



# Economic and Social Council

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## Statistical Commission

### Forty-eighth session

7-10 March 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

## Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
  - (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (b) Transformative agenda for official statistics;
  - (c) Regional statistical development;
  - (d) Big data for official statistics;
  - (e) Quality assurance in the global statistical system;
  - (f) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
  - (g) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
  - (h) Social statistics;
  - (i) Statistics on drugs and drug use;
  - (j) National accounts;
  - (k) Environmental-economic accounting;
  - (l) International Comparison Programme;
  - (m) Business registers;
  - (n) Tourism statistics;
  - (o) Statistics for economies based on natural resources.
4. Items for information:
  - (a) Demographic statistics;



- (b) Household surveys;
  - (c) Health statistics;
  - (d) Education statistics;
  - (e) Price statistics;
  - (f) Short-term economic statistics;
  - (g) Finance statistics;
  - (h) International trade and economic globalization statistics;
  - (i) Agricultural and rural statistics;
  - (j) Coordination of statistical programmes;
  - (k) Statistical capacity-building;
  - (l) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
  - (m) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
5. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
  6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.
  7. Report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting at a regular session, elects, from among the representatives of its members, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

The Bureau is elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with one member of the Bureau elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. That duration is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing the members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-seventh session (New York, 8-11 March 2016), and were adopted by the Council in its decision 2016/220. The Bureau has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed provisional programme of work and timetable for the session is also before the Commission. The Commission

is invited to adopt the agenda and provisional programme of work and timetable for its forty-eighth session.

#### *Documentation*

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.3/2017/1](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session ([E/CN.3/2017/L.1](#))

### **3. Items for discussion and decision**

#### **(a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on the ongoing work for the implementation of the global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its report, the Group describes the activities it has undertaken, pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 47/101. The report contains a proposal for refinements to a select group of indicators, a proposed schedule for revisions of the indicator framework and a mechanism for moving indicators from one tier to another. The Commission will also have before it a background document containing the workplans for indicators classified as tier III by the Group.

Points for discussion include: (a) the list of refinements to select indicators; (b) the proposed plans and schedule for reviewing the indicator framework; (c) the proposed mechanism for moving indicators from one tier classification to another; and (d) the programme of work of the Group for the following year.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its report, the Group provides details on the global action plan for sustainable development data. It also describes the preparations for the first United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15 to 18 January 2017. The Commission will additionally have before it two background documents, on the global action plan for sustainable development data and on the outcome of the United Nations World Data Forum. Items for discussion include the proposed revisions to the Group's terms of reference; the global action plan for sustainable development data; and the programme of work of the Group for 2017.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the report, the work on establishing a global database and a metadata repository for the global indicators and on supporting countries in the implementation of the indicators at the national level is described. An assessment of data availability with respect to reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is also presented in the report, and the preparation of the annual report on the Sustainable Development Goals is described. The Commission is invited to take note of the

work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([E/CN.3/2017/2](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.3/2017/3](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2017/4](#))

**(b) Transformative agenda for official statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the transformative agenda for official statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report will provide information on a series of regional conferences held in 2015 and 2016 and the status of the drafting of regional action plans that complement the global action plan for sustainable development data. The strategic areas and key actions of regional action plans will be included in a background document. The implementation, in an internationally collaborative way, of the actions of the transformative agenda for official statistics at the national, regional and global levels will also be addressed in the report of the Secretary-General. The Commission is invited to express its views on the future course of action to promote the transformation and modernization of official statistics.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on the transformative agenda for official statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/5](#))

**(c) Regional statistical development**

In the report of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on statistical development in Europe, major statistical activities in the ECE region that may be of interest to the global statistical community are introduced. In the report, work undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians on emerging topics in statistics is described, including on the measurement of value of official statistics, guidance on common elements of statistical legislation to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks of official statistics, and measurement of human capital and poverty. The main achievements of the Economic Commission for Europe High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics are described. ECE also describes progress in regional statistical work in response to the internationally agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Statistical Commission is invited to comment on the work undertaken in the ECE region and identify synergies and opportunities for the exchange of experience across regions.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Europe on statistical development in Europe ([E/CN.3/2017/6](#))

