

7th session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics
26-28 August 2020

Comments UNSD

Agenda item 4 (c): Seminar on priority issues: transforming human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future

- UNSD appreciates that the report highlights the Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems. In this regard:
 - UNSD confirms that the full version of the Handbook will be submitted to the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission in March 2021 and will become available on the internet before that time.
 - UNSD also confirms that the Handbook will have a dedicated chapter on “Human Resources Management and Development”, which contains sections on the staff composition of a national statistical office, human resources policies, recruitment, learning and development, job rotation, staff retention and the role of the chief statistician. (see <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=62587036>)
- UNSD further appreciates the reference to the Regional Thematic Conferences, which are targeted to discussions with chief statisticians and cover the various topics of the updated Handbook. In this regard:
 - UNSD would like to thank the Asian Development Bank for their support and for hosting the Asian Thematic Conference in February 2020 in Manila.
 - UNSD confirms that thematic conference for South-East and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia is in preparation and is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan later in 2020.
 - UNSD also confirms that preparations for the thematic conference for the Pacific are continuing and that a new date will be scheduled for 2021.
- Finally, UNSD would like to highlight the initiatives of the Task Team on Training, Competencies and Capacity Development under the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. With respect to modernization and the use of big data, this task team:
 - developed a Competency Framework, which lists all competencies needed for a statistical institute to succeed in the application of Big Data and advanced technologies.
 - also developed a Maturity Matrix, which can be used for self-assessment by statistical institutes to evaluate where gaps exist in skill sets and jobs with respect to use of Big Data, and where training or recruitment are needed.
 - is in the process of setting up – together with all other task teams of the global working group – a global training programme in the use of Big Data for official statistics.