

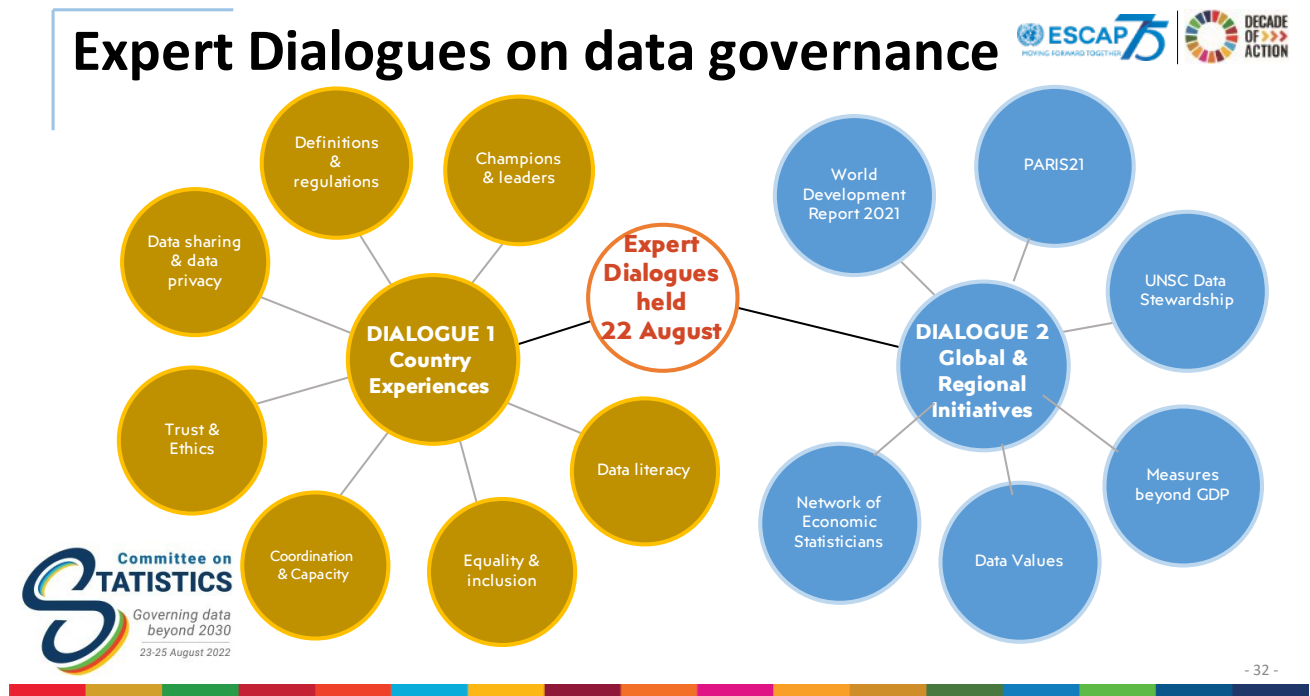
Draft talking points for introduction to Agenda item 5 Emerging Issues

Thank you very much Mr Chair.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present agenda item 5 on emerging issues where we will be looking at opportunities for regional action to strengthen data governance, including the increased production and use of complementary progress measures beyond GDP.

Member states and international organizations were invited to take part in two expert dialogues earlier this week on these two emerging issues. The expert dialogues used an informal world cafe setting to allow participants to explore a range of data governance and related issues by discussing them in small table groups. [NEXT SLIDE PLEASE]



The first expert dialogue provided an opportunity for countries to share their experiences on a range of specific data governance issues. Bureau members, from the seventh committee on statistics, led a series of

interactive discussions on key issues which included: the role of champions and leaders; definitions and regulations; data sharing and data privacy; data trust; capacity and coordination; equity and inclusion and data literacy.

Although we use the term data governance the expert dialogues highlighted that there is no shared understanding of this term or of the term data stewardship. The need to create a synergy between data privacy and data use was discussed as a key part of the work on data sharing. Data sharing is an important topic which all national statistical offices are looking at, but we saw that even where coordination mechanisms exist, on their own these are not enough. We heard about how different countries are addressing this: for example through the use of data champions or through work to develop a data passion and a data culture and through building strong personal relationships across the national statistical system. These are often part of broader work to develop data literacy skills through government and wider society. We heard some great stories and ideas of what was working well: these included a statistics month in the Philippines and a statistics day in India which help to build data literacy across society.

In the first expert dialogue we discussed how data governance is highly contextual and the role of the national statistical office needs to take into account the broader national data ecosystem, the existing institutions and the existing regulations which extend beyond the national statistical system. There were discussions on how we need to continue to adapt our data governance frameworks to ensure we can deal with new data sources and new methodologies.

An essential part of data governance is engaging with users and we heard how different countries are doing this through regular user engagement meetings as well as through the publication of metadata to support the data which helps users to build their trust in the data.

Having shared our country experiences, we moved to the second expert dialogue where we learnt more about various global data governance initiatives and we discussed how to link our experiences on data governance issues with these initiatives. The World Bank presented some key insights from the World Development Report

2021: Data for Better Lives which focused on how data can better advance development objectives and what kind of data governance arrangements are needed to support the generation and use of data in a safe, ethical, and secure way while also delivering value equitably.

Countries shared examples of where participatory processes are being used in our region to engage communities in producing and using the statistics. We also discussed our experiences on developing broader measures of progress beyond GDP whilst noting that many countries still need to do further work to strengthen the measurement of GDP itself.

We heard about the work of PARIS21 on developing climate change data ecosystems and we shared our ideas on this. We heard about the UN Statistics Commission working group on data stewardship and the network of economic statisticians and how we can engage with this work.

We discussed the specific role UNESCAP could play in helping to take work forward on developing broader measures of progress and on data governance. There were a lot of ideas on how we can work together on these issues and countries were all keen to continue the discussions and to deepen our knowledge sharing on these areas.

We suggest UNESCAP continue to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing including more expert dialogues such as the ones held this week. We also suggest that UNESCAP provide guidance and gather case studies on issues such as inclusive data governance systems which can be shared to help us all.

Based on the documents presented under this agenda item and on the outcome of the expert dialogues I suggest the committee decides to feature data governance as well as the production and use of complementary measures of progress beyond GDP in its future work.

Distinguished delegates

This concludes my introduction and thank you very much for your kind attention.

