

### Nepal's Intervention: Agenda 3.1

Hon'ble Chair,

Dignitaries, distinguished representatives of different organizations,

1. First of all my delegation appreciates the UNESCAP Executive Secretary and her vibrant team for the management and preparation of excellent papers on various issues of socio-economic development of this region.

2. Statistics has become a part of our daily life without which we can do nothing. We have to support and strengthen the statistical systems and processes for several reasons. Statistics, being a public good, it has become the prime responsibility of the government to fund for statistics. Public policy decision, which has wider ramifications in the public life, is the primary function of the government. All the public policy processes demand highly reliable information. The government is therefore responsible to manage national priorities coordinating the global and regional/sub-regional development initiatives.

3. Monitoring the progresses of SDGs, MDGs, Regional/sub-regional Goals, tracking the national level development goals including the poverty reducing programs, MfDR, even the government's daily business including the budgetary processes, can be taken as some examples, which require timely and accurate information. As the statistical demands are ever changing, the statistical organizations are under intense pressure to provide micro-data, meta-data in recent years. However, the government is facing technical and financial constriction.

4. Nepal has been able to allocate only 0.20% of its total national budget in statistical management due to high financial demand for infrastructure and social sector though it accords high priority to invest in statistical infrastructure components.

6. The LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS are not able to adequately invest in statistics due to high demands for investments in the social overheads and physical infrastructures. This is also true for Nepal.

7. 'Fundamental Principles on Official Statistics' one of the principles of the UN, urges and promotes the role of international community to support developing countries. I would like to acknowledge the important role played by International organizations in the development of overall statistical system. For instance, the *Declaration of UN Fundamental Principles on Official Statistics, development of frameworks, classifications*

*and methods; dissemination strategies like IMF-General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)/Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), International Household Survey Network (IHSN), WHO Health Matrices Network (HMN), Accelerated Data Program (ADP) etc. We expect extra efforts from them to bring other countries together in this regard.*

8. The setting up of consortium-Partnership in Statistics for the Development of Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21) is a giant leap in the field of development of statistics. Developing countries would be benefited from this initiative. PARIS21 has become a good platform in policy dialogue, resource assessment, coordination and knowledge based development.

9. It is important to note that the resolutions made by Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics-2004 (MAPS), PARIS 21 and other concerned institutions are regularly evaluating NSDS-process across the LDCs, LLDCs and SID countries. The BUSAN meeting has made important recommendations known as the BUSAN Action Plan for Statistics that needs to be implemented.

10. The Government of Nepal is going to prepare a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) with the stakeholder's active involvement, in order to keep pace with other member countries. The objectives of the NSDS are to:

- *assess the present data production system;*
- *assess the present demand for statistics;*
- *prepare strategic statistical plan under designated and coordinated system;*
- *enhance statistical organizations to implement the strategy; and*
- *provide recommendations to efficiently and effectively manage human and financial resources.*

11. The donor community should extend more support for the cause of quality, reliable statistics in a timely manner.

12. I Thank You all !