

Speech on the Global Conference on Big Data for official Statistics by NBS/UAE, ABS and GCC-STAT

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(Big Data for Monitoring of the 2030 Agenda)

Before reading the statement of the secretary General of the United Nations on the World Statistics Day let me, make a few brief remarks.

Earlier this year, the General Assembly declared 20 October 2015 as the World statistics Day, with the slogan "Better Data. Better lives". This is conveying the idea that the ultimate goal of producing high quality official statistics is better policy decisions to improve the lives of people. It also underlines the connection between data and sustainable development, and the need for monitoring the progress toward specific development goals.

World Statistics Day coincides with the opening day of this Conference. The next three days will highlight the benefits and opportunities of Big Data for Official Statistics. The conference will discuss the urgent need to continue the modernization of Statistical production, in order to meet the increasing demand for timelier and more detailed data to support the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. There is a need to frequently monitor progress on the goals and targets, not only for countries as whole, but for every community and each part of the society. To achieve these goals, policy makers require high – quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Big Data can play a central role in transforming statistical production: not only as an inputs, but also in the way in which issues of technology, methodology, estimation, partnerships, and confidentiality need to be resolved. Big Data, used for official statistics, can make statistics timelier and more detailed and can, ultimately, help to fulfil the promise of better data for better lives. Ultimately, it can support monitoring of sustainable development goal indicators where conventional statistics could fall short.

And now the statement of the day from the secretary General that I am honored to start for this conference: