

Speaking Notes for Agenda 4a: 4a: Progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat

SG RPES – Mohd Yazid (Co-Chair)

Chair,

The regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific was endorsed by this committee in 2010, and the sixth session of the Committee aligned it with the *Collective Vision and Framework of Action* and extended the mandate to 2030.

As one of the chairs/vice chairs of the group, I am pleased to report on our work.

Over the last two years, the Steering Group has met twice and has recognized the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to implement activities of the programme. While this has been the case, the programme has made undertaken various activities within the context of its work programme.

Some key accomplishments that have been achieved in the last two years include:

- Establishment of a community of practice for economic statistics to facilitate knowledge exchange and transfer amongst experts.
- Contribution towards the current programme of the 2025 SNA update in collaboration with the UNSD
- Rebasing of price indices and GDP in various countries
- Promotion of big data in the production of economic statistics
- Capacity building and training using various virtual forums on labour accounts, price statistics and big data
- Country specific initiatives such as
 - Development of the Bhutan Standard Industrial Classification
 - Initiatives in Malaysia to improve timeliness of economic statistics during the pandemic such as use of mobile phone data
 - Pacific Community work on alternative data sources if spurred on by the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Joint training programmes on economic statistics by SIAP, UNSD and ADB.

Chair,

These are some of the selected accomplishments in the last two years. I must emphasize that the regional programme is a multistakeholder programme with member states responsible for its implementation. I encourage countries to commit more resources to develop their economic statistics within the context of the programme. Its success depends on member states, not the Secretariat.

Going forward, the steering group has recognized the interdisciplinary nature of economic statistics. The steering group made the first initiatives to collaborate with the steering group on population and social statistics to find common areas of interest and plans to hold joint events. This will be done to promote multi-domain statistics and their role in monitoring the 2030 agenda.

Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat, members of the steering group and member states for supporting the regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics. Thank you.