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**Items for information: ageing-related statistics
and age-disaggregated data**

Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data, which is submitted to the Commission for information.

* [E/CN.3/2024/1](#).



Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data

I. Introduction

1. The present report introduces the purpose and overall objectives of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data. It provides a progress update on the work of the Group since March 2022, including the technical meeting held in 2023. It also presents a summary of the Group's five-year review and planned activities for 2024. Finally, the report gives an update on the work of the steering group and the road map for the completion of the Group's current projects.

2. The Titchfield Group was created at the forty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission, held from 6 to 9 March 2018 (see decision [49/118](#)). The purpose and overall objective of the Titchfield Group are to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying gaps with regard to and developing international guidance and methods for producing data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data across the life course. It also contributes to the measurement, analysis and reporting objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030). That work is carried out in collaboration with United Nations bodies, national statistical offices and other organizations concerned with aspects of ageing-related and age-disaggregated statistics. The Group promotes the global dissemination of good practices and facilitates collaboration.

3. During the fifty-third session of the Statistical Commission, in 2022, the Titchfield Group provided an update on its progress. That included a summary of technical meetings, planned activities and the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on its work, as well as a revised road map, by which the timeline of the Group was extended, so as to conclude in 2025.

II. Progress since March 2022

4. For most of the period under review, the Titchfield Group followed the timetable of deliverables published in 2022 by holding face-to-face technical sessions, team task meetings and electronic discussion forums on specific work strands, as well as through representation and information-sharing at ageing-related conferences and proceedings.

5. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt the progress of the Titchfield Group, with members and resources diverted to local matters. The impact is reflected herein.

6. A summary of the events and technical meetings held since March 2022 is set out below:

(a) In March 2023, AARP and the United Nations hosted a briefing on the topic of "Better data, better lives for older persons", which focused on highlighting older persons and creating political momentum for action on and the delivery of age-disaggregated data:

(i) The Titchfield Group was represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(ii) Keynote remarks on the importance of data in illuminating the experiences of an ageing population were delivered by the National Statistician of the United Kingdom;

(b) In August 2023, the Titchfield Group met for a webinar prior to a technical meeting; the objectives of the technical meeting were presented at the webinar in order to maximize productivity;

(c) In September 2023, a technical meeting was organized in Geneva, co-hosted by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Population Unit:

(i) The technical meeting had two objectives; first, to review progress under each work strand, debate key questions, including recommendations for gaps, and plan the route to delivery; and second, to review the Group's current and future progress on data, collaboration, horizon scanning and the ratification of the Group's future requirements;

(ii) Presentations were given on progress under the three primary work strands as well as on draft publications. The Group assessed the scope of the work in relation to current global requirements for age-disaggregated and ageing-related data across the life course. Other relevant groups were acknowledged and a way forward was agreed;

(iii) Other work carried out by members of the Titchfield Group was discussed, with members of the Standing Working Group on Ageing introducing their work on the ECE project on data for evidence-based policymaking in relation to ageing. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs gave an update on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Focal Point on Ageing, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) showcased work on the demographic resilience programme. A think piece on defining and measuring older age, commissioned by the Department, was presented. The paper compared traditional measures of biological older age with the social and personal aspects of ageing;

(iv) Country case studies on censuses and the dissemination of statistics on older populations were presented, with examples from Ghana, and England and Wales. The Group was joined by members of the Task Force on Population and Housing Censuses, who welcomed the Titchfield Group's recommended requirements for future censuses on older populations;

(v) The Group conducted a horizon scanning activity. Participants discussed how the world had changed since the Group's inception, how those changes affected the need for ageing-related data and how that was reflected in the Group's products. There was a recognition that data collection on older persons through surveys had improved;

(vi) A presentation was given on the substantive work of the Titchfield Group over the previous five years, as well as its methods of work. Gaps were analysed and proposals for the way forward were agreed.

III. A five-year review of the Titchfield Group

7. The Titchfield Group completed a gap analysis in 2023, which identified the current state of work, the potential or desired state and the gap between the two.

8. The basis for determining the desired state was the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data (E/CN.3/2018/19), delivered at the forty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission, in 2018.

9. The desired states were indexed under the following themes:

- (a) Stakeholder engagement and collaboration;
- (b) Assessments;

- (c) Data;
- (d) Concepts and definitions;
- (e) Methods;
- (f) Products;
- (g) Operations.

10. A subgroup of the steering group was formed in 2023. In a series of virtual workshops, the subgroup reviewed the desired states and made recommendations on how to progress the work.

11. All resulting gaps were reviewed at the technical meeting held in 2023, with final proposals for the way forward agreed. The gap analysis report can be found at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/citygroups/Titchfield.cshtml>.

IV. Planned activities and publications for 2024

12. The Titchfield Group is committed to promoting its work, particularly to international ageing and statistics communities. The work includes collaborating on projects and publications, as well as additional items identified during the five-year review and approved by the steering group as important contributions to the achievement of Titchfield Group objectives.

