

Agenda 3(a): Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Sustainable Agenda

1. The Philippines, through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), expresses its support to the Collective Vision and Framework for Action by the Asia Pacific Statistical Community in strengthening capacity to produce, disseminate, and use official statistics through its programs such as the development of the national accounts, tourism satellite accounts, and environmental accounts that can be used for evidence-based decision making.
2. The PSA also supports the Committee's regional initiatives in ocean accounting, disaster-related statistics framework, land cover, and geospatial information. As a statistical office that continues to find ways to enhance its system of national accounts, the PSA recommends to the Committee to continue to provide technical assistance in these areas and share experiences of pilot countries in the compilation of these accounts.
3. The PSA further supports the work of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership as a mechanism for implementing the collective vision and framework for action relative to sustainable management and ocean use. The Philippines believes that it is important for the ESCAP to come up with the final technical and statistical guidelines on Ocean Accounts, for approval of the United Nations Statistical Commission. This will give countries the final document that will serve as a guide for the implementation of Ocean Accounting.
4. In retrospect, the PSA expresses its deep appreciation to the Committee for providing assistance through a technical visit to the PSA and in the conduct of a Training on the Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF). The agency is now developing the Disaster Risk Reduction Expenditure Accounts and it continues to look forward to the Secretariat's development of the step-by-step guidance materials on land cover and geospatial information.
5. During these extraordinary times, with the clamor for more timely and more granular data for policymaking, the PSA is exploring new initiatives to improve official statistics in the areas of (a) Big Data (i.e. webscraping as a price collection method), (b) Citizen-Generated Data, and (c) Local-level statistics through the Community-Based Monitoring System. The PSA is also challenged to strengthen its Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system for SDG monitoring.
6. The Philippines commends the Committee's progress and success in its initiatives particularly in regional and national efforts with economic, satellite, and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific. The agency further appreciates its commitment to strengthen statistical capacity, develop statistical frameworks, and enhance Asia-Pacific leadership in global statistics development.