

## United Nations Statistical Commission

### Fifty-third session

Item 3 (i) of the provisional agenda

#### Items for discussion and decision: health statistics

### Document E/CN.3/2022/13 – Report of the World Health Organization on health statistics: strengthening statistical systems to track the health-related Sustainable Development Goals

*Statement provided by:*

DANE-Colombia

*Statement:*

Colombia welcomes the Report of the Health Statistics Working Group and agrees with its termination as it has accomplished its mandate. Moreover, we take the opportunity to congratulate the members of the working group for their substantial efforts; as well as to the World Health Organization for a solid commitment to contribute to the development of health statistics, by assuming a leadership role, as well as promoting the right incentives to value data and statistics within the organization.

Amid the pandemic, the results of the working group took a greater relevance for users of official statistics. In this regard, we highlight the work entrusted to the World Health Data Center, the Center for Geographic Health Information Systems and the Health Equity Surveillance Unit, as they are allowing governments and civil society organizations to be more resilient through data.

Moreover, we would like to share that thanks to the guidance and active role assumed by the World Health Organization, a positive incentive was provided for countries to create better collaboration mechanisms to produce high-quality, granular and timely information.

As of June 2020, DANE, as Colombia's National Statistics Office, understanding the role that the official statistics had a significant role to play within the pandemic, began the process of monitoring of mortality in order to identify and keep the country informed about the behavior and evolution of the pandemic. A key method used within this endeavor was the calculation of excess mortality, which besides being based on the mortality of the last five years and observing the behavior of deaths for the year 2020 by days, weeks, months or quarters, adhered to the classification and codification of mortality established by WHO. In addition to the above, on a monthly basis, DANE issued, and shared weekly mortality reports caused by the SARS -Covid-19 virus, generating characterizations by sex, age, ethnic groups and geographic location.

Taking this into account, we would like to congratulate the group on the work regarding Excess Mortality Calculations, as it is invaluable information for policymakers to build more resilient health systems and ensure no one is left behind from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nonetheless, within the report shared by the Group, under p.32 it is mentioned that WHO COVID-19 excess mortality rates were published in December 2021; however, these results have not been published so far, as such, and taking into consideration the importance of the information becoming available, we would like to encourage the World Health Organization to adopt the measures leading to its prompt publication.

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