

DECISIONS

(text subject to editing)

Decision 1: Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda (Item 3a)

3 (a) (i): Broader measures of progress

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed its appreciation to the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress (FOC) for its comprehensive report and productive work done in a very short time. Commended the pro-active support that the FOC has been providing to the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 development agenda;
- (b) Welcomed the two background documents on the results of the survey on broader measures of progress and data availability, which provide important insights into national practises of measuring progress and the availability of data to measure the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda;
- (c) Endorsed the proposed roadmap for the development and implementation of an indicator framework and in particular its suggested timetable aiming at an endorsement of the indicator framework at the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2016. The Commission stressed that the development of a robust and high-quality indicator framework is a technical process which requires time and needs to be conducted in stages, including the possibility of future refinements as knowledge evolves;
- (d) Emphasized that, given the possibility of measurement and capacity constraints of member states, the global indicator framework should only contain a limited number of indicators; strike a

balance between reducing the number of indicators and policy relevance; build on the experiences of the MDGs; and take into account conceptual indicator frameworks that have already been developed;

(e) Expressed its concern regarding the presentation of the preliminary results of an initial assessment of a possible list of indicators for the upcoming meeting of the intergovernmental negotiation in March 2015 and stressed that this is to be considered only a preliminary proposal and that such list should not preclude in any way the addition, deletion or changes to the listed indicators based on subsequent detailed technical discussions;

(f) Asked the Bureau of the Commission, with support of the FOC, to finalize in a transparent process the technical materials to be submitted to the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations in March 2015 based on the preliminary results of the assessment survey and all preparatory technical work of the FOC;

(g) Endorsed the formation of the Inter-agency and expert group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) and:

(i) requested the Commission to oversee a review of its proposed terms of reference based on the discussion at the session;

(ii) emphasized that national statistical offices are to play the leading role in the development of the indicator framework to ensure national ownership and agreed that the IAEG-SDG should include national statistical offices, and as observers the regional, international organizations and agencies. These agencies, responsible for global reporting on the MDGs, will also provide important technical advice and support.

(iii) requested that existing regional mechanisms should be used to ensure equitable regional representation and technical expertise;

(iv) asked that the conclusions of the Expert Group Meeting on an indicator framework held on 25 and 26 February 2015 be taken into account by the IAEG-SDG;

(v) requested the group to work in an open and transparent manner.

- (h) Supported the formation of a new high-level group (HLG) to provide strategic leadership for the SDG implementation process. Such group should consist of national statistical offices, and regional and international organizations as observers operating under the auspices of the Statistical Commission. The HLG is to promote that the post-2015 monitoring system is nationally owned and to foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination for post-2015 monitoring. It requested that the detailed terms of reference be consulted with member states and approved by the Bureau of the Commission;
- (i) Endorsed the work programme of the FOC group on broader measures of progress which is expected to provide its final report to the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2016. It took note that the FOC group will not duplicate the work of the IAEG-SDG and of the HLG;
- (j) Stressed the urgent need for investments to enhance national statistical capacity, especially in developing and least developed countries, to measure progress towards the post-2015 development agenda at national, regional and global levels, and enable national statistical offices to play a leading and co-ordinating role in this process;
- (k) Requested that, in the future, in reports prepared for the consideration by the Commission due attention be given to the wording of proposed decisions to be taken by the Commission so as to ensure its independent position.

3 (a) (ii): Emerging issue: the data revolution

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Took note of the report and the recommendations by the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development as contained in the report “A world that counts” and Annex III of the Secretary-General’s report on Emerging Issues;
- (b) Welcomed the invitation by the Secretary-General to establish a comprehensive programme of work under its auspices;

