

Agenda Item 4: Regional initiatives and partnerships for strengthening national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4(a) 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

- Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing regional initiatives with respect to the collective vision and framework for action

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- Reports on the 6th and 7th meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

The activities of the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (RPES) have strengthened national statistical systems in the region. In particular, webinars held during the COVID pandemic have facilitated the sharing of practices in adopting big data and machine learning methods in statistical compilation and engaged regional national accounts compilers in the System of National Accounts and Balance of Payments and International Investment Manual update exercise. The RPES' steering group meetings also provide a platform for statistical compilers to be kept up-to-date on the latest developments in economic statistics in the region, e.g., production of data series to monitor the effects of COVID-19. Singapore is currently the co-chair of the steering group.

Lessons and adaptations made in the last 2 years in response to COVID restrictions measures have contributed to more widespread acceptance of virtual and blended training. This provided opportunities for a wider audience to participate in the training and knowledge sharing. ESCAP and SIAP have done well in making courses and conferences accessible through these modes of delivery. These should continue even when we move back towards more in-person or blended delivery.