


 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ...

Australian statement on Agenda item 7 Declaration

PH

Paul Jelfs Home <pauljelfs@grapevine.com.au>

Today, 2:16 PM

ESCAP-CST6-Statements  Reply all | 

Inbox

Australia's Voluntary National Review was presented to the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2018. In that document Australia described a wide range of data and activity that supports the intent of the SDGs. It has underpinned this work with an accessible data platform to monitor SDG outcomes.

Australia has a wide range of policies and activities that already supported the goals set out in the SDGs prior to their implementation and these will continue well into the future.

The declaration put before us is one which Australia would be supportive. It emphasises not only the importance of the information behind SDGs but the support of the statistical systems that deliver the information in a manner that:

- is coherent
- is transparent in collection and methodology
- delivers quality and timely evidence on issues and change;
- and is connected to a wider range of information collection, use and reporting.

The declaration also provides support for the connection to policy and decision makers. This is an area Australia would highlight. The education of policy makers to the availability of good quality evidence is critical and to support them in the interpretation and use of these data for the best decisions requires strong and trusting partnerships (beyond the traditional funding arrangements). This requires a sustained effort on behalf of the statisticians and the policy departments. This is an area Australia (and in particular the Australian Bureau of Statistics) has invested significantly over the last 5 years. Strategic Stakeholder Engagement has resulted in multiple formal and informal agreements, invitation of statistics officials to the policy table, joint activities to better harness data, drive policy and monitor outcomes. One of those areas of engagement has been in the direct support of fellow Asia-Pacific nations in the development of statistical capacity, leadership development and technical support with the financial and policy support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Actions driven on the back of this declaration should have a positive effect in improving information flow and use, resulting in more effective policy and investment and a greater chance of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Paul Jelfs
Australia