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:
General Authority for Statistics -Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Statement:
The General Authority for Statistics-SAUDI ARABIA (GASTAT) supports the work done by the task teams, the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs; and Support the proposed direction of future work of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. GASTAT acknowledges the work done by the task teams. GASTAT will consider the data science leadership course for senior managers in the national statistical systems in Africa and a workshop on Python programming were organized, with the participation of 11 national statistical offices. More capacity-building activities are planned, along with a collaboration on the Global Platform. However, GASTAT would like to consider to include a workshop on R programming. GASTAT supports the direction of mainstreaming big data and data science in the daily work of national statistical offices is regarded as the main driver for the direction of the future work of the Committee of Experts. Such efforts include closer cooperation between the task teams and existing subject-matter expert groups consisting of joint meetings or collaboration on joint outputs. GASTAT supports the use of the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs for training and project activities by all members of the global statistical community, and supported the creation of a task team on the acquisition of global private sector data and of a finance committee to develop a solid funding approach for the Global Platform. GASTAT supports 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 by creating a department called innovation lab and they are working on some innovations such as web scrapping for prices data. Moreover, hiring more statisticians and AI experts. GASTAT will 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 by providing some courses instructed by its experts in AI.

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