

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

**INTERVENTION NOTE  
MALAYSIA**

***Statement provided by:***

MALAYSIA

***Agenda item***

***Agenda Item 4: (4a) ESCAP/CST/2022/4\_2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***

Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Malaysia acknowledges and appreciates the regional initiative developed to advance the official statistics for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by each working group and the committee on practices at the ESCAP level. Progress reporting by action areas of the collective vision and framework for actions proves the commitments of the working group in ensuring that every set of actions can achieve the objectives set. We welcome the opportunity to strengthen and broaden global, regional, and subregional collaborations in identifying gaps to be addressed and increasing statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific via existing statistical capacity development initiatives.

**Regional Steering Group on Population and Social**

2. As one of the members, Malaysia agrees that the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social will be reviewed every two years to meet the current environment for data needs. Malaysia supports the endorsement of the amended ToR. To ensure the effective and successful implementation of the group's work plan, the Secretariat to increase the number of meetings, while members are encouraged to participate actively in the meetings through the online space provided by the Secretariat.

**Technical Working Group (TWG) on Disaster-Related Statistics**

3. Malaysia has not yet developed comprehensive statistics related to natural disasters but has started to prepare and release the findings of the flood impact ad-hoc survey in 2021. To begin its compilation of statistics, Malaysia took the opportunity to become a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Disaster-Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in 2020. Therefore, a national-level technical working committee led by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) has been formed with membership

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from various ministries and agencies as a coordination mechanism for compiling the national disaster statistics. The committee will align its work with national priorities in line with the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) and ensure coherence with relevant international reporting requirements as arising from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015–2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. 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. Therefore, Malaysia very much welcomes the sharing of technical expertise by member countries to develop these statistics.

4. Malaysia agrees and will continue its support to be part of this TWG for the implementation of a five-year strategic work plan to advance disaster-related statistics in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries that have just started collecting and compiling this statistics in line with the global framework, such as Malaysia, need technical assistance and further guidance from the Secretariat and the TWG. Accordingly, we suggest that the work of the TWG be continued with a ToR developed in line with the current global needs.

**Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics**

5. Malaysia, along with the Maldives and Singapore, is a co-chair of the SGRPES for 2021–2022. During its 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> virtual meetings on January 28th and November 1-3, 2021, Malaysia actively participated and shared its experience and best practices with SGRPES members, particularly regarding the management of statistical systems and production during the COVID-19 pandemic. Malaysia also supports the Steering Group's action which extended the Regional Programs to 2030 and aligned them with the 2030 Agenda, which is seen as the right step towards ensuring that both outlined objectives can be achieved. Moving forward, Malaysia will continue its support for the SGRPES 2021–2023 Work Plan, the need for advocacy for economic statistics, a potential collaboration between SGRPES and other Steering Groups in ESCAP, and last but not least, to encourage SGRPES participation in the global statistical community activities.

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**SDG Gateway as a one-stop-shop for Sustainable Development Goal**

6. Malaysia acknowledged the efforts by ESCAP in developing the Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway as a one-stop-shop for Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics for the region. However, the data source is from the SDG Global Database and other open sources. Some of the goals achieved do not reflect the actual progress of the goals for Malaysia. For instance, SDG 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter, SDG Gateway uses the estimation data from WHO even though country data is available.

**Enhance Sharing Experiences Platform**

7. As outlines 3 objectives for Action area B: Assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics, the Steering Group workshop is able to be an effective platform in gathering all representatives of the member countries in sharing expertise and adding value to the quality of statistics collected based on the latest methods. Malaysia suggesting that the number of such workshops needs to be increased to give room for more representatives of member countries to be involved.
8. Malaysia considers efforts to provide a platform for sharing expertise and training among member countries to be critical and must be sustained. In this regard, Malaysia is willing to give a commitment in any field of expertise that can be shared with member countries through the platform that has been provided.

Thank You.

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)
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***Agenda item***

***Agenda Item 4: 4(a) ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/2\_SGRPES***

Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Malaysia, along with the Maldives and Singapore, is Co-chair of the SGRPES for 2021-2022. The SGRPES held its 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> virtual meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> January and 2-3 November 2021 respectively.
2. Malaysia has actively participated in SGRPES by sharing its experience and best practices with SGPRES members, in particular with respect to the management of statistical systems and production during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Moving forward, Malaysia will continue its support for the SGRPES 2021–2023 Work Plan, the need for advocacy for economic statistics, a potential collaboration between SGRPES and other Steering Groups in ESCAP, and last but not least, to encourage SGRPES participation in the global statistical community activities.
4. Among the key decisions achieved in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were:
  - (a) The Steering Group endorsed the proposed work plan for 2021-2023, as contained in the Programme Matrix for 2021-2030;
  - (b) They agreed to use virtual platforms and webinars to share technical experience; and
  - (c) The Steering Group emphasized the need to make the 2021-2023 work plans easy to implement with the increased virtual implementation of activities.
5. The Steering Group on its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting agreed on:
  - (a) Priorities for its work in 2022 are: statistical business registers, informality, new methods of data collection, production of data series to monitor the effects of COVID-19, machine learning, artificial intelligence, business surveys, multi-domain statistics, censuses and production guidance notes on GDP and CPI rebasing in 2022.

