

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-fifth session

Item 3 (m) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: Regional statistical development

Document E/CN.3/2024/16 – Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Comment provided by:

Cameroon

Comment:

Cameroon, on behalf of the Africa group, commends the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its report on statistical development in Asia and Pacific. The Africa group acknowledges the progress made by the Asia and the Pacific region against their collective vision and framework for action; the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade amidst local and global challenges facing national statistical systems (NSS) and the key initiatives undertaken aimed at overcoming these challenges and further strengthening the spirit and value of working together among its regional and global partners.

a. The Africa Group recognizes and fully supports ESCAP's good practices initiatives on facilitating global sharing of good practice; having coordinated, targeted and fit-for-purpose assistance to countries; promote added inclusiveness in the involvement of countries when testing statistical guidance and methodologies, and adopt more inclusive modalities for collaboration to facilitate enhanced engagement from all regions of the world. The Africa Group lobbies behind ESCAP in its continuing efforts to create spaces and opportunities for collaboration whether thru technical, expert groups, or communities of practice to facilitate global sharing of best practices and enhance inclusiveness in testing statistical guidance and methodologies are well noted and appreciated by the Group. Likewise, the Group will continue to collaborate with ESCAP, regional and global partners in adopting and contributing to such initiatives.

i. The Africa Group particularly takes notes of the single monitoring and evaluation framework of the ESCAP for both the collective vision and the Declaration as well as its efforts to promote and adopt open-source solutions in developing and deploying innovative but sustainable solutions to provide timely, relevant and quality data to stakeholders. Also, the Group appreciates the detailed framework and use of innovative tools which will inspire us as we continue to roll-out the Roadmap for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa from 2023 to 2030. Likewise, the Group commends the importance of having the *National SDG Tracker* and the *Every Policy is Connected (EPIC) Tool* and urges colleagues from the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the Economic Commission for Africa to coordinate with ESCAP colleagues to explore the feasibility of adopting or integrating similar features in the Africa's SDG dashboard.

ii. The Africa Group supports ESCAP'S efforts in broadening engagement across countries and regions despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group will continue to support the participatory and inclusive event organized by the ESCAP thru the Asia-Pacific Stats Café series which has been an inspiration for the StatsTalk-Africa webinar series spearheaded by the ACS. The group takes this opportunity to invite every member of the Committee to continue to support these knowledge-sharing and exchange platforms and activities which provide spaces for dialogues about data, statistics, innovative tools and demystifying and promoting greater understanding of key statistical concepts and alternative data sources with data experts and users.

iii. The Group also supports the call for greater partnerships, which is vital to achieve optimal results despite the limited resources allocated for statistics and statistical work at the national, regional and global levels. For the Global Oceans Accounts Partnership, the group encourages ESCAP to continue to encourage partners outside of Asia and the Pacific, including the ECA which plays a key role in guiding member states in this area of work. As climate change continues to challenge our world, being partners for global ocean accounts becomes imperative if we are to improve data quality, monitor, manage, and conserve the world's oceans in a cohesive

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and collective way.

iv. The Africa Group welcomes the proposal to adopt the Asia-Pacific data governance framework by countries within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region and concurs on the importance of a unifying framework across the globe. Notwithstanding our support in this initiative, the Group requests ESCAP to share the compendium of country data governance practices once finalized and for further consideration of the data governance framework being proposed for adoption.

(b) The Africa Group conveys its support to the call by Member States in Asia and the Pacific for development partners within and beyond the region to provide coordinated technical, financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to countries. Apart from leveraging on the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific; the Group strongly encourages development partners to review and align their projects and collaborative work and partnerships against the priority areas of national, regional, and international organizations as described in their statistical development plans/strategies.

(c) Likewise, the Africa Group strongly supports and joins the call of the member States in Asia and the Pacific for development partners to develop and strengthen international statistical standards and provide technical support for their implementation. In doing so, the Africa Group recognizes and places greater emphasis on the need for development partners to be mindful of the need for guidance and methodologies to be tested at the country level and to reflect differing country contexts and various levels of capacity and needs across member States. The Group believes that development partners must be encouraged to adhere to such practices of preparing guidelines that are inclusive and reflective of national and/or regional contexts.

(d) Finally, given the significant gains of working together, optimizing outputs from pooling limited resources for statistical activities and development work, the Africa Group strongly supports the call by member States to facilitate increased engagement of Asia and the Pacific and African countries in global groups and for the Statistical Commission to adopt inclusive approaches for engaging with member States and regional groups as proposed by the ESCAP. It is our belief that adopting such approach will foster greater collaboration, increase participation, support, and acceptance from our member States specially of new initiatives on statistical standards, methodologies and approaches.

Submitted on:

2/2/2024