

**COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS, EIGHTH SESSION
23 to 25 August 2022 (Hybrid meeting)**

**INTERVENTION NOTE
MALAYSIA**

Statement provided by:

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Agenda item

Agenda Item 2: ESCAP/CST/2022/1_7th Report of Committee

Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Malaysia acknowledged and welcomed the report on the progress of the **five decisions** made at the Seventh Session of the Committee on Statistics. Malaysia appreciates the ESCAP Secretariat's excellent work in implementing these five decisions into action over the past two years.

2. **Decision 1**

Monitoring And Evaluation Framework

Malaysia strongly believes that both the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind will serve as fundamental documents for the Asia and the Pacific commitments to advance official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to strengthen the national statistical systems in producing, disseminating and enhancing the use of official statistics with the support of whole-of-government. The endorsed monitoring and evaluation framework for the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration can be implemented and monitored in progress based on existing data sources at the Secretariat level in collaboration with international organisations and minimises the burden of member countries' reporting to ESCAP.

3. **Decision 2**

- I. Malaysia applauds the advancements made in the mainstreaming of gender and supports the proposals made to the committee, particularly promoting gender equality and the human rights of women and girls and encouraging the full implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
- II. In tandem to advance the mainstreaming of gender, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has:

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- (a) published Statistics on Women Empowerment in Selected Domains Malaysia, starting in 2017 and most recently in 2021. The publication measures gender equality using gender-related indicators;
 - (b) compiled 87 gender-related indicators in eleven domains. The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (United Nations Statistical Division, 2019) and the Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (United Nations ESCAP, 2015) were used as references to identify gender-related indicators for this publication.
 - (c) published the Malaysia Gender Gap Index (MGGI) to measure the gap between women and men in the Statistics on Women Empowerment in Selected Domains, Malaysia publication and also the MyDemography Dashboard. This index was prepared based on the Global Gender Gap Index by the World Economic Forum (WEF) methodology using the latest data available published by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and other agencies in Malaysia. MGGI comprises of four sub-indices and 14 variables. Gender statistics are part of the component of MyDemography Dashboard and it will be updated annually.
- III. Malaysia joined the Training of Trainers on Gender Statistics for Monitoring the SDGs, jointly conducted by Asia and the Pacific Regional Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in May and June 2021.
- IV. The Government of Malaysia established a National Policy for Women in 1985 as a guide for women's participation in the development process as a part of the strategies for strengthening administrative systems to close gender data gaps.
- V. In 2001, the government also established the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development with the mandate to address issues related to women in the country.

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4. Decision 3

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

- I. Malaysia commends the Secretariat's efforts in developing and offering technical support for applying tools and guidance to implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Malaysia is currently developing MySEEA Physical Asset Land Account by using QGIS and ArcGIS tools. Malaysia has received technical assistance under the United Nations Development Account (UNDA-9) for the compilation of the MySEEA Physical Supply and Use Table (PSUT) for the Water Account. In the meantime, Malaysia has also developed MySEEA PSUT Energy Account using internal expertise.
- II. DOSM, as a member of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) has participated in the webinar hosted by GOAP. A Study on the Sustainability of Fisheries in the Straits of Malacca was done with collaboration from UNESCAP and University Malaya as appointed Consultant in 2019. Malaysia is also participating in the working group (WG) and using this platform to gain knowledge from other countries' best practises in developing SEEA Ocean Account. Therefore, Malaysia highly appreciates technical assistance from WG in developing the SEEA Ocean Account. Malaysia's Economic Planning Unit (EPU) is currently collaborating with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) in developing a Blue Economy Blue Print in Malaysia.

Technical Working Committee on Disaster-Related Statistics Framework

- I. Malaysia is a member of the technical working group (TWG) established by ESCAP. Malaysia has also set up an internal Technical Working Committee on Disaster-Related Statistics Framework with various ministries and agencies as a coordination mechanism in compiling the disaster statistics. The working group will be led by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). This technical working group will refer to the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) developed by ESCAP and to be used by disaster management agencies (NDMAs) and national statistics offices (NSOs) to improve the quality and harmonisation of statistics in support of monitoring and

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achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the SDGs. For the upcoming TWG Disaster-Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific activities, Malaysia has been invited to participate and facilitate the 22nd TWG meeting on 28 September 2022.

