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

- First I would like to express gratitude to the Committee for its continued leadership in fostering innovation in statistical systems across the Asia-Pacific region. My name is Jonghee Choi, and I serve as the Coordinator of the UNODC-KOSTAT CoE. Our Centre provides technical assistance and training to Member States with the aim of improving statistical methodologies and technical skills for production, collection, analysis and dissemination of crime and criminal justice data to support evidence-based policymaking.
- Today's agenda provides a platform to address emerging issues to ensure statistical systems remain relevant and responsive in addressing future challenges. One critical area of concern is cybercrime. The complexity and rapidly evolving nature of cybercrime underscores the need for agile statistical systems to capture accurate data and adapt to emerging cybercrime trends.
- The Asia Pacific region has more than half of the world's internet users[1], making it vulnerable to cyber threats. UNODC reports estimate that cyber-enabled fraud in East and Southeast Asia amount to between US$18 billion and $37 billion in 2023 alone. In addition, deep-fake related content have increased by 600% between February and July 2024. Transnational criminal networks in Southeast Asia have been expanding their influence and diversifying into new business lines driven by complex networks of money launderers, human traffickers, and a growing number of other service providers and facilitators.[2] Non-financial cybercrime issues from illicit activities on the darknet ranging from trading of drugs, cybercrime toolkits, fake passports, to online child sexual exploitation material[3] pose significant risks to public safety and societal well-being.
- Cybercrime continues to evolve and expand, reaching more victims. However, the absence of a standardized definition and classification for cybercrime makes it difficult to capture real-time data and for international cooperation to tackle transnational organized crime groups and their cyber activities.
- This month, the plenary of the General Assembly is expected to adopt the draft United Nations convention against cybercrime, aiming to standardize definitions and legal approaches to cybercrime across jurisdictions while strengthening international cooperation. The Convention highlights an urgent need for reliable criminal justice data on cybercrime.
- In alignment with this need and today's agenda on building agile statistical systems, UNODC is in the initial stages of developing a statistical framework to measure cybercrime to assist governments in standardizing their approaches to cybercrime data collection and analysis. The UNODC KOSTAT CoE will lead coordination of the framework development. The Centre proposes narrowing the initial focus to specific types of cybercrime, such as online financial fraud or child sexual abuse, and conducting pilot development and testing in selected Member States in the region.
- In closing, the CoE remains committed to supporting agile statistical systems and fostering partnerships to address future challenges. We encourage Member States to

[1] World Bank, "Individuals Using the Internet (% of Population)," available at: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS?locations=Z4-1W.

[2] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Convergence of Transnational Organized Crime and Cybercrime: A Threat Assessment 2024*, 2024, available at: https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2024/TOC_Convergence_Report_2024.pdf

[3] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Convergence of Transnational Organized Crime and Cybercrime: A Threat Assessment 2024*, 2024, available at: https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2024/TOC_Convergence_Report_2024.pdf

join our initiative by sharing experiences and identifying challenges to contribute to framework and the pilot development process.