Agenda Item:2

'Member States' Perspectives on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind

Timely and reliable official statistics are the lifeblood of policymaking as they comprise an integral part of designing, monitoring, and evaluating development priorities. The data for monitoring SDGs needs to be of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable, and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. The requirements of disaggregated data on population groups extend the focus beyond national trends and averages towards identifying subgroups of the population that were left out with respect to specific development targets. Disaggregated statistics serve as important inputs for a more efficient policy-targeting. On the other hand, non-availability of timely and high-quality disaggregated data will, however, render the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs ineffective.

Bangladesh's Bureau of Statistics, as the lead statistical agency, plays a critical role in the production and dissemination of official statistics. Its Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) has adopted modern technologies in their data collection and processing process. Considering the demand-side needs and supply-side possibilities of a data production, BBS has finalized the data gap analysis and published a document titled "Setting Priorities for Data Support to 7th FYP and SDGs: An Overview". Gender statistics and the need for sex-disaggregated data feature prominently in this document.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) supports its member states in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and also recommends to enhance data capacities and to harness science, technology and innovation for this purpose. Bangladesh strongly endorse the facilitation from ESCAP in this regard. More recently, UN Women in Bangladesh has begun supporting BBS and the wider National Statistical System to promote the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics through its Making Every Woman and Girl Count project. Bangladesh strongly welcomes this support, as BBS is exploring the possibility of generating disaggregated data, to ensure the statistical visibility of the deprived groups in sustainable development efforts. In this regard, Bangladesh wishes to support the Secretariat Proposal for UN Women to become a member and contributor to the regional initiative groups of the Committee. In addition, BBS also wishes to express support for the establishment of the intergovernmental group for Asia and the Pacific dedicated to gender statistics.

Further, looking at enhancing its production of disaggregated statistics, BBS is keen to develop and strengthen partnerships with different implementing agencies and all relevant stakeholders, including custodian agencies of SDGs indicators and other relevant international communities. BBS has also prepared a document titled "Action Plan and Methodological Guidelines for Data Generation and Disaggregation for Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs". The publication has focused the clear guidelines for each indicator based on the metadata and identifies the partners, relevant data sources, frequency of data generation, possible minimum disaggregation type, future plan of data generation, etc. SID and BBS have already established 'SDG Cell' for data mining and coordinating all the data producing agencies and development partners for monitoring SDGs. Statistics Act, 2013 mandated BBS to generate official statistics and validate & authenticate other official statistics generated by different national data providers. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2013-2023) has also emphasized such type of endeavour. Government has also formed the National Data Coordination Committee headed by Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division ensuring the participation of all the data generating ministries/divisions/agencies.