Statement of Republic of India

Committee on Statistics
Bangkok, 11–13 December 2024

Agenda Item 2 :Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind

Madam/Mr. Chair

National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India appreciates the efforts of ESCAP Secretariat for preparing the report on the overview of progress, principles, opportunities for regional action towards harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind.

India remains fully committed to the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As per the latest SDG Progress Report, data on more than 95% of the indicators are available for India.

India conducts regular data user and suppliers' conferences and brainstorming sessions for improving the data eco-system and strengthening the data driven decision making.

Madam/Mr. Chair

Some of the other major initiatives taken for continuous quality improvement and feedback mechanism to improve the credibility of Statistical System include preparation of Advance Release Calendar (ARC) 2024-25 for statistical products of MoSPI, defining the role of Statistical Advisors (SAs) in the Central Government Ministries, establishment of Research & Analysis Unit (RAU) in MoSPI, etc.

In order to address the issues in the existing system for Administrative Statistics, the Ministry has taken steps including examination of major datasets, core and administrative both, generated by selected Ministries/Departments on various elements of National Meta Data Structure (NMDS) and development of Metadata standards for Survey/Censuses and Administrative records.

India has recently launched Data Innovation Lab in its endeavour to create an innovation ecosystem within the official statistical system and address the challenges being faced in official statistics. It is envisaged primarily to identify relevant problem statements and seek their solutions through wider participation of stakeholders such as researchers, start-ups, academic-research organizations and Institutes of National & International eminence, etc.

Madam/Mr. Chair

While India believes in the concept of adopting a whole-of-society approach to data and appreciates the associated reflections in the report, it may be stressed that use of alternative data sources for policymaking must carefully consider ensuring data privacy, security, and quality aspects of these data sets. Further, to optimally utilize the alternate data sources and emerging technologies, a robust data governance framework would require to be developed through stakeholders' consultations.

India emphasizes that institutional trainings and capacity building may be conducted by UN-ESCAP at the regional level by utilizing Regional Hubs and Global Hubs in the Asia-Pacific Region to promote scaling up adoption of technology and mainstreaming innovation within the official statistical system for improving the linkage of data and policy.

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