

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

**INTERVENTION NOTE
MALAYSIA**

Statement provided by:

MALAYSIA

Agenda item

Agenda Item 5: (5b) ESCAP/CST/2022/6_Data governance

Honourable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Malaysia greatly appreciates and welcomes the efforts made by the ESCAP Secretariat in organising the first expert dialogue session on data governance at the Asia-Pacific level as well as the first efforts in organising side events in the margin of the main committee sessions. All member countries and international statistical organisations are to be commended for their collaborative efforts in identifying and discussing the challenges encountered by member countries with regard to data governance and data stewardship.
2. Malaysia acknowledges that there is no standard definition and guidance for data governance or data stewardship to be used either at the regional or global level. Therefore, Malaysia supports the global initiative in their efforts to develop a glossary of data governance terms that would help to facilitate a better understanding of different data governance models and how they are used. To assist with it, regional collaboration is needed to come up with a regional concept and definition based on the country's practices and experiences. The Secretariat's efforts in organising these expert dialogue sessions will help in shaping global guidelines and standards. As a next step, encourage ESCAP to discuss in detail the results of the Expert Dialogue to produce a regional data governance framework that will contribute to global initiatives.
3. Malaysia strongly believes that good data governance practises are essential to delivering high-quality data that is consistent and easily accessible. Thus, Malaysia's National Statistics System (NSS) is continually being improved and strengthened to meet the growing demand for statistics as the primary source of official national statistics for national planning. The National Statistics and Data Council (MSDN) has been formed and is the highest advisory body with regard to national data and analysis in the country that will provide guidelines to strengthen the management of the national statistics system. This Council is chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia

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and the members include nine Cabinet members or their deputies; the Chief Secretary to the Government; the Chief Statistician; as well as technocrats, academicians, and representatives from the private sector. The Council, among others, decided to appoint a Chief Data Officer (CDO) at every ministry or departmental level, both in state and federal agencies, in stages beginning in 2022. The roles of the CDO also include emphasising data regulation for quality, standardisation, collection, storage, management, and protection, besides harmonising core data elements and providing guidelines (metadata) to other government agencies. Moving forward, the statistics and data councils at the state and district levels will also be established to support the National Statistics and Data Council's agenda at the federal level.

4. Recently, the Malaysian Government has supported the establishment of the National Big Data Analytic Centre (NBDAC) which will be led by DOSM. NBDAC will become a catalyst for big data analytics for Malaysia and will be producing advanced statistical analysis and products. NBDAC is a new milestone for Malaysia's National Statistics System and will spur the nation's capacity building on big data and data science. Apart from that, DOSM also implemented modernization of data collection mainly consisting of the adoption of web scraping techniques to scrape price data from the related websites for Consumer Price Index (CPI) compilation and improving the quality of the data. DOSM also developed Public Maturity Assessment on Official Statistics (PMAOS) and Real-Time News on Official Statistics (RTOS) with a holistic and comprehensive insight of perception developed by media. Hence, these developments later will give the precious reference for the DOSM to take the necessary action from perception and reaction made by the public. Furthermore, DOSM also has modernized the process of data production, storage, and dissemination through the latest technologies such as National Enterprise-Wide Statistical System, NEWSS (centralized system for operational and data capture purposes) and StatsDW (Data Warehouse).
5. Malaysia takes note that national statistical offices around the world are exploring the use of new sources of data to produce official statistics. In Malaysia's context, DOSM has taken initiatives towards strengthening granular statistics and the use of administrative data to empower governance and statistical services at the sub-national level, i.e., district, sub-district and local authorities.

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6. Malaysia agrees that when considering data governance and stewardship, there is a need to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders across the whole data value chain. In terms of collaboration, DOSM has comprehensive coordination with agencies to complement the production of statistics. In producing official statistics, DOSM produces statistics from the findings of censuses and surveys as well as data gathered from statistical compilations and administrative data. This administrative data is gathered from various agencies and ministries, which can be categorised as government agencies, statutory bodies, or agencies from the private sector. A total of 122 agencies have shared their data with DOSM in various medium. Apart from that, DOSM has also been working in close collaboration with both government and non-government agencies through 38 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), which include 8 government agencies, 16 public universities, 7 private universities, 6 private agencies and 1 international agency to establish strategic partnerships to increase the use of statistics.

7. In the context of data protection regulations and laws, DOSM is revising its Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989) and enacting new legislation known as the Statistics Law Enactment 2022.

Thank You

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