

Pakistan Intervention Statement: Agenda Item 3(a)

Advancing official statistics to achieve the 2030 agenda regarding SDGs is very much required in the region. The regional NSOs must be prepared to meet the needs of data required for SDGs. The progress by ESCAP for implementation of regional initiatives with respect to the collective vision and framework is acknowledged and appreciated for each of the five actions. The working of steering groups, committees, expert groups and secretariats is valuable to prepare regional NSOs to meet the demands of SDGs. The involvement of data users is more important strategy than alone data producers to decide about the new dimensions of data collection to meet the SDGs requirement and to generate new data series in addition to routine exercises. The working towards development of global statistical standards for disaster-related statistics will definitely support to reduce the risk and cope with natural calamities and to prepare NSOs to meet the data requirements during emergencies like COVID-19 pandemic for planning and rehabilitation process.

Official statistics is the public property and public must have confidence in the official statistics. Quality assurance framework is required by regional NSOs. Modernization of statistical business process through automation will support to increase the public confidence. The global strategy to improve the rural and agricultural statistics for evidence based decision making and to meet the target of SDGs, is the right step. The global working group for big data to produce official statistics is also helpful for confidence in official statistics. Pakistan has developed and maintained very good system for rural statistics through Mouza (Village) Census. This system of rural statistics may be visited for further improvements.

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is working for 69 SDG indicators, out of which 58 have been covered by different censuses and surveys. However, 11 SDG indicators have been planned to cover in next agricultural census and other surveys for which collaboration of ESCAP is required to clearly define the indicators and data items to meet the target of 2030.