



**United Nations**

# **Statistical Commission**

**Report on the fifty-sixth session  
(4–7 March 2025)**

**Economic and Social Council  
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Supplement No. 4**





# **Statistical Commission**

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(4–7 March 2025)**



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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

## Contents

*Chapter*

*Page*

I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	
A.	Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council . . . . .	
	System of National Accounts 2025	
	2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme	
B.	Draft decision for adoption by the Council . . . . .	
	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty- sixth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission. . . . .	
C.	Decisions brought to the attention of the Council . . . . .	
	56/101. National accounts. . . . .	
	56/102. Population and housing censuses. . . . .	
	56/103. Working methods of the Statistical Commission. . . . .	
	56/104. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics . . . . .	
	56/105. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development . . . . .	
	56/106. Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	
	56/107. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development . . . . .	
	56/108. Social and demographic statistics. . . . .	
	56/109. Migration statistics . . . . .	
	56/110. Work and employment statistics . . . . .	
	56/111. Economic statistics	
	56/112. Environmental-economic accounting. . . . .	
	56/113. Business and trade statistics . . . . .	
	56/114. Price statistics	
	56/115. Crime and criminal justice statistics . . . . .	
	56/116. Food security and nutrition . . . . .	
	56/117. International statistical classifications . . . . .	
	56/118. Household surveys	
	56/119. Data science	
	56/120. National Quality Assurance Frameworks . . . . .	
	56/121. Regional statistical development . . . . .	

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	56/122.	World Statistics Day .....	
	56/123	Education statistics.....	
	56/124	Environment and climate change statistics	
	56/125.	Programme questions .....	
	56/126.	Information items .....	
II.		Items for discussion and decision .....	
	A.	National accounts.....	
	B.	Population and housing censuses.....	
	C.	Working methods of the Statistical Commission.....	
	D.	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics .....	
	E.	Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.....	
	F.	Social and demographic statistics.....	
	G.	Migration statistics .....	
	H.	Work and employment statistics .....	
	I.	Economic statistics.....	
	J.	Environmental-economic accounting .....	
	K.	Business and trade statistics .....	
	L.	Price statistics.....	
	M.	Crime and criminal justice statistics .....	
	N.	Food security and nutrition.....	
	O.	International statistical classifications.....	
	P.	Household surveys.....	
	Q.	Data science.....	
	R.	National quality assurance frameworks.....	
	S.	Regional statistical development.....	
	T.	World Statistics Day.....	
III.		Items for decision .....	
	A.	Education statistics .....	
	B.	Environment and climate change statistics .....	
IV.		Items for information .....	
V.		Programme questions (Statistics Division).....	
VI.		Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission .....	
VII.		Report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session .....	
VIII.		Organization of the session .....	
	A.	Opening and duration of the session .....	
	B.	Attendance .....	

- 
- C. Election of officers . . . . .
  - D. Agenda and organization of work . . . . .
  - E. Documentation . . . . .

## Chapter I

### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

#### **A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council**

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

- Draft resolution I: “System of National Accounts 2025” ([E/CN.3/2025/L.4/Rev.1](#)); and
- Draft resolution II: “2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme” ([E/CN.3/2025/L.5](#)).

#### **B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council**

2. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

#### **Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission**

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-sixth session;
- (b) Decides that the fifty-seventh session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2026;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, as set out below:

#### **Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Demographic and social statistics:
  - (a) Demographic statistics;
  - (b) Gender statistics;
  - (c) Disability statistics;
  - (d) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data;
  - (e) Refugee statistics;
  - (f) Health statistics;

