

Committee on Statistics, Sixth Session

Bangkok, 16-19 October 2018

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) _____ Mr Gary Dunnet _____

Title or Official Designation of speaker _____ Senior Manager, National Accounts _____

Country/Organization: _____ Stats NZ _____

Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak:

Agenda Item No: _____ Item 11 (19th October 2018) _____

If you have a prepared statement, the Secretariat would find it most useful if you could kindly provide us with a copy, preferably in electronic format or hardcopy (typed or handwritten), for use by those listed below:

- Interpretation
- Draft Report and Secretariat

Please indicate if you wish to have statement return to you: Yes [] No [x]

Note: Please complete this form and hand it to the Conference Officer at the desk in the Conference Room.

Statement from Stats NZ (Item 11).

Stats NZ fully supports the Declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind. We believe that the Declaration is aligned with the goals of the NZ Government, international agencies (eg. United Nations through the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics), and takes into consideration the emerging needs across the NZ and international data and statistical ecosystem (particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). We consider official statistics are key to an effective democratic society that is transparent, accountable and inclusive.

Stats NZ is currently reviewing our 1975 Statistics Act with a focus on modern production of official statistics and the use of government-held data for research and analysis. We feel that the current Act:

- complicates and restricts the ability to acquire, integrate and share data in a modern data environment;
- does not provide sufficient tools for Stats NZ to influence the quality of data that informs the production of official statistics;
- does not provide sufficient foundation to ensure a coherent and co-ordinated approach to the production of statistics; and
- is not appropriately transparent about the use of data for research and analysis.

Our intention is to develop a new data and statistics legislation that will:

- reflect a modern and future-focused data environment;
- provide the right safeguards and protections for New Zealand's data;
- shape how Stats NZ, NZ's data agency, works in the future by keeping pace with new technology, the increasing capabilities of data users, and new data sources;
- recognise the Treaty relationship between Māori and the Crown, and Māori interests in using data for decision-making and advancing economic, social and cultural wellbeing;
- treat data as a valuable strategic asset;
- provide a transparent legislative framework for official statistics and for research and analysis; and
- be flexible to keep pace with change.

We have now reached the stage where we are now publicly consulting on what new data and statistics legislation could look like.

Public consultation was launched at New Zealand's Data Summit'18, which we hosted to focus on informed decision making through the ethical use of data. At the Summit, Liz MacPherson (Chief Executive of Stats NZ, Government Statistician and Chief Data Steward) and the Minister of Statistics James Shaw announced that consultation on new legislation is underway. The consultation runs from 27 September until 9 November.

Stats NZ has taken an innovative approach for government agencies in New Zealand to the design of the consultation. Alongside a formal discussion document setting out challenges, opportunities, and high-level proposals, we have an online campaign where people can take part in a 1970s quiz, answer a short online survey or complete a full submission. We are also using social media to actively promote the consultation and of course, the more usual emails, word of mouth and meetings with partners and stakeholders.

If you would like to know more, please visit www.stats1975.nz and read the discussion document or if you would like to discuss this further please contact Megan Anderson (megan.anderson@stats.govt.nz) who is the policy manager for the legislative review work.