COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS, NINTH SESSION (CST9)
11 - 13 DECEMBER 2024

INTERVENTION NOTE MALAYSIA

Agenda Item	**ESCAP**/CST(9)/4 Progress made since the eighth session of the Committee on Statistics: progress made in implementing the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighth session

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Issues for consideration by the Committee	
30. The following draft decisions are proposed for adoption by the Committee at its ninth session:	
Draft Decision (DD)	
DD1.	The Committee on Statistics decides to replace its groups and communities of practice – the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics, the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Data Integration Community of Practice, the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific – with more flexible task teams; requests the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, to oversee the functioning of the teams; and requests the Secretariat to report on the work of the teams, as appropriate, in its note on the activities of the Bureau submitted to the Committee at its regular sessions, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.
	1. Malaysia welcomes the proposed draft decision to transition from existing groups and communities of practice to more flexible and time-bound task teams. This pragmatic approach reflects the evolving priorities of the Asian-Pacific region's statistical community, emphasising adaptability, efficiency, and targeted focus. 2. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) acknowledges the benefits of forming task teams with specific mandates and defined timeframes. These teams will enable dynamic and agile responses to emerging

statistical challenges while concentrating on producing clearly defined outputs such as tools, guidelines or capacity-building materials. We also commend the emphasis on fostering inclusive collaboration through open participation mechanisms that leverage the diverse expertise of statisticians from member states.

3. Malaysia underscores the importance of continuity in this transition. The good practices, lessons and institutional knowledge gained from existing groups and communities of practice must be integrated into the new task teams. It will ensure that the strengths and achievements of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics, the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics, and other existing structures are preserved and built upon.

4. Malaysia strongly supports establishing an online platform for statisticians in the region to enhance collaboration and ensure sustained knowledge sharing. Such a forum would serve as a valuable resource for exchanging expertise, sharing experiences and fostering innovation.

5. Furthermore, Malaysia emphasises the need for clear guidelines and robust mechanisms for cross-country collaboration to maintain alignment and knowledge sharing across the region. Task teams should also prioritise efforts to enhance data integration practices and promote statistical interoperability, aligning with regional objectives.

6. As shared during the Second Joint Meeting of the Steering Groups of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, Malaysia's experience in modernising statistical infrastructure and business processes reflects the value of tailored and dynamic approaches. These insights further reinforce our support for this transition, which will help advance regional statistical development.

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7. Finally, Malaysia urges the Committee to ensure accountability through the oversight role of the Bureau and regular progress reports from the Secretariat. Additionally, careful resource allocation monitoring is crucial to maintaining operational efficiency within existing budget constraints.

8. Malaysia endorses the draft decision and looks forward to contributing actively to the success of this initiative.

31. The Committee may wish **to provide the Secretariat** with guidance on the organisation of the future work of the Committee.

1. Malaysia appreciates the Committee's initiative to seek guidance on organising its future work. This restructuring is essential to enhance efficiency, flexibility and responsiveness in addressing emerging regional and global statistical priorities.

2. Malaysia emphasises the following key considerations to guide the future organisation of the Committee:
    a. The Committee's future initiatives should closely align with strategic goals, focusing on critical areas such as climate change statistics, disaster-related data and data governance.
    b. Transitioning to time-bound task teams would foster adaptability and resource efficiency while enabling targeted attention to priority areas.
    c. Establish robust mechanisms for collaboration among member states, task teams and partners. Digital platforms can play a significant role in improving communication, fostering innovation and harmonising practices.
    d. Capacity building must remain a central focus, particularly in data integration, digitalisation, and innovation. Through the Malaysia Statistical Training Institute (ILSM), Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to supporting regional training efforts and offers its facilities for international and regional courses.

e. A systematic framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of initiatives is essential. Regular progress reviews will ensure alignment with strategic goals, inform adjustments, and optimise resource utilisation.
f. Activities should be realistic and achievable within existing budget constraints. Transparent allocation of resources to priority areas is crucial.
g. Proactive engagement with stakeholders will gather diverse perspectives and foster a shared commitment to advancing the Committee's objectives.

3. Malaysia encourages the Secretariat to ensure the coordination of regional statistical training remains uninterrupted during the restructuring process. We propose including a system to monitor and evaluate training outcomes in the Secretariat's reports.

4. Malaysia notes the decision and reaffirms its commitment to collaborating with the Committee and member states.

32. The Committee may also wish to **provide comments and guidance** on the implementation of all the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighth session.

1. Malaysia acknowledges and appreciates the Committee's decision to provide comments and guidance on implementing all decisions taken at its eighth session. This approach ensures effective follow-up, accountability, and alignment with regional priorities.

2. Malaysia emphasises the importance of a comprehensive report from the Secretariat on the state of implementation for each decision. Such a report would

foster transparency, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among member states. Specifically, Malaysia suggests the report include:

(i) Detailed updates on the status of initiatives, highlighting accomplishments and obstacles encountered.
(ii) A summary of implementation experiences to guide future initiatives.
(iii) An analysis of resource distribution and oversight to ensure alignment with the Committee's goals.
(iv) Specific recommendations to address challenges, close gaps, and enhance implementation strategies.
(v) An overview of member states' and stakeholders' contributions and how their feedback shaped the decisions.

3. Malaysia commends the Committee's progress, including establishing annual meetings for Regional Steering Groups, using innovative sprint sessions for focused discussions, and advancements in data governance frameworks and disaster-related statistics. These initiatives reflect the Committee's responsiveness to evolving regional and global needs.

4. However, Malaysia recognises ongoing challenges in securing resources and maintaining operational continuity. We encourage the Committee to explore partnerships and funding mechanisms to ensure sustainability.

5. Looking ahead, Malaysia supports the transition to flexible, time-bound task teams to address emerging complexities in statistical domains while optimising resource use. Incorporating clear performance indicators and feedback mechanisms into these task teams' terms of reference will ensure measurable outcomes.

6. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to collaborating with the Committee and member states to align regional statistical efforts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We look forward to contributing to discussions at the ninth session and beyond.