims of integration with the European Union and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Over and above that Georgia has made significant progress - making itself well-on-track with the Agenda 2030. The incorporation of SDGs in national policy is one of Georgia's Government's main achievements. Georgia's efforts have been aimed at setting a solid methodological foundation for the inclusive monitoring process, which will fully integrate SDGs into the national policy planning process and contribute to the successful implementation of its objectives.

It is worth pointing out that, developing a strong and well-coordinated National Statistical System will ensure the availability of high-quality data for monitoring the progress of SDG implementation as part of Georgia's Agenda 2030 commitments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite these challenging times, GEOSTAT has achieved significant progress in the development of official statistics and the implementation of internationally recognized standards.

However, these two years the worldwide epidemic situation remains a hindering factor, which affects the implementation of partner-based activities as well. To reduce this negative impact, alternative ways were identified and the vast majority of meetings, seminars, and technical missions have switched to online mode in the framework of all international formats, including EU-funded projects (TWINNING/STEP).

It is indeed a special privilege and a pleasure to address to you on behalf of the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, as an acting chair, and underline the importance of developing recommendations on statelessness statistics, especially in line with the promise to 'Leave No One Behind' of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sizable stateless populations in the region.

Finally, in declaring the readiness of GEOSTAT to make every effort to further contribute to the UN custodian agencies' endeavors within its competence, we would like to once again thank everyone who supported us in 2019 and conveying Georgia's readiness to facilitate international cooperation and make an effort to pursue several key functions of the UNSC.

I wish you all the best in your discussions and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of the Commission. Thank you.

Submitted on:

2/22/2022