

Seventh Session of ESCAP Committee on Statistics Country Intervention/Statement of JAPAN on Agenda Item 2 (b)

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Monitoring progress in line with the document entitled "Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community "and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

Documentation

Draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind (ESCAP/CST/2020/1)

Country Intervention/Statement

<With regards to the proposed monitoring and evaluation dashboard performance reporting template (refer Annex III of ESCAP/CST/2020/1) >

Some of the indicators presented in Annex II may have already been achieved. However, the arrow symbols (improving, no change, and worsening) shown in the current Annex III do not include a symbol to indicate completion. We would like to propose the addition of a new symbol for "Completed."

< With regards to the endorsement of ESCAP/CST/2020/1 >

We recognize the importance of the "Collective Vision and Framework for Action" and "Declaration on Navigating Policy" in achieving the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region. We believe that the monitoring and evaluation framework proposed by the Secretariat is reasonable, since it will be organized in line with these existing strategies and it allows us to use available information as much as possible in order to reduce the burden on member countries and the Secretariat.

On the other hand, we do not believe that all the indicators can be calculated in each country, since the SDG indicators vary in their characteristics. For example, some should be calculated at the global level, and others target developing countries. For this reason, the evaluation of progress toward the SDGs in each country should be based on standards for that particular country as a general rule.

It is important to grasp progress toward the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific

region, and we basically support the proposed framework. However, we would like to request that the SDGs be evaluated and published in consideration of the circumstances of each country whenever possible, rather than evaluated uniformly.

< With regards to (i) progress made with regard to the nine national commitments set out in paragraph 4 of the Declaration, and (ii) progress made with the three requests to development partners set out in paragraph 5 of the Declaration (refer section III of ESCAP/CST/2020/1)>

As a mid- and long-term national strategy, Japan adopted the "SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition" in December of last year based on the latest trends surrounding the SDGs. We also adopted "SDGs Action Plan 2020," which compiles specific measures for the promotion of the SDGs to be implemented in 2020. Under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, which are headed by the Prime Minister and consist of all Cabinet members, the government is making a unified effort to promote various measures toward the realization of a sustainable society with "No One Left Behind" based on these strategies. While it is important to appropriately monitor the implementation status of these measures and link them to follow-up and review, we believe that this requires capacity building at NSOs.

In view of the fact that human resource development is the most fundamental and important element in strengthening national statistical systems, Japan emphasizes the statistical training programs conducted by SIAP, a subsidiary organ of ESCAP. Accordingly, we have been cooperating with SIAP as its host country for the approximately half a century since the institute was invited to Japan in 1970. We will continue to cooperate with SIAP to support countries in their statistical capacity building. Japan also would like to request that all countries utilize the training opportunities provided by SIAP and assist in strengthening SIAP's capacities while making various efforts to develop the capabilities of their statisticians.

< With regards to the paragraph 31 of ESCAP/CST/2020/1>

Paragraph 31 of the document (ESCAP/CST/2020/1) mentions that there is no data on SDG Indicator 14.4.1 (Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels) in the Asia-Pacific region, as an example of low data availability for Tier 1 indicators.

However, as shown by the global metadata for Indicator 14.4.1, it is our

understanding that monitoring in each country was not required because it was considered technically difficult to calculate at the country level, at least at the time of the comprehensive review in March 2020.

The IAEG-SDGs approved a metadata change for Indicator 14.4.1. to implement country-level monitoring on 12th August 2020. In any case, it is necessary to use global metadata that was accurate at the time when drafting documents. With regard to the document (ESCAP/CST/2020/1), as the information given regarding Indicator 14.4.1 is inaccurate, we believe that it should be deleted.

*{ } was omitted due to time limitations for intervention at the online session.