

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:



Statistics Poland

Statement:

Statistics Poland generally supports the course of action presented in the meeting document.

Statistics Poland understands that this work will be carried out in cooperation with OECD and Eurostat. The organizations spent many years developing consistent scope of financial and non-financial data collected and submitted to the OECD, WHO, and Eurostat in health care. It is advisable to continue this work. Statistics Poland also believes that all possible extensions of the scope of information to be provided should be discussed and agreed upon with all the involved organizations accordingly.

Concerning a new, global, modular health survey (WHS+), we would like to point out that we are talking about a questionnaire survey, which entails high costs and burdens. Although it is mentioned of possibly introducing modules to the already existing studies, it should be remembered that both the EU-SILC survey (including the cyclical health module) and EHIS are conducted under IESS and already have a specified scope of the necessary information and are very extensive. The decision to extend the scope of these surveys will be possible after receiving specific information about the missing variables.

If the new International Conference on Health Statistics and the created bodies allow us to replace the Working Group on Health Statistics, Statistics Poland could support such a solution.

Statistics Poland wishes to note that the WHO COVID-19 excess mortality estimates were not published in December 2021, as stated in the report. Statistics Poland strongly believes that these estimates are disseminated as a global public good. Therefore we would like to inquire about the date of their publication. As we can see the crucial importance of excess mortality estimates for the Member States, not least as input for population estimates, Statistics Poland would like to encourage WHO to publish them as soon as possible.

Submitted on:

2/25/2022