

### **Agenda Item 3. Progress on strengthening national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:**

*(a) Monitoring progress in line with the document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community” and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind*

#### **Comments from Nepal**

**Mr. Nebin Lal Shrestha**

**Director General**

**Central Bureau of Statistics**

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is a nodal agency for the collection, consolidation, processing, analysis, publication, and dissemination of official statistics in Nepal. It was established in 1959 in accordance with the Statistical Act of 1958. It collects and publishes a large volume of official statistics from censuses, surveys, and administrative sources for national and international users in the social, economic, and environmental sectors.

The country's governance system has been transformed from a unitary to a federal structure, with state power divided into different tiers of government: federal, provincial, and local. However, the structure and operation of the national statistical system have not been restructured to reflect the new system. It has had a significant impact on official statistics produced at the sub-national level. The traditional method of data collection, and reporting from the local/district level to the central office has become more difficult. Data is scattered everywhere and difficult to obtain at the sub-national level using administrative circulars from the center.

SDG monitoring is a significant challenge for Nepal's statistical system. The new constitution of Nepal permits some exclusive right to generate statistics to provinces and local governments. Monitoring nearly 500 (national and global) indicators on a regular basis has been difficult to manage by the CBS's existing statistical institutional capacity and human resources. In this regard, Nepal's current Parliament recently passed the National Statistics Bill 2022, which demands for the establishment of a National Statistics Office led by a secretary-level chief statistician to facilitate high-level coordination among data users, producers, and development partners particularly the custodians of SDGs.

The new statistics act, CBS restructuring, and redistribution of statistical human resources in various ministries and departments engaged in statistics and in charge of reporting SDG indicators relevant to their domain are all urgently needed. In addition, a strong horizontal and vertical coordination mechanism among national stakeholders and development partners would be required to be in line with the SDGs monitoring process in Nepal.

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