Türkiye's Country Statement: Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind - TurkStat's Efforts on Sustainable Development Indicators

Distinguished Representatives of UNESCAP,
Honorable Delegates of the Ninth Session,
Esteemed Guests, Colleagues, and Partners,

It is an honor to address you today and share the significant strides we have made at the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) in monitoring and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we navigate this ambitious global agenda, we remain committed to enhancing our systems, fostering collaboration, and leveraging innovation to ensure no one is left behind.

In Türkiye, we have established a two-pillar structure for sustainable development, where the Presidency of Strategy and Budget (SBB) oversees the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the SDGs, while TurkStat is entrusted with the coordination of indicator production and dissemination. This dual approach ensures a streamlined process that aligns policymaking with data-driven insights.

TurkStat carries out its coordination role at three levels: within TurkStat, with public institutions, and with international organizations. Our coordination role is anchored in the Official Statistics Programme, through which we facilitate clear divisions of responsibility among public institutions. Each institution contributes to the production of SDG indicators within its mandate, while TurkStat synthesizes these data sources, compiles the indicators, and disseminates them to the public. This collaborative framework has been instrumental in fostering a culture of accountability and precision.

To enhance the accessibility and usability of the SDG indicators, we developed the SDG Web Portal. This platform not only provides up-to-date data but also employs user-friendly visualizations, such as tables, charts, and maps, to make complex information more comprehensible for all stakeholders. Transparency is central to our work, which is why the portal includes detailed metadata for each indicator, allowing users to understand the methodology and data sources.

We have also made significant efforts to increase the availability and disaggregation of indicators, ensuring that our data reflects the diverse realities of our population. Through working group meetings and reviews of existing publications, we continuously identify gaps and develop new indicators. Over the years, these efforts have led to remarkable progress, with a steady increase in both the proportion of available indicators and the share of disaggregated indicators.

In our journey to modernize statistical systems, we have embraced cutting-edge technologies and automation to improve productivity and reduce human error. For instance, the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has allowed us to present spatially detailed data, providing invaluable insights for targeted policymaking. Moreover, we are leveraging automation tools to streamline data collection and dissemination processes, enabling faster responses in times of crisis.

These advancements would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our institution and the invaluable cooperation of public entities. Our shared mission is to ensure that the SDGs are not just global targets but actionable goals that resonate with the needs of every individual in Türkiye.

As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to enhancing our systems, expanding our collaborations, and embracing innovation. Together, with data as our compass, we will continue to drive progress toward a sustainable and equitable future.

Thank you.