

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to report on the activities of the regional Working Group on SDG Data and Statistics, summarizing document ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/8.

The Working Group on SDG Data and Statistics, co-chaired by ESCAP and UNFPA, is a means of implementation group of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific, which brings together all UN entities working on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. The Working Group is composed of about 20 UN entities and other international organizations involved in supporting data and statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

Let me highlight three main areas of work of the Working Group on SDG Data and Statistics.

Firstly, the Working Group provides technical support to United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in the area of data and statistics. In particular, the Working Group has been organizing a series of thematic statistics clinics to enhance the capacity of Resident Coordinator Offices and UN Country Teams to support the strengthening of national statistical systems.

Secondly, members of the Working Group on SDG Data and Statistics are involved, through the Asia Pacific Stats Café series, in the facilitation of the exchange of practices and advice between international organizations active in Asia and the Pacific region and national statistical systems.

Thirdly, in relation to the generation of regional knowledge products, members of the Working Group on SDG Data and Statistics contribute to the annual Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report, coordinated by ESCAP.