

**2022 session**

Agenda item 18 (c)

Economic and environmental questions: statistics**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council
on 8 June 2022***[on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission (E/2022/24)]***2022/3. Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is
adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem***The Economic and Social Council,*

Recognizing the importance of quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics and data to measure progress towards and in supporting sustainable development and development goals of the United Nations and its Member States and ensure that no one is left behind, and as a basis for rapid and data-driven decision-making,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/261 of 29 January 2014, in which the Assembly endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and stressed that, in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly adopted the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ and stressed that all activities of the global statistical system must be conducted in full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 of 24 July 2006;

Recalling further its resolution 2006/6, in which the Council called upon the United Nations system, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the regional commissions and international agencies, to support national efforts in building, developing and strengthening national statistical capacities, in particular of developing countries,

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.



Recalling its resolution 2020/5 of 18 June 2020, in which the Council called for strengthening the coordination of statistical programmes of the various organs and agencies in the United Nations system, and identified the Statistical Commission as the primary body for the coordination of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind the evolution of the statistical and data system, the increased digitalization in every domain of life for which statistics and data are produced and the constant innovation of statistical activities, the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and the necessity for statistical offices and national statistical systems to modernize, allowing them to provide high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable, disaggregated, open and interoperable statistics and data, drawing from both traditional and new data sources and fully utilizing geospatial information systems,

Noting the expanding role of national statistical offices in the changing data landscape, where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national data systems,

Noting also the importance of data privacy, data security, data protection and the ethical use of statistics and data, as well as the need to balance data use, transparency and accessibility with confidentiality and the protection of data collected for statistical purposes, as enablers of trust in statistics and data,

Noting further the necessity to reduce the reporting burden on Member States and support international comparability, adherence to high quality standards, and national ownership of data,

Reaffirming its resolution 8 (I) of 16 February 1946 concerning the establishment of the Statistical Commission, as amended by resolution 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, and its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971, which indicated that the Commission shall assist the Council:

- (a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability,
- (b) In the coordination of the statistical work of the specialized agencies,
- (c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat,
- (d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information,
- (e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally,

1. *Reaffirms* the Statistical Commission as the primary body for the coordination of the global statistical programmes in general and of the United Nations statistical and data-related system;

2. *Recognizes* the achievements of the Statistical Commission, and supports its current and future work, in promoting the development of the national and international statistical and data systems by means of adopting international statistical standards and the frameworks for monitoring social, economic and environmental progress;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations statistical and data-related system to report on work on statistics and data within all domains to the Statistical Commission, to enable the Commission to fulfil its function as the primary body responsible for the management of statistical information and governance of statistics and data;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the regional economic commissions of the United Nations system and

other relevant programmes of the Secretariat to observe and uphold the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;²

5. *Emphasizes* the importance for Member States to build resilient, agile, relevant, responsive and robust statistical and data systems adhering to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that fully integrate geospatial information and to seek improved coordination across national statistical and data systems through an expanded role of the national statistical offices in the changing data landscape, where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national statistical and data systems;

6. *Also emphasizes* the need for technological innovations to systematically modernize statistical offices and national statistical and data systems in response to the wide range of statistical and data sources, including, for example, administrative records, geospatial information, privately held data, and other data sets generated through new tools that can be integrated, after quality assurance, to produce statistics;

7. *Further emphasizes* the need to promote practices for the generation of information aligned with principles that ensure coherence, comparability, including comparability across time and space, data privacy and confidentiality, while balancing privacy, protection of information collected for statistical purposes with data use, transparency and accessibility;

8. *Recognizes* the importance for national statistical and data systems to build partnerships with other actors of the statistical and data system and other relevant actors outside of the official national data system and to integrate statistical and geospatial information to capture granular data to effectively leave no one behind;

9. *Considers* that the ultimate goal of the work of the Statistical Commission and that of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations regional commissions in this respect should be the achievement of an integrated statistical and data system in the compilation, adhering to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Council resolution 2006/6, and effective presentation, visualization and dissemination of international statistics and data by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising progress towards sustainable development, particularly in the context of major United Nations development agendas, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the regional commissions of the United Nations system and other relevant programmes of the Secretariat to continue to cooperate fully with the Statistical Commission in their efforts to carry out the tasks listed in paragraph 9 above and to regard them as being of central importance in coordinating their work programmes, especially long-term programmes, and to work in new directions;

11. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the digital, technological and innovative capacities of the United Nations statistical system and of national statistical and data systems to address the needs and potential of the evolving statistical and data system;

12. *Requests* the Statistical Commission, with the support of the Statistics Division as its secretariat, to play the role as the apex forum for discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices on statistics and data across all domains, to develop and maintain international statistical standards and norms, tools and methodologies, to support and bolster the development of sustainable national statistical systems, to develop and build the capacity of national systems, to advocate

² General Assembly resolution 68/261.

for the professional community of official statistics, and to ensure continued innovations to adapt to the changing statistical and data system;

13. *Requests* the United Nations development system to support developing countries in strengthening their statistical and data systems adherent to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as the basis for their development plans and the evaluation of their economic, social and environmental progress.

*20th plenary meeting
8 June 2022*