- (c) Recognized the challenges posed by the new monitoring requirements for the SDGs and recommended that new investments be made to increase statistical capacity, including for data collection, and in particular for countries in special situations as the Small Islands Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and the fragile states;
- (d) Stressed that a key element of the data revolution is making quality data available to all;
- (e) Recognized that the data revolution presents new opportunities for National Statistical Offices; proper governance mechanisms will be needed to engage with new stakeholders and for the use of new data sources;
- (f) Stressed that National Statistical Offices will have to play a strong coordinating role; including validating data coming from new data sources outside the official statistical system to ensure that they all comply with the Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics;
- (g) Stressed the need for data quality and accountability frameworks for the utilization of new data sources and for UNSD to provide guidance on how to develop and implement them;
- (h) Proposed to establish mechanisms to increase and facilitate access to innovation and technology;
- (i) Stressed that the implementation of the data revolution might take different forms depending on the priorities and the state of development of the countries and that in that context, the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics will need to be upgraded to include the elements of the data revolution that are relevant to national priorities;
- (j) Acknowledged that managing the data revolution will require new skills from official statisticians and recommended that the conclusions of the High Level Forum on Partnership for Capacity in the context of the Data Revolution, held on 2 March 2015, be taken into consideration;
- (k) Recognized that a World Forum on Sustainable Development Data would be a suitable platform for intensifying cooperation with various professional groups such as IT, geospatial information managers and data scientists, users as well as with civil society stakeholders.

3 (a) (iii): Big data

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Appreciated the report of the Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics and congratulated the group for its work accomplished so far;
- (b) Congratulated and thanked China for organizing a very successful international conference on Big Data for Official Statistics in October 2014, as well as for successfully hosting the first meeting of the GWG;
- (c) Agreed with the Terms of Reference and mandate of the GWG as described in the annex of the report, as well as with the division of the work into various task teams, while requesting the GWG to pay special attention to issues such as:
 - (i) Sharing experiences of lessons learned from Big Data projects;
 - (ii) Quality concerns related to the use of Big Data for official statistics;
 - (iii) Coordination of the work of the GWG with the work undertaken at the regional level, especially in Europe, in order to build on achievements and re-purpose and re-use outputs;
 - (iv) Existing technology gap of developing countries, and need for funding for developing countries to be able to take part in the Big Data projects;
 - (v) Legal frameworks for access to Big Data sources, especially from the private sector, while addressing privacy concerns;
 - (vi) Skills, human resources and capacity building needed to address Big Data adequately, especially with relation to Data Science and IT;
 - (vii) Show and explain the limitations of Big Data for official statistics;
 - (viii) Building partnerships is necessary to exploit and harness Big Data, especially with private sector, research institutes and academia;

- (d) Requested the GWG to look into the use of other Big Data sources in addition to mobile phone data, social media data and satellite imagery, such as transaction data through e-commerce, and also to look into the trans-boundary aspects and associated challenges of the Big Data sources;
- (e) Stressed that Big Data should be seen as part of secondary data sources, and that in that respect the use of administrative data source should receive due attention as well;
- (f) Supported the proposals of the GWG to conduct a global survey on Big Data projects, and supported as well the pilot Big Data projects conducted under the umbrella of the GWG, while encouraging and welcoming participation of interested countries or institutes with the purpose of sharing experiences and building capacity.

3 (a) (iv): Transformative agenda for official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report on the outcome of the Global Conference on the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics;
- (b) Supported the conclusions of the Global Conference focussing on the modernization of statistical systems, taking into account but not limited to the following thematic areas: i) coordination of the global statistical system; ii) communication and advocacy; iii) data collection, processing and dissemination through integrated statistical systems; iv) innovative methods, tools and IT infrastructure, including standards based production architecture; and v) training and capacity building;
- (c) Recognised the need for modernizing and strengthening the global, regional and national statistical systems, irrespective of the level of statistical development, in order to respond more effectively and efficiently to the new policy requirements;
- (d) Suggested that the modernization of the statistical production process requires a new architecture for data collection, processing and dissemination through a standard-based production process and adoption of an integrated statistics approach away from the traditional stove-piped approach;

- (e) Welcomed the valuable contribution by the UNECE High-level Group on the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services to establish standards for supporting the modernization programme at the global level, the offer to share the experiences and outputs of the Group, and agreed that the High-level Group reports progress on its work to the Commission;
- (f) Recognised the need for strengthening the coordination of statistical capacity building activities on technical and managerial issues by the global, regional and country level taking into consideration the financial, human and technological requirements. These requirements are to be articulated and brought forward to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which will be held in July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- (g) Recognized the need for strengthening the coordination of work streams between the global and regional level and requested the Bureau of the Commission, with the support of the Secretariat, to conduct a mapping of the existing coordination mechanisms and work streams with a view to identifying those areas that require priority action for a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics and to submit proposals for consideration by the Commission at its next session.

