Written Statement
for the 9th Session of the Committee on Statistics of the ESCAP

Country: Republic of Korea (represented by Statistics Korea)

2. Agenda 3: Emerging issue: agile statistical systems that are fit for the future.

I commend the Secretariat for preparing this intensive note outlining the transformative directions that national statistical systems should pursue in a rapidly changing data landscape. Recognizing these change, Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) has been undertaking various initiative to transform into a more agile organization.

First, KOSTAT has introduced AI technology to improve work processes. In 2022, we launched an AI-based statistical classification automation system for several survey statistics including the Population Census and have improved statistical services using AI's learning and natural language processing abilities. Second, KOSTAT has become more flexible and proactive in managing its human resources and overall structure. We created a separate Statistical Registers Division to strengthen data integration in all sectors. We also established a Population Projection Team to better response to the country's demographic challenges by shortening the population projection cycle from 5 years to two or three years. Smart Survey Center was created in order to cope with deteriorating survey environment after COVID-19, which results the improvement of response rates in mainly business surveys. Lastly, KOSTAT promotes user engagement in the entire statistical process. We converged the Statistical Data Centers to provide integrated service for microdata and Statistical Registers. Also, a project is underway to build a next-generation system called One-Portal, which will integrate dispersed statistical services and provide AI- and data-based customized statistical information services. Estimated budget is $180 million over the next five years. Korea remains committed to supporting regional-level initiatives aiming to transform national statistical systems within our region into agile organizations. We will actively share our experience and expand our support to achieve this goal.