UNESCAP Committee on Statistics
Ninth session
Agenda Item 2: Emerging issue: agile statistical systems that are fit for the future
Items for discussion and decision: Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST(9)/2)

Document ESCAP/CST(9)/2 – Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind: reflections on the status of implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

Comment provided by:

Philippines - Philippine Statistics Authority

Requested Action:

The Committee may wish to adopt the draft recommendations and draft decisions.

Comment:

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Philippines welcomes the report on the progress of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. We appreciate the ESCAP Secretariat's efforts in monitoring the implementation status of the Declaration and recognize both the challenges and opportunities for regional action.

As the 2030 deadline approaches, the critical need for robust, timely, and high-quality data for informed policy and decision-making at both national and subnational levels becomes increasingly apparent. To meet this demand, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has partnered with UNICEF to launch the SDG Data Platform. This online tool facilitates data collection from various source agencies, validation, and visualization.

We acknowledge the need to accelerate the implementation of the Declaration, involving increased political and financial support for inclusive statistical systems to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this context, the PSA receives strong government support, which provides substantial resources for major statistical operations, such as the 2024 Census of Population and Community-Based Monitoring System (POPCEN-CBMS).

Strong support from the national and local government, and data partners has also contributed to the success of the PSA's Provincial Product Accounts (PPA) to measure economic performance at the local level. In addition, the Philippine Congress's backing led to the enactment of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act this year.

The Philippines acknowledges that a successful implementation of the Declaration requires a whole-of-society approach. In our context, strong coordination among government agencies, the private sector, and stakeholders is facilitated through Inter-Agency Committees (IAC) on Statistics, under the purview of the PSA Board, the highest policy-making body on statistical matters.

The Philippines acknowledges the need for governments to develop strategic data visions supported by national partnerships. The PSA is developing the Philippine Quality Assurance Framework to ensure our statistical processes meet the highest quality standards. Guided by the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) 2023-2029, our national statistical system has set priorities for comprehensive development over the medium term.

In closing, the Philippines expresses its full support for both draft decisions: the first, to promote a whole-of-society approach to advancing the implementation of the Declaration; and the second, to advance the development of robust data partnerships. By embracing innovation, upholding the UNFPOS, and working together, we are committed to deliver high-quality, timely, and relevant data that drives sustainable development.

Submitted on:

10 December 2024