**(d) Big data for official statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. Over the past three years, the Global Working Group has identified many promising public and private big data initiatives at the national and regional levels that are aimed at making data, services and applications accessible and accelerating their synergies for research and capacity-building. The report contains a proposal for a global platform that brings all of those initiatives together at the global level. The platform will provide scale and scalability for data, services, applications and infrastructure for the use of big data and its integration with administrative sources, geospatial information and traditional survey and census data. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposal for a global platform and on the progress and recommendations made by the Global Working Group.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/7](#))

**(e) Quality assurance in the global statistical system**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on quality assurance in the global statistical system. In his report, the Secretary-General considers the adequacy of the generic national quality assurance framework as a tool for quality assurance for an entire national statistical system in the light of the implementation of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and the emergence of new data providers and data sources. He examines the relationship between national and international quality assurance frameworks as well as the relationship of quality assurance frameworks with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and related guidance on best practices. The report also contains the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks for the following two years. The Commission is invited to comment on the report and endorse the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on quality assurance in the global statistical system ([E/CN.3/2017/8](#))

**(f) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In his report, the Secretary-General makes reference to the work done in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles, in 2014, and suggests the establishment of a “friends of the Chair” group that will conduct the following work

in preparation for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles, in 2019: prepare and conduct the next round of the implementation survey; look into whether various print and online material that support the implementation of the Fundamental Principles need to be updated; and revisit the question as to whether and how the Fundamental Principles can be applied to the private sector. The Commission is invited to approve the establishment of a “friends of the Chair” group and provide guidance for the Group’s work.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/9](#))

**(g) Integration of statistical and geospatial information**

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on its recent activities. In its report, the Expert Group provides information on the global consultation on the global statistical geospatial framework and the subsequent adoption of the framework’s five guiding principles by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its sixth session, convened in August 2016. The framework will be submitted to the Commission as a background document. The Commission is invited to note the development of the framework, endorse the five guiding principles of the framework and provide comments on the Expert Group’s progress on the consolidation and implementation of the framework.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2017/10](#))

**(h) Social statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics, in which the recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division in this area is described. In his report, the Secretary-General: (a) describes the work to finalize the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS, contained in a background document); (b) presents the United Nations methodological guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective (also contained in a background document); and (c) highlights the major outcomes of the sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics. He also provides an update on the minimum set of gender indicators and on the work carried out on disability statistics. Lastly, the Secretary-General describes the ongoing work and future priorities of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to strengthen gender data in support of the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, as part of the global programme on gender statistics.

The Commission is invited to endorse the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics and the plan to update the relevant implementation guidelines and assist countries in using ICATUS for their time use statistics. The Commission is also invited to comment on the draft United Nations methodological

guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on social statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/11](#))

**(i) Statistics on drugs and drug use**

The Commission will have before it the joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve the quality and availability of drug statistics. In the report, reference is made to the main challenges to the collection, production and dissemination of drug statistics at the national and international levels and a number of activities are proposed that are aimed at addressing existing methodological challenges on the measurement of the use and supply of drugs and their socioeconomic impact, improving the capacity of countries to produce drug data and coordination at the national level and enhancing international coordination on statistical activities related to illicit drug data.

