

Closing Statement by Bhutan at the Sixth Session of the Committee on Statistics, UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand 16-19 October, 2018

Hon'ble Chair, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me an honour to represent my country at this Sixth Session of the Committee on Statistics amidst High Level delegates from member states.

I on behalf of the government of Bhutan would like to thank UN-ESCAP for organizing and facilitating the Sixth Session of the Committee on Statistics efficiently and effectively. I also would like to thank the Honourable Chair, Vice Chair and other members of the Committee for conducting the meeting in most efficient and effective manner.

As we adopt the declaration "Navigating Policy with data to leave no one behind" the spirit and the motivation to building statistics systems for evidence-based decision-making is further reinforced. It provides our national governments a strong basis to strengthen our own statistical systems vis a vis the shared goal of the region. The commitments in the declaration provide us with clear direction as to where we move from hereon and what is to be achieved by 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I need not emphasize the importance of reliable and timely and relevant statistics in the decision-making and policy formulation. It is now imperative on us to work towards facilitating evidence based decision-making with adequate data and furthermore support to monitoring the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

Although, Bhutan within its limitation has made good progress in improving the production of timely and quality statistics, it is still confronted with lack of legal provisions, adequate resources and technical capacity in fulfilling our mandate as a NSO.

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the declaration we adopt entrust two clear responsibilities. First being the responsibility for countries to overcome internal difficulties such as the lack of legislative provisions and others bottlenecks and second being the role of the development partner to coordinate its efforts in provisioning technical, financial, technological and capacity building assistance. While Bhutan is committed to address our internal challenges, we will look to forging stronger partnership with our development partners for their support. In so doing, we have no doubt that our concerted efforts shall bear fruits. A high quality comprehensive statistics shall facilitate for decision makers to navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.

In closing, I would like to assure that government of Bhutan shall provide due importance to the declaration and commits itself to working closely with our development partners towards fulfilling the goals set in this declaration.

I thank you all for your attention.