Decision 2: Population and housing censuses (Item 3b)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on Population and Housing Censuses, which assessed the implementation of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme by countries and addressed achievements and challenges that countries faced;
- (b) Acknowledged that for the 2010 census round, many countries have conducted a census successfully and innovatively, in terms of the use of alternative census methods and modern technologies;
- (c) Noted with appreciation the countries that provided bilateral support to others in conducting censuses, including through South-South collaboration, especially in terms of training, exchange of

national experience and sharing of census equipment, and expects this trend to continue in the 2020 census round;

(d) Underscored the critical importance of population and housing census for the post-2015 development agenda, in particular, as a valuable source of data for SDG monitoring;

(e) Endorsed the draft resolution on the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme and its submission to the Economic and Social Council for adoption;

(f) Recognized with appreciation the timely work of the international expert group in preparing the 3rd revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses;

(g) Welcomed and adopted the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3 and encouraged countries to begin its implementation keeping in mind the importance of setting quality standards for the conduct of the census;

(h) Recognized that countries may face technical and financial constraints and require support, including in the utilization of advanced technologies and administrative data sources in the 2020 census round;

(i) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international and regional organizations to enhance their technical assistance to national statistical offices, especially in early stages of planning, in order to strengthen national capacity for carrying out the 2020 round of Population and Housing Censuses;

(j) Endorsed the programme of work as contained in the Secretary-General's report and requested the Statistics Division to take a leading role in setting up:

(i) a microdata repository, in sufficient consultation with Member States, and addressing privacy and other technical concerns; and reckoning with existing regional repositories;

- (ii) a web-based forum for countries to exchange experiences and knowledge in census taking.

Decision 3: Crime statistics (Item 3c)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed its appreciation for the work done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and their partners, and endorsed the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) as an international statistical standard;
- (b) Recognized the ICCS as an International Standard for data collection, both from administrative records and survey generated data, and as an analytical tool to elicit unique information on crime drivers and factors;
- (c) Confirmed UNODC as the custodian of the ICCS and agreed with the creation of a technical advisory group to provide substantive advice to and support the maintenance of the ICCS;
- (d) Endorsed the outlined implementation plan for the classification at national, regional and international levels. Recognized that time and adequate resources in countries are needed for the implementation of the ICCS, and encouraged countries to undertake steps for a gradual implementation of the classification. It also requested UNODC to include an assessment of national capacities in the proposed implementation plan;
- (e) Welcomed the progress made on the activities established in the Roadmap to improve crime statistics at the national and international levels as discussed and adopted by the Commission at its forty-fourth session in 2013, and reconfirmed the roadmap;
- (f) Encouraged Member States and international organizations to sustain their efforts and strengthen their statistical systems on crime and criminal justice, to include crime statistics in their

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, and to provide support to the activities laid out for 2015-2020 in the report;

- (g) Encouraged Member States to adopt the new international standards and best practices in crime statistics to support the data demands for monitoring SDGs in the areas of violence and justice;
- (h) Appealed to Member States and donors to provide the necessary resources to allow for the successful implementation of the ICCS and other activities outlined in the roadmap.

Decision 4: Refugee statistics (Item 3d)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of Statistics Norway and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons which was considered for the first time at the Commission as an independent discussion item;
- (b) Acknowledged the growing concern about the lack of harmonization in definitions, classifications, and methods of data collection on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons;
- (c) Supported the proposal to organize an international conference on refugee statistics, which would bring together international organizations, experts from national statistical offices and the research community working in this area, to explore how best to incorporate the compilation of statistics on these populations into national statistical systems and to develop a set of recommendations for improving these statistics;
- (d) Welcomed the offer of, and expressed its appreciation to, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) to host, in collaboration with Eurostat and others, the proposed international conference on refugees statistics in 2015;
- (e) Noted the need for a handbook on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons as a practical guide for the collection, analysis and dissemination of these statistics, which takes into consideration existing methods and initiatives;

- (f) Took note of the need for further research and analysis of the identification and protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and their impact on host societies;
- (g) Underscored the need to enhance cooperation between national statistical offices, other concerned national agencies and international organizations actively working in the domain of refugees and internally displaced persons;
- (h) Urged international organizations to provide technical assistance and facilitate exchange of national experience with a view to enhancing the capacity of countries to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons;
- (i) Requested the organizers of the international conference to report back to the forty-seventh session of the Commission on the outcome of the conference and on the next steps to improve statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons.

