United Nations Statistical Commission  
Fifty-third session  
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda  
Items for discussion and decision: data stewardship


Statement provided by:  
Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) State of Qatar

Statement:

Actions to be taken by the Statistical Commission

1. Expressing its views on the scope of data stewardship
   In our opinion, the scope of data stewardship identified by the working group and represented by the five tracks, reflects the great value of data, especially the key role that national statistical offices (NSOs) can play as a steward of national data ecosystem and coordinator of its work. It has gone beyond the traditional role of NSOs as data collectors only. There is no doubt that the digital data revolution poses many challenges to NSOs, including the ability to integrate data from traditional sources with new sources (available via the Internet and social networks) so that access to integrated data becomes a strategic matter that needs a data strategy. This is consistent with the Data Strategy of the UN Secretary-General 2020-2022, where the second challenge lies in the platform gap related to the management of large amounts of data, which requires new platforms to manage the increasing amounts of data that are often hosted remotely (on the cloud) using emerging artificial intelligence techniques etc. The third challenge is to provide expertise in data science, modeling, exploration, analytics, artificial intelligence, etc.

2. Demonstrating the progress made by the Working Group in relation to the five tracks.
   The working group has made a great effort in identifying and highlighting the specific tracks for data supervision. There are, however, many aspects that need to be worked on, especially with regard to the methodology, definitions, conceptual framework and defining the role of NSOs on how to monitor data more clearly, especially preparing training programs and capacity building, guides in the field of data supervision, governance and management, and formulating strategies and ways to implement them.

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