

Eighth Session of the Committee on Statistics

23 to 25 August 2022

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.

“The Committee is invited to express its views on progress made to date as documented in ESCAP/CST/2022/2 and ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/1 and provide guidance and recommendations on priority areas for future work.”

The Philippines commends the Bureau and Committee for the monitoring report on the progress made by statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific on their commitment to the collective vision and framework for action.

In line with this commitment, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) regularly releases the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG) Watch which provides all available data for tracking the progress of the country. Currently, the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) is undertaking an overall review of the Philippine SDG indicators to ensure relevance and incorporate various developments in the PSS and in the international statistical community.

Moreover, the PSA started monitoring the SDG indicators at the subnational level using the Core Regional SDG indicators (CoRe-SDGs). In addition to questions on vulnerable groups in the Labor Force Survey, this survey has begun to capture data on disability. Furthermore, the national roll-out of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) allows for the generation of SDG indicators down to the barangay (village) level for more targeted programs and projects for the citizenry.

We agree with the recommendation to ensure that users are represented at high-level advisory bodies for the production and dissemination of official statistics. In the Philippines, all major government agencies and the private sector are represented in the PSA Board, the highest policy-making body on statistical matters. The Philippines is one of the pioneers in the preparation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) based on the national development plan. These practices help secure representation and coverage to produce relevant and reliable official statistics for all stakeholders.

In order to expand the availability of necessary data sources, the PSA is exploring Big Data and other alternative methods such as 1) web scraping for price collection, 2) remote sensing and earth observation data for the generation of prediction maps for the detection of agricultural commodities, and 3) the application of the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA) for production of an urban-rural continuum that classifies territorial units in the Philippines based on built-up areas.

As a member of the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Governing Council, the Philippines through the PSA will push for intensive capacity-building activities to use Big Data and other non-traditional data sources in generating official statistics. This initiative will require significant investments in technical assistance and infrastructure and therefore, enjoin the Committee's support.