

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:

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Statement:

(a) Malaysia takes note and congratulates the Data Stewardship Working Group (DSWG) for the report presented by DSWG. Through this report, it is noted that the five workstreams had carried out tremendous activities and provided valuable insights for the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) on the working definition for data stewardship.

(b) Data access and trust are crucial. Thus, comprehensive scope on data stewardship will enable the NSOs to improve data quality; to have better data documentation; to develop clear, concise data policies and processes; to provide more frequent use of data to make decisions; as well as to improve compliance with data-related regulations.

(c) Malaysia congratulates the progress made by the five workstreams. In the digital revolution era and post-pandemic future, NSOs have the opportunity and obligation to address major challenges in accountability and responsibility for data and processes that ensure effective management and use of data assets. Embracing these possibilities requires engagement with society and good practice in data stewardship in order for NSO to provide high-quality data that is consistently and easily accessible.

To add, Malaysia welcomes the effort by the Overall conceptual framework on data stewardship workstream in establishing a common understanding of the coverage for the concept of data stewardship. For Malaysia, data collected by DOSM will be the main source for the Malaysian Government to be used as input in the formation, implementation, evaluation and review of national public policy. Thus, the National Statistics System (NSS) in Malaysia continues to be strengthened and improved to meet the dynamic and detailed demands of official statistics at the local level. Recently, the Statistics and Data Council has been formed as the highest advisory body with regards to national data in the country that will provide guidelines to strengthen the management of the national statistics system. This Council is chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the members include nine Cabinet members or their deputies, the Chief Secretary to the Government, Chief Statistician as well as technocrats, academicians and representatives from the private sector. The Council, among others, decided to appoint a Chief Data Officer (CDO) at every ministry or departmental level, both in state and federal agencies, in stages beginning 2022. Moving forward, the statistics and data council at the state and regional level will also be established to support the National Statistics and Data Council's agenda at the federal level. Hence, the overall conceptual framework on data stewardship developed by this workstream will provide sound guiding principles specially in increasing trust and collaboration within the NSS.

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(d) Malaysia welcomes the amended Terms of Reference in Annex I

(e) Malaysia welcomes and expresses interest to take in the activities outlined in the proposed work plan of the DSWG for 2022 as presented in Annex II.

Submitted on:

2/24/2022