

Sixth Session of the Committee of Statistics

Intervention by Bhutan under Agenda Item 3(a):

Economic Statistics

On behalf of the government of Bhutan, I would like to thank ESCAP for organizing the Sixth Statistical Commission meeting. I would also like to congratulate the Chair and all other members for assuming the responsibility.

It is indeed encouraging that the policy makers and the politicians demand statistics more than before which is a realization of power of good statistics making informed decisions. The Navigating Policy with data to leave no one behind is an appropriate theme and an objective that we in the Asia and Pacific are to adopt.

In Bhutan, while we have been working to provide quality and timely economic statistics, we are still confronted with challenges of adequate human and financial resources.

The Statistics Office nevertheless has been working with all the stakeholders to improve the economic statistics and the first economic census that we will be conducting in December 2018 is an effort in this

direction. We hope that the economic census will help us address some of the existing data gaps serve us well to conducting specific targeted surveys in the future. Efforts are underway as well to produce quarterly GDP to address the timeliness issues of the National Accounts data.

Through the support of the UN-ESCAP, we have been developing the Export –Import Indices for Bhutan. We will be publishing our first import export index beginning 1st Quarter 2019 for the period ending 4th Quarter 2018. We would like to thank UN-ESCAP for the TA support rendered and the regional trainings offered to our staff and look forward to ESCAP's catalytic role, continued support in realising the goals we have set for the region.

Thank You.