



INDIA
भारत

Statement by

Mr. Pravin Srivastava, Chief Statistician of India cum Secretary,
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

at

Seventh Session of Committee on Statistics on
Agenda 3(a): Progress made in support of the collective vision and
framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the
Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat

Bangkok

August 27, 2020

Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

It is an honour and privilege for me to participate in the Seventh Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics and to share India's views.

At the very outset, we would like to place on record our appreciation for the work of Committee on the progress made in implementation of regional initiatives, for the collective vision and framework for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the technical support provided in diverse areas like economic statistics, agricultural and rural statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, gender equality and women's empowerment, environment statistics, disaster related statistics, ocean accounting, data quality, data integration, disaggregated data.

India suggests that due emphasis may also be given to other themes of SDGs like Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Sustainable cities and Communities, Life Below Land, etc. for high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics to bridge data gaps at global, regional and national level. These themes may also be considered for inclusion in steering or technical groups comprising representatives from member States and international organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

India recommends the need of comprehensive guidelines for development of regional monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of SDGs at Regional level (i.e., for Asia and the Pacific Region). Guidelines may also help in understanding mechanisms for assessing compliance and providing collective vision for action on focused areas including providing capacity building to NSOs.

Mr. Chairman,

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance in ensuring that 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is realized. India recommends that interlinkage studies among steering or technical groups may be undertaken in Asia and the Pacific Region in areas like agricultural and rural statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, gender equality and women's empowerment, health statistics, crime statistics, disaster-related statistics on the basis of disaggregated information available with member States. This will give better insights and understanding on the interlinkages among the thematic areas and its associated indicators and in identifying potential synergies and trade-offs for improved policy coherence.

Mr. Chairman,

India is actively participating in the Community of Practice (CoP) on Data Integration by providing its valuable inputs in development of guidelines on data integration relevant to the Asia Pacific Region. The CoP is an on-line learning platform and a close group of participating members of the Region with the aim to exchange knowledge and experience on data integration practices.

As far as CoP experience is concerned, India finds it a very informative and useful platform for healthy and interactive discussion on the subject areas. It is recommended that such CoPs may be extended in other areas of interest also to achieve 2030 Agenda. To make it more interactive and to best support the national efforts, the participation of the member States may be encouraged by discussing their relevant case studies and application in detail. India wishes to continue as member of such CoPs in future also.

Mr. Chairman,

In this COVID 19 pandemic situation, Community of Practice (CoP) through e-platform/virtual meetings on Gender Mainstreaming with other domain at Regional Level may also be initiated. Focus may also be on considering generation of minimum standard set of aggregates like age-specific, place of residence, etc. to cater to the requirements of general public and policy makers by taking into account the resource availability of member States.

Mr. Chairman,

India also supports the role and composition of the Regional Technical Advisory Board (RTAB) to provide technical guidance at regional level for the Second Global Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

Thank you Chair.
