

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:

The Philippines - Philippine Statistics Authority

Statement:

We commend the work done by the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics in 2021 and its various task teams mainly through the various training webinars conducted. We eagerly anticipate the future work of the committee in mainstreaming big data and data science in the regular work of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs). In a side event during the 52nd Session of the STATCOM, it was reported that though many countries across different regions have efforts in using Big Data for the SDGs, all these efforts are exploratory in nature.

The Philippines is exploring the use of Big Data applications such as web scraping for price statistics, the enhancement of small area poverty estimates from satellite imagery, and the use of Artificial Intelligence for the census of agriculture and fisheries. However, more investment is needed to bolster our information technology infrastructure and expand the personnel complement as well as technical assistance to further capacitate our human resources. We welcome bilateral/multilateral cooperation projects that are relevant to our target areas of interest at the regional and global levels.

We expect that the future efforts of the Committee of Experts on Big Data will finally establish the integration of big data in official statistics, SDG monitoring, and other outputs of the NSOs. We support the transition to focus on more case studies, projects, activities, methods, and applications for its task teams which will produce more concrete results and further pave the way to mainstreaming Big Data. With the potential of Big Data gradually realized, we look forward to the eventual reduction in the frequency and the costs involved in the conduct of surveys, minimizing the burden on respondents, and producing more timely and granular data for informed decision-making.

Submitted on:

25 February 2022