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- (b) The Steering Group will actively use the recently established economic statistics community of practice to share knowledge and experience in the agreed priority areas;
- (c) The SGRPES and the Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics will consider undertaking joint activities in 2022 to advance integrated statistics in line with the Collective Vision and Framework of Action after a review of high in demand statistical products that cut across domains by the respective groups;
- (d) Members of the Steering Group will engage with the global statistical community in the update of the 2008 SNA and BPM6 and other areas of economic statistics as they emerge.

Thank You.

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***Agenda item***

***Agenda Item 4: (4a) ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/3\_RSG  
Population & Social***

Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Malaysia acknowledged the Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics meeting aimed to review the progress of work, its structure, functioning, and means of implementation and decide on the way forward.
2. Malaysia acknowledged the progress of the Regional Strategy at both regional and national levels obtained from the responses to the questionnaire circulated in preparation for the Regional Steering Group meeting.
3. Malaysia has adopted the recommendations and suggestions from the Steering Group on the implementation plan of the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics by achieving three goals of the regional strategy.
4. Malaysia strongly urges the Secretariat and related international organisations to support and carry out each regional and national level action suggestion made by this working group under each Regional Strategy Goal. It is advised that an ESCAP/SIAP capacity-building programme based on the activities be developed in collaboration with international organisations and expert member states.
5. In facing the current increasing demand for statistics and future dynamic challenges, DOSM has continuously ennobled the national statistical system by strengthening the governance of the National Statistical System. The National Statistics and Data Council (NSDC) was formed in 2021 as the highest advisory body in regards to national data and analysis in the country and will provide guidelines to strengthen the management of the national statistics system.

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6. Malaysia supports the proposal to improve the function and coordination of RSG-PSS as follows:
- i. review its terms of reference every two years to ensure that it has the necessary mandates to effectively and efficiently perform its functions;
  - ii. reviewing meeting frequency to annual and enhancing communication and coordination of the group through online collaboration;
  - iii. prioritising Population and Social Statistics strategic functions and delegating technical roles to virtual task forces;
  - iv. enhancing the sharing and exchange of knowledge of recent developments coordination;
  - v. emphasis more on capacity strengthening on implementation of data integration, population projection, development of data hub and geospatial analysis.

Thank You

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<b>Statement provided by:</b> MALAYSIA	
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Agenda Item 4: (4a) ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/4_TWG Disaster Related Statistics</b>
<p>Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.</p> <p>Malaysia has been a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Disaster Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific since 2020. The TWG will align its work to national priorities and ensure coherence with relevant international reporting requirements such as those arising from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Malaysia welcomes technical assistance from the Bureau.</p> <p>Thank You</p>	

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***Agenda Item 4: (4a) ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/5\_\_ Report  
Statistical Training (Network)***

Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**6th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

Decision and recommendations of the meeting

- I. Malaysia agrees with the decision and recommendation that the importance of integrating gender perspectives into other thematic areas of statistics and accreditation of courses and certification of experts should be carried out internally at an initial stage and would then consider the need for its expansion after thorough assessment.
- II. Malaysia agrees to share materials, textbooks, and other relevant information for the development of statistical training. During the **Regional Workshop on Harnessing Opportunities towards a Resilient Future through Census Data**, held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and 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) all the materials and slides were shared with all of the local and international participants.

**7th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

Decision and recommendations of the meeting

- I. Malaysia is eager to take part in the training on gender statistics and is hoping that it would be conducted in a hybrid manner—physically for better comprehension and for virtually so that more people may benefit from it.

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- II. Malaysia would like to thank the ESCAP for providing the economic statistics and always support the training by encouraging and providing our statisticians to participate in the training.
- III. The planned course on the impact of COVID-19 on National Accounts as well as research topics for the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2025 is a very interesting topic, and Malaysia surely will assign participants to attend this course in order to study the impact of COVID-19 on Malaysia. Hopefully, this course can be implemented as soon as possible.
- IV. Malaysia agrees on the statement by the Chair regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the shift to online and virtual training and recommended the hybrid mode of training; physically for better understanding and to get the soul of the training and online or virtual to enable more participants could join and benefited and reduce the travelling cost.
- V. Malaysia agrees on this recommendation to The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific also proposed to discontinue managing the database and, instead, proposed to upload the Excel file on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific website, where it could be easily accessed by all members of the Network.
- VI. Malaysia agrees on the weaknesses and challenges of organising training during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as lack of knowledge or experience handling the webinar tools or software, fewer social interactions, fewer hands-on exercises and weak internet access. However, we keep on improving and becoming better at handling online training or seminars.

Thank You.

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Department of Statistics, Malaysia
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