- (g) Cultural statistics;
- (h) Social statistics;
- 4. Economic statistics:
  - (a) National accounts;
  - (b) Environmental-economic accounting;
  - (c) Service statistics;
  - (d) Agricultural and rural statistics;
  - (e) Business and trade statistics;
  - (f) International Comparison Programme;
- 5. Natural resource and environment statistics:
  - (a) Disaster-related statistics.
- 6. Governance statistics:
  - (a) Governance, peace and security statistics;
  - (b) Statistics of drugs and drug use;
- 7. Cross-cutting domains:
  - (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (b) Information and communications technology statistics;
  - (c) Data governance;
  - (d) Well-being measurement;
- 8. Statistical infrastructure and methodology:
  - (a) Presentation of statistical data and metadata;
  - (b) Business registers;
  - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
  - (d) Population and housing censuses;
  - (e) Data science;
  - (f) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
  - (g) Open data;
  - (h) International statistical classification;
- 9. Management and modernization of statistical systems:
  - (a) Data stewardship;
  - (b) Coordination of statistical activities;
  - (c) Statistical capacity development;
  - (d) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
  - (e) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;
- 10. Specific items of the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division:
  - (a) Dissemination of statistics through the Statistics Division and its publications;

- (b) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
  - (c) World Statistics Day;
  - (d) Regional statistical development;
11. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
  12. Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.
  13. Report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session.

### **C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council**

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

#### **56/101**

##### **National accounts**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Strongly expressed its appreciation for all those involved in the development of the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA), especially the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG), and the editorial team, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2025 of the ISWGNA and the AEG;
- (b) Adopted the 2025 SNA as the updated international statistical standard for national accounts statistics;
- (c) Commended the close collaboration between the two teams responsible for the updates of SNA and Balance of Payments Manual (BPM) to ensure full alignment between the SNA and BPM recommendations to the best extent possible;
- (d) Welcomed the development of guidance on the recommendations related to measuring data as an asset, natural resources and the net return to capital for non-market production;
- (e) Endorsed the implementation strategy for the 2025 SNA;
- (f) Noted the concerns of some Member States regarding resource constraints in implementing the 2025 SNA and requested the ISWGNA to provide annual implementation progress reports to the Commission; also encouraged Member States to take ownership of developing strategies, including the mobilization of national resources, to facilitate the implementation of the 2025 SNA;
- (g) Stressed the importance of continuing to develop implementation guidance on the new recommendations, stressed the need to further test the compilation guidance to ensure the reliability and worldwide comparability of national accounts, and welcomed the development of a compilers' hub to that end;
- (h) Emphasized the need for capacity building and funding for Member States with limited resources to facilitate the implementation of the 2025 SNA in an internationally comparable and coordinated way;
- (i) Expressed its appreciation to international organizations and Member States for providing technical support on national accounts data and supporting statistics;
- (j) Requested the timely translation of the 2025 SNA into the official United Nations languages and noted the willingness of some Member States to support this effort;

(k) Encouraged the continued reporting and evaluation of the availability and scope of official national accounts data reported by Members States and noted the importance of quality data, including the availability of quarterly national accounts data.

(l) Recognized the decisions made to date and the high-quality work which has led to the decisions. Emphasised the need for a user focused approach to the development of the SNA research agenda, including through a mechanism of meaningful consultations.

(m) Requested a member state-led review of the mandate and the terms of reference of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, in tandem with the implementation. This will ensure their continued relevance in guiding the SNA update process in an inclusive and transparent manner. Such review to report back to the Commission by 2027.

## 56/102

### Population and housing censuses

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Appreciated the activities carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners in support of the 2020 census Programme;

(b) Acknowledged the efforts of Member States in conducting the 2020 census round, incorporating significant methodological and technological innovations, particularly by adopting digital technologies, georeferencing, and the use of administrative data;

(c) Underscored the critical importance of population and housing censuses as an essential source of data for the national statistical system, and for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring.

(d) Endorsed the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 4*, commended the expert group who oversaw and contributed to their preparation, and encouraged countries to begin implementation;

(e) Recognized that countries may face technical and financial challenges in the 2030 census round; and requested the development of guidelines, including on census modernization, and the provision of technical assistance to that end;

(f) Approved the programme of work as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

(g) Recognized the importance of calculating internationally comparable time series data on the total number of households;

(h) Further recognized the connection between population and housing censuses and agricultural censuses, and encouraged countries to consider this relationship when planning their censuses.

