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:
Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) State of Qatar

Statement:
Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission. The Commission is invited to:

Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission. The Commission is invited to:
(a) Acknowledge and express its support for the work done by the task teams, the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs;
(b) Support the proposed direction of future work of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, including by:
(i) Mainstreaming big data and data science in the daily work of national statistical offices and incorporating related courses into the regular training curricula of national statistical offices;
(ii) Prioritizing case studies, projects, activities, methods and applications based on strategic considerations related to main policy agendas or emerging issues;
(iii) Creating a network consisting of leaders of data science areas of national statistical offices and of the regional hubs;
(iv) Developing a strategic approach for engagement with the private sector around common purpose, benefits for social good and the use of open-source tools;
(v) Strengthening the collaboration with the geospatial community;
(c) Support the direction of the capacity development programme for big data and data science, including by:
(i) Creating a global network of data science trainers within the statistical community;
(ii) Enlarging the international data science mentoring programme by drawing on all task team experts;
(iii) Empowering the regional hubs in providing training, mentorship, coaching, partnerships and support for the implementation of joint projects to national statistical offices;
(d) Support the creation of a sector hub of Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability (ARIES) for the System of Environmental Economic Accounting in support of the Global Platform, as a means to advance the interoperability of data and models in the domain of environmentaleconomic accounting and sustainability, and to provide capacity-building and training for researchers, statisticians and data scientists in this area under the guidance of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics and the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting;
(e) Support the creation of the United Nations Privacy-enhancing Technologies Lab to demonstrate the value of the use of privacy-preserving techniques for official statistics, to understand practical challenges and to build privacy technology literacy.
The PSA Comment:
•   We support the work done by the task teams and the United Nations Global Platform.
•   The PSA has started establishing a section for big data and has also prepared a road map for working with big data.

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• The studies and projects that the PSA will start have been identified to extract indicators and data from big data. • The PSA has already started signing agreements and partnerships with many big data-related entities and universities. • Work is underway within an action plan prepared by the PSA, and coordination is ongoing in this regard.

Submitted on:	2/17/2022