**ANNEX-VII**

Statement by

**Mr. Zhaser Zharkynbayev, Deputy Head of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for strategic planning and reforms, Republic of Kazakhstan**

7th meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO) of ECO Member States

September 20, 2023, virtual mode

The central vector of development of the statistical system of Kazakhstan for the next five years will be the digitalization of the statistical production and dissemination.

Last year, we adopted the Concept for the development of state statistics and the national data ecosystem and approved the Roadmap for its implementation for the next 3 years.

Currently in Kazakhstan, like in many other countries, only a small part of the total amount of data available in the country is used. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to establish a framework for effective data governance policies, including issues of data access, data sharing, while protecting privacy and ethical use.

Based on this, the key tool for modernization will be the active use of administrative and alternative sources of data to improve the efficiency of statistical production.

In addition, the main directions for the implementation of the Concept in the near future are:

- institutional and organizational transformations;

- strengthening the analytical capacity of the Bureau.

We believe that development in these directions will unlock the potential of the national data ecosystem.

To achieve these goals, of course, an appropriate legislative framework is required. In this regard, a draft “Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on state statistics and data management” has been developed. This law is currently being considered in the country's Parliament.

The draft law makes important changes to existing provisions. Thus, the role of the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan is strengthened as an authorized body for assessing data quality, and legal opportunities are provided for controlling the quality of administrative sources. In addition, changes are being made to provide the ability of the Bureau to obtain primary data from administrative and alternative sources.

Improving statistical methodology is a priority to us and work is being carried out on an ongoing basis to improve the methodological base of statistical production and bring it closer to international standards. This year, specialists from the UN Economic Commission for Europe conducted a Global Assessment of the Kazakhstani statistical system. Work on an in-depth review of the national statistical system by the OECD is scheduled to begin next year. As a result of the work carried out, we hope in the future to obtain the status of “member” of the OECD Committee on Statistics.

For wider use of administrative sources, in the near future it is planned to integrate with more than 400 information systems of government agencies, while currently their number is only 30.

In addition, work is underway to use alternative sources of information, such as indicators of transaction activity (data from fiscal authorities and payment systems), volumes of cargo transportation, electricity consumption, data from mobile operators and other real-time indicators.

As a result of this work, we plan to replace most traditional surveys with administrative and alternative data sources, which, according to our estimates, will reduce statistical surveys in 2025 by approximately 50% compared to current levels.

This will significantly reduce the burden on respondents and will also hopefully increase public confidence in official statistics.

Also linked to the increased use of administrative data is a project to develop a system of digital statistical registers that will be updated based on data coming from the information systems of other government agencies. The goal is to systematize available data in government agencies, analyze and improve the quality of data for use in statistical production.

Administrative data is received into the Digital Registers system through the Information and Analytical System of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which forms a single space of data obtained from various sources. In the future, it is planned to create digital registers in all areas of the economy and update them based on data from government bodies and alternative sources.

International practice shows that the use of unified classifications in information systems is of great importance for ensuring standardization and consistency of data, as well as for the exchange of information between different systems and organizations.

In this regard, we have put forward an initiative to develop a digital service “National Reference Information”, which is currently operating in test mode.

This service will make it possible to unify terminology, structure classifiers and reference books used in government databases within a single system, ensuring open access and the ability to quickly update. In addition, it will be a system for storing relevant reference information.It is planned to launch this service by the end of this year.

To work with big data sets, it is very important to strengthen analytical potential and competencies in data analytics. Together with the Asian Development Bank, we began training employees to work with visual analytics based on BI tools, as well as Python programming language.

In addition, the DataLiteracy initiative has been launched in order to improve the skills of government employees. This program is focused on working with published data and their interpretation, as well as working with information sources. The program will not only train government officials to better understand statistics, but will also create a culture of data-driven decision-making.

Today, thanks to the support of UNDP, the first basic level of the program has already been prepared, which is posted on the open training platform dataliteracyhub.org with the possibility of user certification. Completing the Data Literacy course will be a mandatory element for retraining civil servants at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

One of our key partners in data dissemination and mass application are scientific organizations and universities.

We are developing a universal module on statistical methodology and analysis of statistical indicators for inclusion of this module in university training programs.

The Bureau is also working to improve services for users to obtain and use statistical information. As part of the ongoing work, the Bureau's website was updated last year; a simplified navigation system allows for quick access to official statistical information for all users.

Much attention is paid to modifying the “Taldau” information system to work with detailed data and developing tools for research.

For users, the Bureau is actively introducing new formats for providing data, such as interactive dashboards on all major statistical indicators of various sectors of the economy, which will gradually replace traditional statistical publications.

In addition, as part of interaction with universities regarding the provision of anonymized microdata, an information service for researchers has been launched, which will reflect a list of data recipients and links to research results. This will improve the transparency, coordination and effectiveness of research activities based on Bureau data.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*