## 56/103

### Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and background document “Implementing the 2022 Terms of Reference and remaining relevant in the United Nations system” prepared by the Bureau, appreciated the active engagement of the Bureau to strengthen its outreach and exchanges with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, especially on topics where expertise

and competences potentially overlap;

- (b) Supported the Bureau in further exploring the fulfilment of resolution 2022/3 regarding the broadened mandate of the Commission, while preserving the technical nature of the Commission;
- (c) Approved the proposed framework for review, assessment and reporting on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of Economic and Social Council resolution 2024/2, recognizing the framework as a tool in ensuring accountability and measurable progress;
- (d) Supported the establishment of a working group of the Commission on data governance, focusing on data governance within official statistics while also considering the Commission's broader mandate as the apex forum for discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices on statistics and data of the UN system; and requested the development of the working group's Terms of Reference, specifying its scope of work and deliverables based on the Commission's technical expertise while avoiding overlap with other mechanisms, and requested the group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;
- (e) Was informed of various initiatives to promote AI-readiness of official statistics, such as the World Bank's paper, and invited the Bureau to consider how to bring the topic into the discussions at the Commission in 2026;
- (f) Was informed of the forthcoming UNCTAD's Guidelines for measuring productive capacities, and invited the Bureau in this context to consider how to address the topic in discussions at the Commission.

#### **56/104**

#### **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed appreciation to the Bureau and the Statistics Division for the transparent and inclusive consultation process in revising the terms of reference of the Consultative Advisory Board;
- (b) Welcomed renaming the Board to the "Consultative Advisory Board on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics," emphasizing its advisory and non-prescriptive nature while maintaining confidentiality and respecting each country's governance frameworks;
- (c) Endorsed the revised terms of reference, subject to agreement on the following:
  - Replacing the phrase "addressing instances of non-adherence" with "providing guidance to strengthen adherence," thereby emphasizing a supportive approach,
  - Amending section III C, paragraph 8(b) to allow an extra two months for the Bureau to finalize the selection of the Board's members, and
  - Enhancing clarity in a few selected instances
- (d) Requested the Bureau of the Commission to initiate the selection process for members of the Consultative Advisory Board for appointment by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session in 2026;
- (e) Welcomed the two sets of draft implementation guidelines, supported further consultations with Member States and stakeholders to ensure their final refinement, and encouraged their translation into the official languages of the United Nations;

- (f) Took note of the Board's role in overseeing the regular review of the guidelines to keep them relevant in a rapidly changing data landscape.

#### **56/105**

#### **Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Commended the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for its ongoing work in conducting regular methodological reviews, improving and implementing the global indicator framework;
- (b) Appreciated the open, inclusive and transparent process conducted for the 2025 comprehensive review, and adopted the proposed major changes and minor refinements as presented in Annexes I and II to the report of the Group;
- (c) Appreciated the Group's review of indicators with low or no data coverage and the global efforts to address data gaps, and agreed on adopting a practical approach to future indicator development;
- (d) Supported the establishment of the task team on lessons learned to inform future development frameworks;
- (e) Appreciated the Group's ongoing efforts in compiling and showcasing good practices and resources for monitoring the SDGs and invited more countries and partners to contribute;
- (f) Appreciated its work on data disaggregation, on geospatial information and on the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange, and stressed the need for continued support for countries to build capacity in these areas;
- (g) Encouraged the Group to continue its collaboration with custodian agencies and partners on the implementation and capacity building of the indicator framework and work on data innovation, data integration and the use of non-traditional data, such as small area estimation, geospatial information, and citizen data;
- (h) Approved the proposed work programme of the Group as described in Section V of its report.

