Türkiye's Country Statement: Agile Statistical Systems Fit for the Future - 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 speak with you today about the strides we have made at TurkStat in building an agile statistical system to support the production and dissemination of SDG indicators. In this era of rapid technological change and growing societal demands, agility has become a cornerstone of effective statistical systems. I would like to share our efforts and progress in aligning our practices with this vision of agility.

First, we have established a clear mandate and division of labor among public institutions to ensure that the production of SDG indicators is well-organized and accountable. This structured approach fosters collaboration and leverages the expertise of various entities while avoiding duplication of efforts. Each institution plays its role in producing the indicators under TurkStat's coordination, guided by principles of inclusiveness and shared ownership, as emphasized by the session document.

Quality lies at the heart of our work. All statistics we produce adhere to the stringent quality requirements outlined for official statistics. This commitment to quality ensures that the data we generate is not only accurate but also trusted by policymakers, researchers, and the public. As the document points out, trust in statistics is a fundamental aspect of an agile system.

To better serve the needs of our users, we have focused on increasing indicator availability and enhancing data disaggregation. By expanding coverage across various dimensions—be it geographical, demographic, or socioeconomic—we aim to ensure that no one is left behind. This aligns with the broader goal of meeting the dynamic and diverse data needs of our stakeholders, as highlighted in the principles of user-centric systems.

Recognizing the importance of efficiency, we are automating our data dissemination systems. Automation not only enhances productivity but also reduces the likelihood of human error, enabling us to act swiftly in times of crisis. The ESCAP document underscores the need for rapid and accurate responses to evolving challenges, and our automation efforts are a step in that direction.

Our SDG web portal, built on the Open SDG platform, reflects our commitment to user-focused design. The portal is designed for ease of access and understanding, featuring intuitive data visualizations that transform complex datasets into insights that can inform decision-making. It also aligns with the emphasis on transparency and inclusivity, as the portal is publicly accessible and caters to a broad audience, from policymakers to the general public.

One of our most significant concerns is transparency. To this end, our web portal includes detailed metadata for each indicator. This not only ensures clarity regarding the methodology and data sources but also builds trust by providing users with the context needed to interpret the data accurately.

In conclusion, our journey toward building an agile statistical system is ongoing. We are continuously learning, adapting, and innovating to meet the growing and evolving demands of SDG monitoring. Our efforts at TurkStat reflect the spirit of the agile systems described in the ESCAP document—focused on quality, efficiency, user engagement, and adaptability. Together, as we strengthen our systems and processes, we can ensure that data becomes the foundation for informed decision-making and sustainable development.

Thank you.