Decision 5: Household surveys (Item 3e)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and thanked the World Bank and partners for introducing the topic of household surveys to the Statistics Commission after a long time;
- (b) Acknowledged that household surveys have served as a major source of data for development planning and policy decisions, and that the data demand from household surveys would further grow in light of monitoring progress on the post-2015 development agenda;
- (c) Noted with concern that changes and improvements are needed in the timing, content, quality, funding, national capacity building and coordination of the household surveys, for them to be effective for monitoring the SDGs;
- (d) Endorsed the establishment of an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), under the aegis of the United Nations Statistics Division, in order to foster coordination and harmonization of household survey activities;

- (e) Requested the development of the Terms of Reference of the Group under the guidance of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission, using the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Account as a model, and present it at the 47th session of the Commission;
- (f) Urged that the work of the Working Group take into account the good practices of countries already available, but also the financial and technical constraints faced by countries in undertaking household surveys;
- (g) Noted that many international institutions which are active in the area of household surveys as well as several National Statistical Offices have expressed their interest to participate in the Working Group or the Task Teams that will be established under the Group;
- (h) Supported, as a priority, the piloting of international guidelines for household surveys by a Task Team of the Group, stressing the needs to give due consideration to existing codes of practice at the national and regional levels;
- (i) Supported the proposal of conducting a study on priorities for research on cross-cutting methodological issues, including the issues of disaggregation, and the integration of different types of surveys and other data sources;
- (j) Requested the Working Group to report back on this item to the Statistical Commission.

Decision 6: National accounts (Item 3f)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Working Group over the past year;
- (b) Endorsed the programme of work of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;
- (c) Expressed its appreciation for the guidance provided on issues emerging from the implementation of the 2008 SNA and urged the Working Group to continue to give priority to practical guidance on issues that would facilitate the implementation of the SNA;

- (d) Noted that a number of conceptual issues have emerged that extend beyond the 2008 SNA which may take a long time to resolve and requested the Working Group to set priorities for addressing the issues on the SNA research agenda and to report on the progress with resolving these issues to the Commission;
- (e) Appreciated the completion of a number of manuals, handbooks and guidelines that facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, urged the Working Group to expedite the development of the newly proposed handbooks and guidelines, including the handbook on Backcasting, as well as those in progress and requested that these materials be made available in all the United Nations official languages;
- (f) Appreciated the activities undertaken by the Working Group members, regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA;
- (g) Acknowledged the important role of Member States providing capacity building support to other Member States for the strengthening of SNA implementation and supporting statistics, pledged for a governance at the international level in providing capacity building as it is the case for the ICP, and requested the international and regional organizations to step up their capacity building activities;
- (h) Welcomed the progress with implementing the 2008 SNA, expressed concern at the relatively low compliance to the minimum required data set as well as a large number of Member States with outdated benchmark years and urged Member States to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts data that are policy relevant and fit for purpose and, in this context, focus and prioritize the efforts on the implementation of the SNA in terms of scope, detail and quality;
- (i) Noted the progress with implementing the SDMX data transmission mechanism and sharing of national accounts data between international organizations and urged Member States to implement the SDMX technology to facilitate data transmission and significantly reduce the response burden of Member States submitting data to international organizations.

Decision 7: International trade and economic globalization statistics (Item 3g)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Appreciated the report on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization and congratulated the Friends of the Chair group for its work accomplished;
- (b) Agreed with the proposal of the FOC group to draft a handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts as the measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization, while:
 - (i) building on work accomplished on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization by others, including the work undertaken under auspices of the Eurostat, OECD and UNECE;
 - (ii) addressing the use of micro-data related to businesses, including administrative data, and their links to international trade data, as well as the issue of sharing micro- data among countries, including legal frameworks and potential problems of data confidentiality;
 - (iii) addressing the integration of economic, environmental and social dimensions of trade and globalization extending on the SNA and SEEA; and
 - (iv) taking into account the different levels of sophistication of national statistical systems and the need to attain an adequate balance between user needs and the work and costs related to these statistics;
- (c) Endorsed the establishment of an expert group tasked with the development of the handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts; proposed that this group be a continuation of the FOC group with the option for other countries to join, while balancing the geographical representation ; and requested that the terms of reference of the expert group is established with a clear mandate, timetable and list of deliverables, so that appropriate momentum of the work of the group would be maintained;

