

Pakistan Intervention Statement: Agenda Item 4(b)

Embracing big data to modernize official statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The recognition of big data and other non-traditional data sources to produce official statistics is increasing globally particularly when data urgency is there just like COVID-19 pandemic. Countries now have started working or at least thinking about big data to be used for generating official statistics such as using mobile phone data for mobility statistics or for other information. Global working group on big data for official statistics addresses the methodology, quality, technology, data access, privacy and cost benefit analysis for the use of big data. Different task teams are working for applications of satellite data for agriculture statistics and land cover mapping, to use mobile telephone data focusing on tourism, migration, dynamic population, commuter and transport statistics, scanner data for price statistics, and big data for SDG indicators etc. In addition, useful guidance and fundamental principles for new data sources, applications of big data and artificial intelligence for production of official statistics have also been introduced. PARIS21 has planned a focus on big data and other non-traditional sources for coming five years which will be great contribution. ESCAP and ADB are also working for big data in regional NSOs.

Pakistan has prepared new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for 2020-30. The NSDS has proposed a strategy for the use of big data for production of official statistics in the country. Therefore, Pakistan is ready to join and work for big data through Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics, as mentioned in the ESCAP document for item 4(b) in section (V).