



Data And Statistics Horizon (DASH) Teams

Terms of Reference

Artificial Intelligence for official statistics

Background

This DASH Team will investigate the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in official statistics across Asia and the Pacific. Building on the side event on Data and AI for sustainable development held in the margins of the 9th session of the Committee on Statistics, the focus will be on how National Statistical Offices (NSOs) can leverage AI ethically and responsibly across the whole data value chain. The team's work will also build on efforts by the High-Level Group – Modernization of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) and the Partnership in Statistics for the 21st Century (PARIS21).

The main focus of the DASH team will be to gather and document the experiences of various countries in using AI in official statistics. It will focus on documenting different approaches, challenges and successes. By compiling these insights, we aim to create a resource which can be shared across the region. This will facilitate knowledge exchange, promote good practices, and foster collaboration among countries.

Output/ deliverable:

- **Stats Café sessions:** One or more sessions to share country experiences in the ethical and responsible use of AI in official statistics.
- **Stats Brief:** A summary of country experiences, highlighting good practices and recommendations for future work on leveraging AI ethically and responsibly.

Regional approach:

A regional approach will promote the sharing of experiences and foster collaboration in the use of AI in official statistics. Given the varied levels of AI adoption across countries, this initiative will initially focus on knowledge exchange, enabling countries in the region to learn from each other.

Membership:

- Representatives from NSOs with experience in using AI for official statistics.
- Experts in AI ethics, privacy protection, and machine learning in statistics.
- Representatives from international organizations, including UNECE and ESCAP, with experience in AI.
- Academia and research institutions with experience in AI and data governance.
- Private sector stakeholders engaged in AI for data analytics and official statistics.

Planned activities and outputs with dates:

Timeline	Activities
Q2 2025	Establishment of DASH Team, identification of key stakeholders and development of work plan.
Q3 2025	Conduct a desk study using existing resources, including materials from HLG-MOS and PARIS21. Organize the first Stats Café session to share experiences on using AI.
Q4 2025	Compile case studies from countries and organizations on the ethical and responsible use of AI in official statistics. Organize the second Stats Café session to present findings and facilitate regional dialogue.
Q1 2026	Develop a Stats Brief with case studies on the use of AI, summarizing key insights and recommendations for future work.

Outcomes/ success measure:

The planned activities, timeline and the specific outcomes and measures of success will be refined once the team starts its work. Potential success measures include:

- **Product Delivery:** Completion of at least two Stats Cafe sessions and development of a Stats Brief within the planned timeline.
- **Engagement and Collaboration:** Active participation of NSOs and partnerships with academia, the private sector, and development organizations.
- **Adoption and Impact:** Increased awareness and implementation of AI-based methodologies among NSOs in Asia and the Pacific.

ESCAP Secretariat lead persons:

Richard Pearce Tonkin and Dayyan Shayani.

Notes and considerations:

This DASH Team will primarily operate via online meetings and email correspondence, with potential in-person engagements depending on available resources. Progress will be reported annually to the Bureau and shared with the wider Asia-Pacific statistical community. Unless otherwise decided by the Bureau, the DASH team will conclude its operation and be decommissioned at the 10th session of the Committee on Statistics (2026).

References

1. **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).** *Use of Generative AI for Communication in Official Statistics.* Retrieved from [UNECE](#)
2. **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).** *Generative AI For Official Statistics: Mitigating and Monitoring Chapter.* Retrieved from [UNECE](#)
3. **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).** *Generative AI For Official Statistics: Using, Implementing and Developing Chapter.* Retrieved from [UNECE](#)
4. **Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).** *The Potential of Artificial Intelligence for the SDGs and Official Statistics.* Retrieved from [PARIS21](#)

5. **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**. *Generic Statistical Business Process Model: Potential Enhancements with AI*. This paper explores how AI can enhance various stages of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). Retrieved from [UNECE](#)
6. **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**. *Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)*. Retrieved from [UNECE](#)