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

Document E/CN.3/2022/25 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics

Statement provided by:
Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Statement:
The Bureau of the Asia-Pacific Committee on Statistics welcomes the report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics and appreciate the substantive work and achievements by the nine Task Teams, the Global Platform and four regional hubs. We appreciate the significant knowledge sharing and training, including through the sixty-third World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute and the third United Nations World Data Forum. We appreciate the many projects being undertaken on the United Nations Global Platform as well as the work of the Regional Hubs. The work of the nine task teams is also welcomed by countries in Asia and the Pacific. The newly developed handbooks on the use of mobile phone data will be an important resource in a region where an increasing number of NSOs are using mobile phone data for the production of official statistics. Research conducted by ESCAP has shown that many big data projects are conducted without the involvement of National Statistical Offices.   We request the Committee of Experts to encourage development partners to engage with the national statistical offices to ensure national leadership on data innovation for the country-led 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also encourage the Secretariat to facilitate diverse membership of the various task teams and highlight the need to ensure guidance materials enable additional national statistical offices to become involved with using big data and data science. The increased focus on training activities is welcome, keeping in mind the importance of ensuring coordination and alignment with existing providers of statistical training.

Submitted on:	2/21/2022