

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

41/101

Programme review: national quality assurance frameworks*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the high-quality programme review contained in the report of Statistics Canada on national quality assurance frameworks¹ and expressed its appreciation to Statistics Canada for the work that it had carried out as programme reviewer;

(b) Thanked Eurostat and the International Monetary Fund for their contributions to the report and expressed gratitude to regional agencies and countries that had provided valuable comments on the draft version;

(c) Emphasized the importance of the topic and fully supported the development of a quality assurance framework template that would focus on national statistical systems, using existing frameworks to the extent possible, and that would be sufficiently flexible to take national circumstances into consideration;

(d) Recognized that such a template is only a first step in the process of developing a full quality management programme;

(e) Supported the establishment of an expert group on quality assurance, with due consideration to be given to proper regional representation, and welcomed the offers made by countries and international agencies to serve in the group;

(f) Recognized the importance of engaging users, especially in the regional consultation processes that are proposed;

(g) Requested that the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies develop tools and provide guidance and training, especially to developing countries that wish to introduce or strengthen their quality management procedures; in this context, the Commission asked the Division to upgrade its quality assurance website to include links to relevant quality assurance tools and guidelines already developed by countries and international agencies.

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. A.

¹ See E/CN.3/2010/2.