#### **56/106**

#### **Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed its gratitude to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building, the Government of Colombia and the programme committee for organizing the United Nations World Data Forum 2024, and endorsed the launch of the Medellín Framework for Action on Data for Sustainable Development, renewing the commitment to the Cape Town Global Action Plan;
- (b) Welcomed the Group's work on championing financing and capacity development needs for national data and statistical systems, in particular raising awareness among those negotiating the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4);

(c) Agreed with the updated Terms of Reference to enhance the Group's strategic decision-making role by clarifying its responsibilities and better aligning them to the new Medellín Framework;

(d) Agreed with the Group's work programme, and asked the Group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on its evaluation of the United Nations World Data Forum as a global gathering for advancing data and statistics among the widest stakeholder base and the preparations for the sixth Forum planned for 9 – 12 November 2026 in Saudi Arabia.

#### **56/107**

#### **Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the work of the Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations system, in support of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, the regular update of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database, the modernization of the UNData portal and the work on data and metadata exchange;

(b) Appreciated the Data for Now initiative to strengthen capacity on data innovation to enhance the production and dissemination of data, and supported the establishment of a Data for Now trust fund, encouraged the inclusion of additional countries and welcomed the “Data for SIDS” project for small island developing States;

(c) Appreciated the work of the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, welcomed the provision of practical guidelines, courses and tools;

(d) Welcomed the efforts and achievements of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training;

(e) Appreciated the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians as an effective mechanism for the professional community for information exchange and networking among statisticians around the world;

(f) Welcomed the work on citizen data by the Statistics Division and the Collaborative on Citizen Data, and endorsed the revised “Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data” and its implementation road map; requested to provide guidance on the evolving connection between citizen data and official statistics; requested the Bureau to consider how to bring the topic into discussions at the Commission.

#### **56/108**

#### **Social and demographic statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the Friends of the Chair Group for advancing research on a conceptual framework and integrated data system for social and demographic statistics;

(b) Took note of and welcomed the Member States that expressed interest in joining and contributing to the Group's work;

- (c) Recognized the importance of the Group's work, in collaboration with partners including the Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement and the NES, for monitoring well-being, going beyond GDP;
- (d) Approved the 2025 work programme as contained in the Group's report, particularly the development of strategic recommendations and further research on a conceptual framework, while emphasizing the need to consider innovative approaches as well as country contexts, available resources, and implementation capacity;
- (e) Requested the Group to submit its final report to the Commission at its 57th session in 2026.

#### **56/109**

##### **Migration statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Endorsed the revised **Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility**, and highlighted the benefits of integrating migration data systems into broader population data systems;
- (b) Welcomed the alignment of the revised Recommendations with other international statistical frameworks relevant to migration;
- (c) Recognized the diversity of migration data systems, of data capacity, and the challenges countries may face in producing migration data;
- (d) Highlighted the crucial role of capacity building and sharing lessons learnt to advance the implementation of the Recommendations; and called for the mobilization of resources to support these efforts;
- (e) Emphasized the importance of collaboration between NSOs, data sharing within countries and bilateral data exchange between countries to further strengthen and harmonize statistics on migration and migrants;
- (f) Approved the programme of work as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;
- (g) Welcomed the organization of the 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics in June 2025, hosted by Sweden, to discuss the challenges in gathering and using migration data, as well as related solutions and successful practices.

#### **56/110**

##### **Work and employment statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Acknowledged the important outcomes from the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), including the adoption of four resolutions, notably on statistics on the informal economy;

(b) Appreciated the progress made by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in supporting the implementation of statistical standards through capacity building, methodological guidance, and technical assistance; and requested ILO to continue these efforts, including for the latest International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18) and the standards on the informal economy, noting that implementation will take time;

(c) Welcomed the establishment of technical working groups to develop or update statistical standards, including on digital platform work, labour migration, care work and the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08).