5. **Decision 4**

Feature big data for official statistics

- I. DOSM appreciates and congratulates the secretariat's efforts in conducting knowledge-sharing sessions in Asia Pacific Stats Café, setting up a big data framework and publishing papers, especially pertaining to the impact of COVID-19 on tourism. DOSM supports the capacity development programme for big data and data science as well as encourages close collaborations with universities and other educational institutions. Thus, Malaysia will participate in the 2022 International Conference on Data Science and Emerging Technologies (DaSET) with the theme "Trends in Artificial Intelligence and Data-Driven Solutions" which will be held on 11th -12th October 2022 virtually. This platform will focus on sharing country research, experiences, and best practices, as well as facilitating national capacity-building in Data Sciences and Big Data.
- II. Malaysia also welcomes the effort of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in organising an e-learning course on machine learning for official statistics and Sustainable Development Goal indicators, held in November and December 2021. Malaysia has participated in this course and this will be beneficial to Malaysia in using big data to produce high-quality predictions for official statistics or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.
- III. DOSM always upholds the spirit of sharing our experience to assist the regional neighbour in strengthening big data and data science capabilities. DOSM would like to offer fellow countries in the Asia region big data training focusing on web scrapping and building visualization dashboards as we have experience and collaboration assisting organizations such as SESRIC and ASEANStats.

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6. Decision 5

Strengthening of National Statistical Offices, including the development of training and train-the trainer programmes

- I. Malaysia applauds the efforts and advancements achieved by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Statistics Division of ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in their ongoing implementation of various capacity development programmes for the member states.
- II. The Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) in Asia and the Pacific is the best venue that ought to be maintained every year to bring together all heads of NSOs and promote the sharing of views and experiences on topics that will be discussed in line with the current environmental needs for data and statistics. The implementation modality of the seminar needs to be strengthened to give opportunities to each NSO to get involved and contribute its expertise in the seminar while also involving the selected international organisations and other regional commissions subject to the topics of the seminar. Malaysia is one of the countries that actively participates in and contributes to the training programmes offered by ESCAP and SIAP, and is eager to keep exchanging knowledge and best practices in the area of statistics with these organisations.
- III. Malaysia, through the Malaysia Statistical Training Institute (ILSM) has conducted a Regional Workshop on Harnessing Opportunities towards a Resilient Future through Census Data from 26th to 28th July 2022 in hybrid modality. The workshop was jointly organised by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM), the University of Malaya (UM), the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The workshop aims to expose the participants to the use of demography and population data for the national planning and implementation of programmes at all levels. This workshop received a very encouraging response from statisticians, academics, researchers, economists and government officials at national and international levels, especially from Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Brunei, China, Vietnam, India, Iran, Mongolia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Singapore. The workshop provides a space to discuss the use of population and demography data and statistics, as

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well as how to analyse and interpret them accurately to address stakeholders' urgent and dynamic demands for demography and population data.

- IV. Malaysia firmly believes that to promote understanding and identify challenges the platform for exchanging national research, experience and best practices should be continuously strengthened and sustained based on the country's practical practices and experiences. Specifically, this practical learning will assist the country in making systematic, effective planning and developing appropriate capacity development according to the country's needs.

- V. Malaysia welcomes and expresses interest in taking part in the activities planned by ESCAP/SIAP in the coming years with the capacity of ILSM in the fields of national accounts, data stewardship, population census, and SDGs by providing the speakers or trainers for related topics. The COVID-19 pandemic's emergence has affected and changed how training is put into practice. The ILSM continues to carry out the human capital development agenda through online training despite limitations on traditional face-to-face training methods.

Thank You

Prepared by:	Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)
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