The Commission is requested to review and consider the approval of the proposed road map and provide guidance on its implementation.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve drug statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/12](#))

**(j) National accounts**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report provides information on issues emerging from the implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA), in particular, the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, progress with the research agenda on practical issues of implementation of the 2008 SNA and an update on the finalization of publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA. It also contains the programme of work of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level and an update on the international coordination of regional and global data collection and data exchange activities. The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Working Group.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts ([E/CN.3/2017/13](#))

**(k) Environmental-economic accounting**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. In its report, the Committee of Experts sets

out its programme of work in the medium term, until 2020, which is organized according to the following six areas of work: (a) coordination and promotion; (b) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research: the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework; (c) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research: SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (d) development of databases; (e) implementation and statistical capacity-building; and (f) formulation of a statistical response on emerging policy issues. The Committee of Experts also discusses the organization of its work, with members of the Bureau of the Committee taking the lead in advancing the areas of work of the Committee. The Commission is invited to provide its views on the progress of work of the Committee and its programme and organization of work.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting ([E/CN.3/2017/14](#))

**(l) International Comparison Programme**

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (ICP). In its report, the World Bank outlines the activities of ICP following Commission decision 47/107, pursuant to which the Commission instituted ICP as a permanent element of the global statistical work programme. It describes the efforts undertaken at the global and regional levels to complete interim activities, prepare for the ICP comparison cycle beginning in 2017 and transform ICP into a permanent programme. The governance, technical, capacity-building and advocacy activities carried out in this regard are described in the report. The Commission is invited to review the progress made to date and the establishment of the ICP governance framework and its bodies.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme ([E/CN.3/2017/15](#))

**(m) Business registers**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers summarizing recent developments of the Group. In its report, the Wiesbaden Group also proposes to develop international guidelines on statistical business registers, building on the 2015 ECE publication entitled “Guidelines on statistical business registers”, and by taking into account the circumstances of developing countries through review and global consultation. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposal for the international guidelines and on the progress made by the Wiesbaden Group, including its updated terms of reference.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers ([E/CN.3/2017/16](#))

**(n) Tourism statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which describes the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism to support more integrated measurement and policy in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework complements the existing statistical standards on tourism statistics and bridges the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable tourism through the linking of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and SEEA. This work is led by a working group under the auspices of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account and with the support of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The Commission is invited to express its views on the progress achieved and to comment on the proposals for a compilation guide for TSA, a technical note on SEEA-Tourism and measurement at the subnational level.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/17](#))

**(o) Statistics for economies based on natural resources**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources. The report provides a summary of the operations of the Ulaanbaatar Group since its previous report and information on the Group's programme of work. The Ulaanbaatar Group will also provide a draft of the handbook it has prepared on statistics for economies based on natural resources in a background document. The Commission is invited to comment on the programme of work and adopt the draft handbook.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources ([E/CN.3/2017/18](#))

**4. Items for information**

The items below are presented to the Commission for information. Limited time will be allocated for interventions under the item.

**(a) Demographic statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General presenting activities carried out by the Statistics Division in the area of demographic statistics. It provides an annual summary of the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, with a focus on the development of the methodological guidelines for the management of population and housing censuses and the preparation of guidelines on the use of contemporary technologies for the forthcoming round of population and housing censuses. It also provides information on activities related to the promotion of the revised set of international statistical standards for civil registration and vital statistics, and the ongoing work on the development of a handbook focusing on the operations and

management of civil registration and vital statistics systems. It also provides information on the collection of demographic statistics through the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires and activities relating to capacity-building in the area of international migration statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/19](#))

**(b) Household surveys**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. The report provides information on the establishment of the Working Group's governance mechanism. It also provides information on the programme of activities initiated and to be undertaken by the Working Group to foster the coordination and harmonization of household survey activities. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress made.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys ([E/CN.3/2017/20](#))

**(c) Health statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the World Health Organization outlining current work on health statistics in relation to global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and the other health-related Goals, the International Classification of Diseases and its normative work. The report also includes an update on the work on strengthening country health information systems, including the Health Data Collaborative. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/21](#))

**(d) Education statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics. The report will provide information on recent developments in international education statistics, in particular in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The work undertaken to develop a thematic indicator framework for education to complement the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 4 in the global indicator framework will be described in the report. The report will also provide information on survey results on country readiness to meet the demand for more and better quality education data. New data initiatives and inter-agency groups that will advance measurement of the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 4 by developing new methodologies, diagnosing the quality of

existing data and supporting national statistical systems in education will also be described. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/22](#))

