

**Speaker statement**

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**Delegation:** United States

**Agenda item 3a:** Progress on strengthening national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Date:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022

**Statement**

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: Greetings from Washington, DC, United States. It's a pleasure to speak to all of you during the Eighth Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, countries have made progress in strengthening country statistical systems, but intensified efforts are needed for countries to achieve the 2030 targets.

In 2020, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) embarked on the Data Modernization Initiative to transform its public health data systems into an integrated, response-ready, and resilient system for more proactive public health prevention and response. This initiative includes efforts to standardize the data use process to facilitate access, sharing, and using CDC data which is essential for evidence-based policy and programs. Timely access to high quality data and statistics facilitate decision making and instill trust in statistics and the statistical system.

The progress report reveals that the region is off-track on indicators related to the use of financing development and the use of data. Given the ongoing pandemic and the need for timely statistics for decision making, efforts such as the Data Modernization Initiative should be considered to meet the regions aims. It does require political and financial commitments and support, but as demonstrated by efforts in the United States, this can be achieved.

The United States is committed to supporting countries in the region in strengthening their statistical systems. Some of the statistical agencies in the United States, such as the Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics operate international technical assistance programs for low- and middle-income countries. Please reach out to discuss how we can deepen our cooperation and accelerate the strengthening of national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.