

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: data stewardship

Document E/CN.3/2022/5 – Report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship

Statement provided by:

Malawi

Statement:

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

Please note that Malawi was in the Working Group on Data Stewardship.

(a) Africa takes note of the present report on the work of the Working Group on Data Stewardship

(b) On the scope of data stewardship Africa group expresses satisfaction with the scope, particularly the different dimensions and the five defined workstreams of: data governance; equity and inclusion; sharing and collaboration; data stewardship and the city agenda; and the overall conceptual framework on data stewardship

(c) To express its views on the progress of the five workstreams defined under the Working Group

(i) Data governance workstream: The recognition that there is considerable expansion of new legal frameworks, as well as significant changes in data governance practices and architectures is commended. These changes have created new areas of opportunity and tension for Africa NSO which need to be addressed. Africa appreciates the creation of a glossary of data governance terms used by national statistical offices to enable clearer communication among such offices and to facilitate an understanding of different data governance models.

(ii) Equity and Inclusion workstream: The role of NSOs is clearly defined by this workstream, to act as data stewards, in many cases alongside others who steward data in the national data ecosystem, (to oversee and ensure that the data provided by other stakeholders complies with pre-established standards of equity, inclusion, quality, relevance, impartiality, misuse prevention and confidentiality, thereby broadening their functions to include stewardship). Another important role especially in Africa is the identification of barriers and enablers to encourage widespread data use by different stakeholders in society, including addressing data literacy issues. Africa group agrees that there should be broad participation in the collection, processing, dissemination and governance of data to ensure equity and inclusion in statistical processes and improve outcomes for all.

(iii) Sharing and Coordination: Africa notes that national statistical offices have different starting points, as defined by their institutional and regulatory environments, as well as by their missions and roles in the data ecosystems of their respective countries. It is therefore important that proper guidelines are developed taking into account that some regions and countries have been advancing faster than others in adopting a data stewardship approach.

(iv) Africa endorses the report from the Data Stewardship and the City agenda workstream.

(v) Africa endorses the report of the workstream on the overall conceptual framework of data stewardship

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: data stewardship

Document E/CN.3/2022/5 – Report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship

(d) Africa group approves the amended terms of reference of the Working Group contained in annex I to the present report

(e) Finally Africa group supports and approves the proposed workplan of the Working Group for 2022 contained in annex II to the present report.

Thank you

Submitted on:

15th February, 2022