UNESCAP Ninth session of the Committee on Statistics and twentieth session of the Governing Council of SIAP, 9-13 December 2024, Bangkok

UK country statement on harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind

General Remarks

1. The UK is delighted to be here, this event is a great opportunity to collaborate and share experiences with a diverse range of important stakeholders and partners.

Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind

2. The UK is supportive of the recommendations in the paper, with the whole-of-society approach to ensuring no one is left behind being strongly aligned to the UKs own data policies.

Political and financial support

3. The UK is a proud and committed advocate for the Power of Data. We are deeply committed to using the Power of Data as a key tool to drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrated through leadership and investment.

4. We take learning from our own UK focused strategic vision of "data for the public good". Where our priority is to produce data that is aimed at informing the public, supporting the development of public policy and the delivery of services.

5. Through our Office for National Statistics international role, we use the UKs approach and principles to work closely with NSOs to champion high quality, robust, and relevant statistics that can be used to support policy and decision making.

6. The UK agrees that financial investment in data remains insufficient. We recognise that NSOs report a lack of funding as a major reason for them struggling to meet requests from domestic policy makers for data for decision-making.

7. The UK is committed to supporting data as a core part of the Financing for Development agenda.

8. It is essential that statistical strategies are embedded within countries wider development plans – this is where the Power of Data can ensure that the data produced by NSOs is demonstrated to be key to delivering progress towards the SDGs. Making investment in data and statistical systems the investment we cannot afford to not make.

Whole-of-society approach

9. The UK recognises that to achieve accelerated progress towards the SDGs, capacity has to be built across an entire National Statistics System.

10. Through our ONS international work, the UK builds capacity within NSOs to enable appropriate and well governed data is available.

11. To enable to use of this data by policy makers, we have worked with UNESCAP to develop an International Data Masterclass, based on the successful UK version. This is a comprehensive initiative designed to support non-analytical policy leaders in putting data at the heart of decision-making in government.

12. The UK also supports initiatives to incorporate citizen-generated data into official statistics, through key partners such as PARIS21 who are here this week.

13. The UK is a strong advocate for inclusive data and drives forward transformational change through the Inclusive Data Charter. By providing support to champion countries and organisation in developing and implementing action plans, we work to ensure the right data is available so that no one is left behind.

Strategic visions

14. The UK will continue to champion the Power of Data, and the partnerships which come together to bridge from NSOs into every corner of society – working together to leverage the opportunities of a modern, whole-of-society, data ecosystem.

15. We will also continue to champion the IDC and encourage those present to consider how they could leverage this mechanism to ensure no one is left behind.

16. The UK will collaborate with UNESCAP on Open SDG, an open source an open-source, free-to-reuse platform designed for managing and publishing data and statistics related to the SDGs. We recently participated in the UNESCAP Expert Discussion on streamlining SDG data collection & dissemination, aiming to achieve a clearer understanding of country needs and working jointly to advance to tool for region priorities.

17. The UK commits to sharing a refreshed strategic vision with UNESCAP that better articulates the technical assistance and Power of Data learning that can be offered to the region, under current resource provisions.