

## United Nations Statistical Commission

### Fifty-fifth session

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

#### Items for discussion and decision: Data science

### Document E/CN.3/2024/6 – Report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics

#### *Comment provided by:*

Cameroon

#### *Comment:*

Cameroon, on behalf of the Africa Group, commends the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics and acknowledges the Committee's work and achievements. The Africa Group values the Committee's efforts in providing strategic guidance, advocating for Big Data use, and enhancing capacity in Big Data and data science in national statistical offices.

The Africa Group endorses the 10-year review outcomes and supports updating the Committee's mandate to reflect current needs, including data science and private sector partnerships.

The group acknowledges achievements in methodological work on scanner data and privacy-enhancing technologies, capacity development in various areas, and support to the regional hubs.

The group lauds the work of the four regional hubs and their diverse use cases. It acknowledges the crucial role of regional and global hubs in enhancing national statistical offices' capacity in big data and data science and supports the proposal for these hubs to expand their partnerships with national statistical offices, international organizations, academia, and the private sector.

The group particularly appreciates the establishment of the regional hub for Africa, led by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, and its various projects and capacity-building initiatives it undertook across Africa, along with its partnerships.

It supports the reorganization of task teams focused on big data for the Sustainable Development Goals and measuring rural access to all-season roads into a new task team on data science and Sustainable Development Goal localization, in close collaboration with the Data Science Leaders Network.

The African Group:

- a. requests enhanced communication from the Committee through user-friendly website updates, newsletters, and social media engagement.
- b. supports creating a playbook for integrating data science into statistical offices' work, as suggested by the Data Science Leaders Network.
- c. commends the production of the maturity matrix for self-assessments. It encourages its operationalization as a tool for regularly assessing countries' progress in big data and data science.
- d. strongly reiterates the need for further capacity-building in using big data and data science in official statistics and requests increased resource mobilization to make such capacity-building effective.
- e. requests the production of guidelines for the IT infrastructure and the skills mix required for national statistics offices to make the best use of big data and data science in producing official statistics.
- f. proposes the creation of a task team on large language models and their uses in the production and dissemination of official statistics. The Africa group is volunteering to take the lead of the task team under the lead of UNECA.

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<i>Submitted on:</i>	Click or tap to enter a date.