(d) Further agreed with the proposed programme of work for the measurement of international trade and globalization, namely:

(i) promoting and advancing the creation of a global enterprise group register, building on and taking into account lessons learned from the ongoing EuroGroups Register project;

(ii) improving the measurement of firm heterogeneity based on alternative aggregations of micro-data and by further developing a classification of business functions, while cautioning against any change in the ISIC classification;

(iii) addressing asymmetries in bilateral trade and foreign direct investment while building on work already undertaken in several countries and coordinating this effort with work already being done by the OECD;

(iv) mainstreaming the development of recurrent global supply-use and input-output tables as undertaken by the OECD in collaboration with other regional and international organizations, with the aim of increasing the coverage of the OECD-WTO database on trade in value-added;

(e) Agreed with the proposal to establish an Inter-secretariat working group for international trade and economic globalization statistics with the request to develop a mandate that includes:

(i) the coordination of work undertaken by the various international and regional organizations in this field, while ensuring proper co-operation regarding work programs and activities worldwide, taking account of existing work and reducing duplication;

(ii) the promotion of the development of databases at international, regional and national level for international trade and economic globalization statistics; and

(iii) the coordination and promotion of capacity building activities to improve these statistics at micro-level for the better calculation of statistics at the macro-level.

Decision 8: Environmental-economic accounting (Item 3h)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting in advocating the importance of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) and advancing its implementation;
- (b) Requested the Committee of Experts to closely collaborate with relevant groups to advocate and promote that the SEEA is properly reflected in the formulation of the sustainable development goals indicators, as well as follow up discussions related to the measurement of these indicators and building capacity in countries to develop SEEA-based indicators;
- (c) Urged the Committee of Experts to advocate and promote scaling up its implementation programme exercising strong leadership in developing a concrete and well-resourced programme to support countries in implementing the SEEA, with a clear timeline of objectives and deliverables;
- (d) Noted the importance of formulating a common national plan to implement the SEEA at the country level and urged international and regional organizations to align their in-country work programmes to create synergies in the implementation and use of environmental accounting and supporting statistics, with particular consideration of challenges experienced in SEEA implementation by developing countries;
- (e) Requested international and regional agencies to develop a joint programme of work including the development of internationally agreed materials supporting the implementation of the SEEA including guidance documents and training and communication materials, building on the strength of each agency and with clear definition of agencies' roles and responsibilities to avoid duplication efforts, and develop partnerships with relevant groups to strengthen the use of the SEEA towards harmonization of basic data and integration of non-traditional data sources which can support monitoring of the SDGs;
- (f) As part of the effort to scale up the implementation programme, urged the Committee of Experts to further expand the training of trainers programmes based on a flexible and modular approach with due consideration to national priorities and technical capacities;

- (g) Appreciated the progress made in the drafting of the SEEA Technical Notes and Core Tables for the SEEA Central Framework, noting their usefulness in supporting a scheduled approach for the compilation of SEEA based accounts and derivation of SEEA based SDG indicators, and recommended that countries test the proposed Core Tables in view of the creation of an SEEA global database;
- (h) Welcomed progress made in testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and requested the Committee of Experts to continue its work in advancing the testing and research agenda including the development of guidance documents and training materials with the objective of strengthening the capacity of the national statistics systems;
- (i) Welcomed the completion of the first draft of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries noting its contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, recommended its finalization and encouraged to follow a similar approach towards developing other sectoral SEEA sub-systems, and urged the expedient finalization and release of SEEA-Energy;
- (j) Agreed that the Committee shares with the Commission the information related to the questions on: (i) how many indicators have actually been produced and published or otherwise disseminated using the SEEA; and (ii) to which of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets is the SEEA relevant.

