

PHILIPPINES

Statement on Population and social statistics (3b): Endorsing the ESCAP Data Policy Tool to CST6

Good afternoon, distinguished delegates,

The Philippines thru the Philippine Statistics Authority fully recognizes the importance of connecting the devised policies, plans and programs with the produced data/statistics in the country. The PSA further acknowledges the work done of the UNESCAP in the formulation of the Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative and development of the EPIC Tool that helps the former in determining the data and policy gaps of two of its policies/plans that pertain to women economic empowerment (WEE). The EPIC Tool helps in enhancing the quality of the data being produced; in improving the policies/plans to be implemented in the country for the next five years; and in mapping the National Indicators with the Regional and Global SDG Indicators.

The EPIC tool was used to integrate the main policy document of the Philippines on gender, that is, the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) with the existing gender data available in the PSA and other government agencies producing statistics. The tool was mainly used by the PSA and the Philippine Commission on Women in assessing the issues confronting the WEE; and, determine whether the available gender data and the corresponding national indicators being produced were used in the plans/programs that solved the WEE issues and that these indicators were aligned with the regional and global indicators for Agenda 2030.

Hence, the PSA fully supports the UNESCAP Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative and the usefulness of the EPIC Tool in the WEE and therefore, it recommends to the Committee on Statistics the endorsement of these initiative and toolkit and their operationalization to all countries in Asia and the Pacific.