13. Work for 2024 includes:

(a) Publishing a report entitled “Making older persons visible in the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework and indicators”, highlighting the efforts of national statistical offices to ensure that information on older persons is included and disaggregated in priority national and global policy areas. That work is being jointly led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ghana Statistical Service, with the participation of all steering group members. The report will lay out the conceptual and analytical framework, present priority Sustainable Development Goal indicators that are relevant for older people and include case studies from at least 20 national statistical offices on how different Sustainable Development Goal indicators have included disaggregated data on older persons. The aim is to release that report during the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission in 2024;

(b) Publishing a report on the analysis of ageing-related statistics and the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework. This project falls under the Titchfield Group work strand on data gap analysis for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals using policy priorities and indicators for ageing and older persons. The resulting evidence gaps feed into the recommendations from the harmonization work strand on addressing issues. The scope includes mapping policy priorities to the relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and analysis of country case studies. The report will make recommendations to improve data collection on and the reporting of such indicators, proposing a list to be disaggregated by age. It will include recommendations designed to make definitions and data sources more harmonized and standardized. This project falls under the Titchfield Group work strand on producing guidelines to improve the harmonization of age-disaggregated data in order to enhance consistency in the tracking of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and comparability within and between countries. The recommendations will be specific to ageing-related data and build upon existing guidance on statistics as a whole. The scope covers commentary on alternative definitions of ageing and will include ex-ante and ex-post harmonization.

14. Updates on the work of the Titchfield Group and global updates on ageing statistics are disseminated through a quarterly newsletter. Blog posts are published on the Group's website¹ and members of the Group use a United Nations Statistics wiki.

V. Composition of and action by the steering group

15. The steering group comprises national statistical institutions, international organizations and advisory organizations. The current members are:

(a) The following national statistical institutions: Ghana, Mexico, South Africa and the United Kingdom (Chair and secretariat);

(b) The following international organizations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNFPA and WHO;

(c) Advisory organizations: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (United Kingdom), HelpAge International and individuals and organizations from academia.

16. The steering group considered the products of the work strands in the light of progress made at the technical meeting in 2023, the horizon scanning activity and the conclusion of the gap analysis review of the first five years of the Titchfield Group.

17. The steering group recognized the interconnectivity of the work strands. For consistency and coherence, the products will now consist of two reports:

(a) "Making older persons visible in the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework and indicators", comprising the following chapters:

(i) Overview of Member State commitments to ageing and older persons;

(ii) Priority population-based Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(iii) Case studies from 20 national statistical offices, each illustrating a different Sustainable Development Goal indicator;

(iv) Lessons learned by national statistical offices on ways to improve the collection, analysis and reporting of disaggregated data on older people;

(b) "Assessment and impact of data availability and data disaggregation for the priority population-based Sustainable Development Goal indicators", comprising the following chapters:

(i) Source types and availability of data disaggregated by age across all Sustainable Development Goal indicators – a review of 13 countries;

(ii) Assessment of gaps and differences between countries – harmonization and comparability challenges;

(iii) Analysis and lessons learned by national statistical offices on source types and availability of data;

(iv) Harmonization and standardization recommendations;

(v) Beyond the Sustainable Development Goals – examining a conceptual and analytical framework, building on work to date;

(vi) Recommendations for future work.

¹ Available at <https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/government-statistical-service-and-statistician-group/user-facing-pages/ageing-statistics/>.

18. The steering group reviewed the gap analysis of the first five years of the Titchfield Group and members are satisfied that sufficient progress is being made towards the work strand objectives as set out below, provided that gaps are addressed:

(a) Assessment of current evidence and identification of gaps: the steering group acknowledged the work on data gap analysis for Sustainable Development Goal implementation using policy priorities and indicators for ageing and older persons. Participants at the technical meeting highlighted a number of gaps to be addressed in 2024, including with reference to the analysis of country positions and examples of best practice;

(b) Conceptual and analytical framework for comprehensive information on older adults: the steering group acknowledged that the work on making older persons visible in the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework and indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals only. The challenges associated with ageing were broader than those indicators alone. The group proposed to increase the range of ageing-related indicators included in the report due to be published in 2024;

(c) Standardization and harmonization guidelines:

(i) The steering group acknowledged the work to date. Having assessed the work completed and feedback from the workshop at the technical meeting in Geneva in 2023, the steering group proposed to build on the materials available globally;

(ii) The steering group ratified the decision to use the data collected under the work strand on assessing current evidence and identifying gaps as a basis on which to provide guidance on the barriers faced by older persons and on harmonization. A review will also be carried out under this work strand to assess which Sustainable Development Goals can be harmonized and the associated challenges. There will also be guidance on the harmonization of alternative measures of ageing.

19. The steering group reviewed the gap analysis with regard to the following work strands and agreed that the objectives have been met either under the current work strands or through other agencies. The steering group ratified the decision to consider the following work strands complete:

(a) Horizon scanning/future needs of data users;

(b) Age disaggregation and ageing-related statistics for the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework;

(c) Sharing information on good practices; development of a platform for sharing information;

20. The steering group reviewed the road map, taking into consideration the effect of members' local priorities on the work of the Titchfield Group. The agreed schedule is set out in the annex to the present report.

VI. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

21. **The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.**

Annex

Road map

<i>Making older persons visible in the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework and indicators</i>	<i>October–December 2023</i>	<i>January–March 2024</i>
Final case study responses from national statistical offices	X	
Approval by all entities of final draft, including logos	X	
Executive summary – translation into five languages		X
Production approval (World Health Organization)		X
Launch during annual session of the Statistical Commission		X

<i>Analysis of data using policy priorities and Sustainable Development Goal indicators</i>	<i>January–March 2024</i>	<i>April–June 2024</i>	<i>July–September 2024</i>
Completion of data gap analysis	X		
Country case studies identified and collected from national statistical offices	X		
Completion of draft chapters		X	
Final draft approval from all entities		X	
Executive summary – translation into five languages			X
Production approval (steering group)			X
Launch			X