

## **New Zealand - Country Statement Item 2**

New Zealand welcomes the collective visions and framework of actions and notes a very substantial work undertaken already by the secretariat on this, which of course much more of works to come. We particularly welcome the emphasis on retiming the focus on the existing initiatives and expanding them and the focusing on the collective actions and collaboration. Within that context, I have a few questions and suggestions perhaps for the frustrate the document. The document is really quite extensive on the range of actions that are required to support reporting on the SDGs and this is to be applauded. However, New Zealand feels perhaps the document needs to say more about how NSI need to functions as part of the SDGs agenda themselves. The SDGs process the 2030 agenda. It's a political agenda. If any of you have looked at the early reports that were provided for the first round of reporting. These were in no way of statistical reports. These were country statements supporting and outlining various initiatives against some of the SDGs. This is a new arena for us to be working within to understand what it means to be part of a political reporting process as much as statistical reporting process. New Zealand certainly feels that the work here would benefit from some more attention to that and some guidance over the most coming years through at least sharing case studies, if not more than that.

That's certainly the main areas that I would like to comment. I also have some supplementary comments as well, but managing the transformation of NSI and NSS into this world will not be straight forward and I believe the region has a strong role to play and supporting that.

A few more comments as may not be major as that one, I think the document needs to emphasize more the cross-cutting foundational work which is still required to support technical transformation and modernization of the statistical system. It is there but this is perhaps slightly barely in references to the existing regional initiatives. New Zealand would welcome saying some more content around coordination better and more with other UN agents. We have more in common with the challenges we face with the 2030 agenda that we have differences between us. Every effort must be made to not duplicate and to learn from each other.

I comment to the action area E on skills development, notes the challenge around human resources and management skills and I certainly don't disagree with that the analysis that what is needed. New Zealand does note however that in the area of human resources and management skill most countries have quite a wide range of approach and providers. What will be important here is that those skills in relation to being part of NSSI and NSS need to be explored and supported.

I have one final comment that related to paragraph 88 of the document that suggests that there is a role to put a regional monitoring framework in place. So, suggests that a regional monitoring framework be developed, I think before the decision is made, there needs to be some serious thought given to whether regional framework can offer much supplementation to the global framework that already in place. If it can, that's great. But again regionalization needs a survey and evaluating purpose and it needs to be looked at in that regard. These comments are not decided to be critical of the work or the approach. New Zealand is very supportive. There are matters of data that can be worked through in the future.