

Intervention for Agenda 4(a). “Reports on the 10th and 11th meetings of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific”

Thank you, Mr Chair, and congratulations to the newly appointed Chair & Bureau, distinguished delegates and colleagues, it is certainly a pleasure to be meeting again, we certainly live in a different world to that in which we met last time.

I wish to encourage active participation of not only the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, but also fellow delegates in the UN Statistics Commission’s Network of Economic Statisticians activities whether that be through formal reviews or specific topic sprints.

During 2022, the Network is aiming for an agile and more responsive system of economic statistics based on four thematic workstreams: (a) networking (collaboration and user consultation); (b) transforming and challenging the system (statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions); (c) enabling (institutional arrangements and governance); and (d) experimenting, integrating and documenting (statistical framework and methods). In addition, the Network have a number of proposed sprints on these 4 thematic workstreams of its work programme.

At yesterday’s Expert Dialogue discussions, we heard that there are a number of issues facing many countries of the Asia-Pacific region in terms of Beyond GDP, and even GDP itself, measuring the digital economy, data collection challenges etc. In order, for these issues to be heard I encourage participation in the mechanisms provided by the Network of Economic Statistics.

I would also like to suggest that a Stats Café session be arranged with the Network of Economic Statisticians, so that they can outline their work-program, so this Asia-Pacific community can gain a greater understanding the work of the Network and how best to engage.