Sri Lanka’s Statement

9th Session of Commission on Statistics

Emerging issue: agile statistical systems that are fit for the future

Sri Lanka's journey toward recovery from the recent economic crisis hinges significantly on the improvement and utilization of high-quality data. As the nation seeks to rebuild and foster sustainable growth, it is imperative to adopt evidence-based, people-centered decision-making approaches. The government's emphasis on digitalization aligns perfectly with this need, positioning data as a critical asset in shaping effective policies that can alleviate poverty, reduce inequalities, and enhance the overall well-being of its citizens.

The Department of Census and Statistics(DCS), as the NSO in Sri Lanka, committed to supporting the country's development agenda with high-quality and timely data, has taken significant steps to enhance granular-level data sources.

In keeping with the technological advancements, our focus is to transition from traditional systems to innovative approaches that leverage digital tools, ensuring efficiency, inclusivity, and transparency. We have already made significant strides: formulating the Sri Lanka Strategy for the Development of Statistics under the recommendations made by the NSS review, and drafting new legislation to modernize our statistical system. This initiative aims to strengthen the national statistical system by addressing data gaps, promoting coordination among stakeholders, and fostering the production of reliable, disaggregated statistics for evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development planning. The anticipated launch of the strategy in early 2025 marks a critical juncture in this journey, paving the way for a data-driven future for the nation.

Looking ahead, our focus is to establish registers and enhance the use of administrative data to complement and enrich census data. We have already initiated work on establishing a Statistical Business Register and hope to gradually transition the census to a register-based census. It is challenging for the DCS; however, we are confident that we can build a strong national statistical system that empowers Sri Lanka to achieve its development aspirations.
.