

1. I would like to commend the Strategic Advisory Body (SAB) and the Modernization Working Group (MWG) on their initial and promising efforts on advocacy and regional collaboration on the modernization of statistical production and services in Asia and Pacific. In the light of the data revolution in today's internet age, the importance of modernization cannot be understated. Driven by the increasing demand for more granular data on a more timely and more frequent basis while facing severe resource constraints, national statistical offices (NSOs) have little choice but to modernize their statistical collection, processing and dissemination processes. In this respect, it is important for all of us to engage actively in our advocacy for the modernization of the various statistical collection, production and dissemination processes at both the national, regional and global levels.
 2. As the survey carried out by the Modernization Working Group has shown, resources and capacity are crucial for successful and effective modernization of the statistical processes. International agencies partnering with national and regional bodies on capacity building should therefore include modernization in their technical assistance and other activities.
 3. Singapore appreciates the on-going work of the SAB and the MWG in their important work, and supports their approach and identified priority areas.
 4. We also welcome the proposal to expand the membership of the SAB and the MWG and, as such support the proposed amendment of the SAB's terms of reference to include in its membership the deputy head or other high-level official with relevant authority in the area of modernization serves to meet this objective.
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