**(e) Price statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The report provides an overview of the main developments in the area of price statistics since the previous report of the Working Group to the Commission, at its forty-fourth session, in 2013. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/23](#))

**(f) Short-term economic statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic statistics. In his report, the Secretary-General describes the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on short-term economic statistics endorsed by the Commission at its forty-second session and the initiatives undertaken by the regional commissions to improve the capacity to compile short-term economic statistics in their respective regions. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/24](#))

**(g) Finance statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics. The report provides information on progress made by the Task Force since its report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session, in 2015, on external debt statistics and public sector debt statistics related to methodological work, data availability and capacity-building. The report includes the future programme of work of the Task Force. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/25](#))

**(h) International trade and economic globalization statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics. The Expert Group was created in 2015 with the task of preparing a handbook on a system of extended national accounts and integrated business statistics. In the handbook, the measurement of interconnectedness of economies is dealt with by properly accounting for global value chains while maintaining the perspective of the national statistical system. The report provides information on progress made in the preparation of the handbook. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/26](#))

**(i) Agricultural and rural statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics. The report includes: (a) a report of the Global Strategy Steering Committee highlighting the key activities undertaken to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics; (b) a report summarizing the work undertaken to date by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics; and (c) a report of FAO on the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics ([E/CN.3/2017/27](#))

**(j) Coordination of statistical programmes**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which summarizes the work undertaken by the Committee in 2016, including the main conclusions of its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions. The main topics addressed in the report include statistical support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the work of the Committee on the value and costs of international statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the first report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System. The report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee since its establishment by the Commission in 2014, in particular, the Committee's terms of reference, its support for the 2030 Agenda, the adoption of a United Nations quality assurance framework for statistics and the Committee's work in the area of the principles governing international statistical activities. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities ([E/CN.3/2017/28](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System ([E/CN.3/2017/29](#))

**(k) Statistical capacity-building**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building, which provides an overview of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division in support of countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical capacity to better respond to the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also provides information on the new forms of collaborative efforts for synchronizing initiatives and leveraging partnerships and coordination in the area of statistical capacity-building. It also includes information on the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the recently concluded evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthen national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, a report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank on recent initiatives to draw attention to the importance of strengthening statistical capacity, especially in the context of supporting the 2030 Agenda. In its report, the Partnership highlights progress in statistical capacity-building and addresses emerging topics likely to affect national statistical systems, such as the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the data revolution. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building ([E/CN.3/2017/30](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank on statistical capacity-building ([E/CN.3/2017/31](#))

**(l) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata**

The Commission will have before it the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) sponsors on SDMX, which summarizes the achievements and planned activities of and recent developments relating to the initiative in areas such as macroeconomic statistics, international merchandise trade statistics, the Sustainable Development Goals and others. An overview of capacity development plans in the area of the exchange and sharing of data and metadata is also included. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata ([E/CN.3/2017/32](#))

**(m) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council**

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken to date by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division and those suggested to be taken in response to the decisions and mandates of the parent bodies. The Commission may wish to take those actions into account in its discussions under relevant agenda items. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission ([E/CN.3/2017/33](#))

**5. Programme questions (Statistics Division)**

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

**6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission**

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2017-2021. The Commission is invited to approve the dates, provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-ninth session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme of work.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2017/L.2](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2017-2021 ([E/CN.3/2017/34](#))

**7. Report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session**

The Commission will have before it the procedural report of the forty-eighth session of the Commission covering organizational matters relating to the Commission's

work. The Commission will also have before it an informal paper containing the draft decisions submitted by the Rapporteur.

The Commission is invited to adopt the draft report on its forty-eighth session, which will include the draft decisions and will be submitted to the Council, and to entrust the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

*Documentation*

Draft report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session

Informal paper with draft decisions

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