Decision 9: International Comparison Programme (Item 3i)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Took note of the first part of the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the evaluation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme; and expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the Global Office, the Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Group in the ICP 2011 round;

- (b) Welcomed the FOC report's initial findings of the ICP 2011 round demonstrating an increased country participation, improvements in PPP methodology, increased transparency and documentation, streamlined quality assessment processes, and improved outreach to increase the uses of PPP; and stressed that ICP should become a permanent element of the global statistical programme with ICP rounds be held on a more frequent basis;
- (c) Supported the way forward by the FOC group, leading to the final FOC report to be presented to the 47th session of the Commission in 2016; in the process the FOC should continue to function in an open and transparent manner;
- (d) Welcomed recommendations to be formulated regarding methodology, capacity building and funding, which will inform on the possibility to shorten intervals between future ICP rounds;
- (e) Suggested combining the recommendations of part I and part II in a combined and full set of recommendations in the final FOC report with a view to transform the ICP exercise into a revolving and more frequent exercise - which takes into account users' needs and national statistical capacity as recommended by the Commission at its session of 2014;
- (f) Encouraged countries, regional and international organizations not to lose momentum and envisage a next ICP round by 2017;
- (g) Took note of the draft recommendation included in the first part of the FOC report and considered that:
 - (i) in determining the appropriate number of members participating in the Executive Board of the ICP, a balance should be found between efficiency and representations of stakeholders and, at the same time, assuring transparency in the decision making process; to this end, the Executive Board is encouraged to consider, when appropriate, holding meetings in extended format, inviting other NSOs to attend their meetings that are not members of the Executive

Board; and also to consider the participation, upon invitation, of the user community to attend their meeting in extended format;

(ii) in determining the membership of the Technical Advisory Group considerations should be made on a purely professional basis, while taking into account the methodological and data challenges of and expertise from national statistical systems at different levels of development;

(iii) in developing ICP methodology, as proposed in paragraph 88 of part I of the FOC report, considerations should be given to the complexity in methodology encountered in the ICP 2011 round and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(h) Welcomed the initiative of the World Bank to support regional partners with financial and technical assistance to ensure the country and regional capacity built during the 2011 round of the ICP are not lost. Moreover, it welcomed the initiative of the World Bank to maintain the ICP team at the Bank in order to preserve the institutional memory and ensure continuity for the prospective implementation of the 2017 round. .

Decision 10: Agriculture and rural statistics (Item 3j)

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated the Global Steering Committee on the excellent work done, took note with appreciation of the significant progress made in implementing all key components of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and endorsed the proposed priorities and the way forward;

(b) Recognized the achievements in accelerating the production of cost-effective methodologies, handbooks and guidelines and appreciated the efforts of the regional implementing partners in providing the technical assistance and training needed by countries to respond to national, regional and international data demands;

- (c) Expressed its strong support for the efforts made by the Global Strategy in ensuring a better coordination of international initiatives in the field of capacity development for agricultural statistics;
- (d) Urged countries and development partners to further support the implementation of the Global Strategy and mobilize the resources needed for achieving the main objectives of the first phase of the programme until 2017 in developing countries;
- (e) Asked the Global Strategy to provide support to short and long-term sustainable training that are provided to countries by the regional statistical training centres and support countries in raising financial resources required to undertake the necessary data collection activities;
- (f) Welcomed the establishment of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on food security, agriculture and rural statistics (IAEG) as an essential forum for the development of international statistical standards in these domains;
- (g) Expressed its support for the work done by the IAEG on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics, commended the efforts to prepare guidelines on the improvement of food consumption data in household budget surveys and requested to provide guidelines and training on the measurement of food security;
- (h) Appreciated the progress made by FAO in preparing the new guidelines for the 2020 World Census of Agriculture in consultation with national and international experts and recommended to strengthen the integration with the Population and Housing Census and the coordination between the Ministries of Agriculture and the National Statistical Offices in its implementation;
- (i) Encouraged FAO to finalize the guidelines for the 2020 World Census of Agriculture and the companion Handbook for implementation as planned, and invited all countries to participate in the Global consultation of Volume 1.

Decision 11: Governance, peace and security statistics (Item 3k)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Congratulated Cabo Verde to its excellent report on governance, peace and security statistics which was prepared with assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and commended in particular the extensive outreach activities undertaken in preparation of this report;
- (b) Endorsed the creation of the Praia City Group on governance statistics which aims to encourage countries to produce governance statistics that are based on sound and documented methodologies and endorsed the proposed terms of reference;
- (c) Welcomed and took note of the broad interest to participate in this city group; Thanked UNDP for its technical and financial support;
- (d) Requested the group to take into account existing and earlier efforts and challenges in the area of governance, peace and security statistics and coordinate its work with relevant groups;
- (e) Requested Cabo Verde to submit a report to the Commission at its 47th session in 2016 for consideration and discussion.

