United Nations Statistical Commission  
Fifty-third session  
Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda  
Items for discussion and decision: regional statistical development  


**Statement provided by:**
Switzerland

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Switzerland sincerely thanks UNECE and its Statistical Division for all the precious work they have accomplished throughout the years. Its achievements have allowed official statistics to modernize and address emerging challenges. Its work has often been pioneering and was later adopted by the global statistical community at the UN Statistical Commission. This includes the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which celebrate their 20th anniversary this year. The Road Map for Statistics on SDGs could become such an example being already widely used around the globe. The Steering Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development has been doing incredible work on this matter. Switzerland closely follows and benefits from this work stream.

It also welcomes the work of the High-Level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics, which has paved the way for the Swiss Federal Statistical Office’s new missions that include data stewardship and data science.

In recent years, the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians (CES) has strengthened, among other things, its cooperation with OECD and Eurostat lightening the burden of national statistical offices. Those efforts are important and warmly welcomed by Switzerland. It is equally important that the work realized within the framework of the CES finds its way to New York to the Statistical Commission and supports all national statistical offices around the globe in their mission. Switzerland strongly supports the work undertaken by UNECE’s Statistical Division and encourages it to continue to share its outcomes globally, to benefit to all NSOs.

When it comes to supporting statistical capacities, Switzerland has a particular focus on the context of governance reforms and decentralizations. Switzerland is currently supporting Albania’s decentralization efforts by assisting municipalities and regions to develop and use statistical data related to their specific responsibilities. It also aims to reinforce their role as providers, producers and users of data. A particular focus is the use of administrative and register data as well as developing regular and accessible publication of data. From our experience, it is important to use the opportunity of ongoing governance reforms including decentralization efforts, to build support to statistical systems. Switzerland would be happy to share its experiences on the matter.

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