05 February 2025

Statement of the Philippines on the Upcoming Election to the Governing Council of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Introduction

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as the central statistical authority of the Philippine government, is committed to producing timely, relevant, and reliable statistics for evidence-based policymaking and equitable development. Our vision is to be a world-class authority on quality statistics, responsive to the evolving needs of our nation and the global statistical community. The PSA actively participates in international statistical collaborations, including the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS), and the BIMP-EAGA.

In addition to its statistical mandate, the PSA is also strategically structured to be the one responsible for the civil registration system and national identification system of the country. This unique identity equips the PSA with a multifaceted lens that no other organization can provide.

Decades of Partnership with SIAP

The Philippines' engagement with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) predates the establishment of the PSA in 2013. As a founding member of SIAP (formerly the Asian Statistical Institute) since its inception in 1970, the Philippines recognizes the invaluable contribution of the Institute to statistical development in the region.

We have greatly benefited from SIAP's specialized training programs, which have strengthened our capacity to produce and utilize reliable statistics, particularly for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring and evidence-based policy formulation. In recent years, the PSA has actively participated in numerous SIAP training courses, focusing on areas such as climate change statistics, data visualization, SDG monitoring, and the use of big data.

Our previous experience serving on the SIAP Governing Council (2013-2015), and our current term from 2022-2025, has provided valuable insights into the Institute's operations and priorities, enabling us to contribute effectively to its strategic direction.

Expanding Horizons: Aims and Thrusts for the Future

During our previous term, the Philippines has successfully explored key initiatives, including promoting the use of Big Data and non-traditional data sources for official statistics, advocating for enhanced capacity building in data science and programming, emphasizing the importance of strategic partnerships for national statistical offices (NSOs), and fostering stronger inter-country collaboration within the

Asia-Pacific statistical community. We have worked to ensure that SIAP training programs are practical and impactful, focusing on the development of pilot projects that deliver tangible benefits to participating nations. Furthermore, we have stressed the crucial role of human capital development within NSOs, supporting lifelong learning and professional growth for statisticians.

Building on these achievements, and recognizing the evolving statistical landscape, the PSA proposes the following key thrusts for its next term on the SIAP Governing Council:

- **Leveraging Alternate Data Sources for Official Statistics:** Beyond Big Data, we will explore and promote the use of other alternative data sources, including administrative data, geospatial information, and citizen-generated data, ensuring their responsible integration into official statistics while addressing issues of data quality, privacy, and ethical considerations. This includes supporting research and development in innovative data collection and data processing methodologies.

- **Accelerating Efforts in Achieving the 2030 Agenda:** With 2030 fast approaching, we will further intensify our efforts to support member states in monitoring SDGs pace of progress. This includes developing and disseminating best practices in SDG data collection, analysis, and reporting, and facilitating knowledge sharing and peer learning among countries. We will also advocate for the development of standardized indicators and methodologies to ensure comparability and consistency of SDG data across the region.

- **Utilizing Local Level Statistics:** Recognizing the importance of granular data for effective local planning and development, we will promote the utilization of local-level statistics, drawing on the success stories of the PSA's Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). We will support capacity building for local data collection and analysis, and advocate for the integration of local statistics into national statistical systems to ensure a comprehensive and multi-level understanding of development progress. This includes promoting the use of technology and innovative approaches to data collection at the community level.

- **Developing country-level National Quality Assurance Frameworks:** Recognizing the critical importance of data quality, we will push for more capacity-building activities and technical assistance towards the development of national quality assurance frameworks for all member states. This includes supporting the development and implementation of methodologies for assessing and improving data quality across all stages of the statistical production process, from data collection to dissemination. We will also advocate for the adoption of international quality standards and best practices, and facilitate peer reviews and knowledge sharing among countries to enhance the overall quality of statistics in the region.

- **Strengthening Regional Cooperation:** We will continue to advocate for a SIAP that facilitates and strengthens inter-country partnerships, enabling nations to share expertise and resources for building a more robust and collaborative Asia-Pacific statistical community. This includes promoting joint training programs, collaborative research projects, as well as country-specific activities that would intentionally cater to the needs of each member state.

Commitment

The PSA remains deeply committed to the statistical development of the Asia-Pacific region. We pledge to continue our active engagement and contributions to SIAP, working collaboratively with member nations to strengthen statistical capacities, and promote evidence-based decision-making for a brighter future.