Decision 12: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Item 3I)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Called on all organizations to reference the Principles of the Fundamental Official Statistics when reporting non-compliance in the context of their own frameworks to the extent possible;
- (b) Welcomed the work done by the FOC Group to incorporate the proposals and examples of good practices provided by countries to enrich the draft of the implementation guidelines and invited countries to update their country profiles and best practices on the UNSD website;
- (c) Asked the UN Statistics Division to provide technical assistance to countries for the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- (d) Asked the UN Statistics Division to report back to the Commission in 2017 on the progress of work in this field in the context of the preparation for the twenty-fifth anniversary, in 2019, of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles;

- (e) Took note of the fact that a similar set of principles exists for international, regional and supranational organizations, the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities;
- (f) Agreed with the need of continued monitoring of the implementation of the Principles at the national, regional and global levels (the latter in intervals no larger than five years) using various tools, such as self-assessment or peer review, as appropriate; co-ordinating such monitoring as much as possible with similar activities by regional and supranational organizations;
- (g) Thanked the Friends of the Chair Group for their excellent work since 2011 and noted that the work of this Friends of Chair Group is concluded.

Decision 13: Regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Item 3m)

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on statistical development in the region and in particular its thematic orientation, advocating for a prominent role for statistics in the post-2015 development agenda;
- (b) Stressed the importance of high-quality statistics as an important tool for monitoring and accountability of the post-2015 development agenda, and noted, in this context, the recognition by many countries of the need for increased resources for statistical development;
- (c) Noted the coordination and consultation issues raised by some representatives of the countries of the Caribbean Community and asked ECLAC to further enhance its efforts towards greater regional cooperation. Noted the concerns expressed about the report's neglect of the work undertaken by CARICOM countries and asked ECLAC to include this information in the report.

Decision 14: Information items (3c, 3i, 4a – 4q):

The Commission took note of the following reports:

Joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime statistics
 Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme
 Report of the World Health Organization on health statistics
 Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics
 Report of the Secretary-General on civil registration and vital statistics

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers
Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics
Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics
Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics
Report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources
Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day
Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical programmes in the United Nations system
Report of the United Nations Development Programme on the statistics of human development
Report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications
Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors
Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building
Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century on statistical capacity-building
Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals
Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
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

Annex: Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005, in which it requested the Secretary-General to implement the 2010 World Population and Housing Census and urged Member States to carry out population and housing censuses at least once during the period from 2005 to 2014, as well as its earlier resolutions endorsing previous decennial programmes,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to carry out population and housing censuses as part of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the activities of the United Nations and other agencies in support of national efforts in that regard,

Noting efforts made by countries in the 2010 census round to reduce costs, improve the quality and timeliness of census operations and the wide dissemination of their census results through the use of new methodologies and contemporary technologies in the different phases of the census operation,

Recognizing the increasing importance of integrating the population and housing censuses with other types of censuses, civil registration and vital statistics and other statistical activities, such as the census of agriculture, census of establishments and administrative data sets,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses for meeting the data needs of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,¹ the Millennium Summit, held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000,² the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996,³ the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,⁴ the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,⁵ and the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,⁶ and to other regional and national meetings,

Stressing that population and housing censuses for a country as a whole and for each administrative area therein are one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at inclusive socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability,

Stressing also that population and housing censuses are designed to generate valuable statistics and indicators for assessing the situation of various special population groups, such as women, children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and stateless persons and changes therein,

1. Endorses the 2020 World Population and Housing Censuses Programme, which comprises a number of activities aimed at ensuring that Member States conduct a population and housing census during the period from 2015 to 2024;

2. Urges Member States to conduct at least one population and housing census under the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, taking into account international and regional

recommendations relating to population and housing censuses and giving particular attention to advance planning, cost efficiency, coverage, the timely dissemination of and easy access to census results for national stakeholders, the United Nations and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations to inform decisions and facilitate the effective implementation of development plan and programmes;

3. Underscores the need for countries to set quality standards for the conduct and evaluation of population and housing censuses in order to uphold the integrity, reliability, accuracy and value of the population and housing census results, taking into full account the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme for sustainable development planning, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and calls for full-fledged support for the Programme;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare international statistical standards, methods and guidelines to facilitate activities for the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to ensure coordination of activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States in the implementation of the Programme and to monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012 (A/CONF.216/16 and Corr.1).*

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

⁵ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).