

## **Nepal - Country Statement for Committee on Statistics, on Agenda Item 4(a) - Accounting for Integrated Statistics and Analysis**

The Constitution of Nepal puts special provision on the production of designated statistics in Nepal. The new constitution of Nepal (2015) delegated special authorities to all three tiers of the government to produce and manage the required demographic, economic, environmental and social statistics for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their plans and programs. For example, the federal government has been given the authority to conduct national level censuses and surveys, while the responsibility of producing and managing statistics at the province level has been given to the provincial government. Similarly, the right to produce and manage the data required for the local level has been given to the concern local level (municipalities). Thus, the provision of common and exclusive rights of the three tiers of the government related to data production and management is well mentioned in the constitution of Nepal. All provincial governments and local levels are now data producers as well as users. The data produced at local level are basically vital statistics and unemployment data.

Nepal has now 753 local levels (urban and rural municipalities), 7 provincial governments and one federal government. Strong coordination mechanism among the federal government, provincial governments and local governments in the statistical activities is essential to maintain quality and timeliness in data production, avoid duplication, fulfill essential data gaps and harmonization in concepts, definitions and methodology used in the data collection and analysis. With the aim of facilitating this task and maintaining uniformity in statistical activities as well as establishing a functional national statistical system in line with federalism, a new Statistics Bill has been tabled to replace the 62-year-old Statistics Act 1958. Theoretical consensus has been obtained from the National Assembly to implement the new Statistics Act in Nepal. Further, the new Statistics Act will ensure the establishment of designated statistical system and survey clearance system, making extensive use of administrative data, big data and promoting online data sharing culture.

Nepal is committed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Government of Nepal has given priority in plans and programs for enhancing the statistical system of the country. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has been implemented with the approval of the Government of Nepal to implement the basic statistical issues such as designated statistics, survey clearance system, survey calendar and data sharing to avoid duplication. Similarly, in order to effectively coordinate with all three tiers of the government and to set up a good statistical system as visualized in the Constitution, NSDS and Statistics Act, the existing structure of the Central Bureau of Statistics is in the process of amendment. It is expected that as soon as such a system is developed, the data ecosystem as expected can be achieved.

While conducting national level censuses and surveys, various types of interactions, seminars, thematic committees, technical committee and steering committee have been formed to address the demand of the users in statistics and to conduct statistical activities in an integrated way with the participation and coordination of all stakeholders. This can be considered as a good example of users' producer engagement in statistical activities including concerned national/international agencies and development partners.

CBS also conducts statistical activities in an integrated approach by compiling agriculture and economic statistics in population census, economic and social statistics in agriculture census, etc. Similarly, attempt has

been initiated to conduct surveys in an integrated way by integrating sample households in both surveys. The benefit of this is that we can have now (at least at national level) integrated information of the same sample households from both surveys. An example of this is the recently completed Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 and ongoing Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS) 2020. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the fieldwork of NLSS and other surveys of CBS has been postponed.

Similarly, the questionnaire of the upcoming National Population and Housing Census 2021 has also been prepared to make it compatible for integrated data analysis. It will be able to study now the recently completed Nepal Labor Force Survey, MICS, the upcoming NLSS, Agriculture and Livestock Census and other survey data in one place. As a result, the Bureau expects to get disaggregated data up to the lower administrative level of the country through Small Area Estimation.

CBS has also developed Online National Data Profile (ONDP) system. The main purpose of this online data portal is to make available information and data related to the geography, natural resources, environment, demographics, social, economic, and governance of the country so that any users can easily get statistics of their choice from the online system. Federal government, provincial governments and local levels are designated to upload the information related to their organization themselves regularly. Necessary guidelines and tutorials have been prepared by the CBS for data uploading and training has also been given to the focal persons of the concerned organizations. However, the process of uploading information from designated offices has not yet been accomplished as expected. The issues are coordination, cooperation and ownership. To overcome the issues, the Office of the Prime Minister & Council of Ministers has been now involved in the establishment of a necessary coordination mechanism among three tiers of the government.

The role of development partners and international organizations have been crucial to strengthen the statistical capacity of CBS. In this matter, the role of ADB, FAO, ILO, IMF, JICA, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNSD, UNSIAP, UNWOMEN and World Bank has been very remarkable. The Bureau would like to thank them all. We expect such cooperation and collaboration in coming days also.

Thank you.

August 2020