## **56/111**

### **Economic statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

(i) Commended the Network for (i) organizing the data strategy sprint, housing sprint, and artificial intelligence and data science for economic statistics sprint and (ii) establishing the expert group on well-being measurement (EGWM);

(j) Commended the Network for preparing primers on data strategy and on an international housing statistics framework, which will serve as resources for statistical agencies undertaking work in these two areas;

(k) Welcomed the progress of the work of the EGWM and its six task teams in preparing briefing notes, relevant to the Secretary General's high-level expert group;

(l) Endorsed the recommendation for the EGWM to directly report on the progress of its work annually to the Commission starting from 2026;

(m) Endorsed, the terms of reference of the EGWM, subject to the updating of paragraph 18 to reflect the decision of the Commission regarding the reporting of the group, and removing paragraph 19;

(n) Requested the EGWM to collaborate and coordinate with the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, the Network, the national accounts community, and relevant international and regional organizations when developing the framework for inclusive and sustainable well-being;

(g) Approved the work programme of the Network for 2025, covering, in particular, the sprints on measuring net zero initiatives and their impact, and the compilation of sub-national economic statistics.

## **56/112**

### **Environmental-economic accounting**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the work of the Committee and endorsed the list of issues and the update process for the SEEA Central Framework, which includes broad consultation, strong communication and user engagement, and coordination with the updates of other statistical standards to foster greater consistency;

(b) Appreciated the financial support by Eurostat and IMF and in-kind support by countries and international organizations, and encouraged continued support during the update process;

(c) Approved the updated mandate and governance of the Committee;

- (d) Welcomed and further encouraged the work on mainstreaming the SEEA in Beyond GDP, circular economy, biodiversity, sustainable tourism, climate change, disaster statistics, and the G20 Data Gaps Initiative;
- (e) Appreciated the work of the Committee related to the monitoring framework of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and encouraged the development of practical guidance for the SEEA-related indicators to support national efforts;
- (f) Noted the progress in developing global databases for the SEEA priority areas and welcomed the plan to re-evaluate these areas for the next five years;
- (g) Welcomed the SEEA implementation in countries and the revitalization of the SEEA focal point network; encouraged the Committee to continue its efforts to coordinate capacity building activities on the SEEA during the update process, also in support of the 2025 SNA implementation;
- (h) Welcomed the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting and encouraged the group to continue supporting the Committee to update the SEEA Central Framework.

### **56/113**

#### **Business and trade statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Appreciated the work carried out by the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and its task teams including in strengthening coordination with inter-agency working groups;
- (b) Endorsed the handbook on integrating business and trade statistics as the international recommendation for integrating business statistics with international trade statistics on goods and services; welcomed its implementation strategy and stressed the importance of capacity development to support Member States. Further requested exploring the inclusion of informal and household trade;
- (c) Noted the expected updates for the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) 2026 and the Manual on Statistics on International Trade in Services (MSITS) 2026;
- (d) Appreciated the progress in the drafting of the second volume of the Manual on Principal Indicators for Business and Trade Statistics;
- (e) Requested the Committee to prepare a concrete proposal for a Handbook on Business Statistics, including the need for concerted efforts, dedicated resources and prioritization of developing such handbook, and to report back on this at the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission in 2026;
- (f) Supported the strategic road map for the global initiative on unique identifiers for businesses noting the need to consider the cost implications;
- (g) Welcomed the development of a centralized global public repository for business and trade statistics and trade data tools;
- (h) Requested technical assistance to Member States for the compilation of business and trade statistics.

**56/114**

**Price statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Appreciated the activities undertaken by the Group related to advancing the international standards and methodologies for price statistics, facilitating collaborative activities aimed at improving data quality and methodological consistency, technical assistance to countries and the international collection of price data; and endorsed the Group's work programme;
- (b) Requested the Group consider country-specific circumstances when developing compilation guidance;
- (c) Endorsed the updated terms of reference of the Group.

**56/115.**

**Crime and criminal justice statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Endorsed the *International Classification for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons (IC-TIP)* as the international statistical classification for the production of administrative statistics on trafficking in persons, acknowledging its potential to harmonize data collection, and enhance international comparability;
- (b) Appointed UNODC and IOM as the custodians of the classification and endorsed their plan to facilitate its implementation, including capacity-building initiatives, technical guidance and assistance, and dissemination efforts;
- (c) Encouraged regional organizations to partner with UNODC and IOM in developing regional programmes for the implementation of the classification, emphasizing the importance of cross-border collaboration in addressing transnational trafficking networks;
- (d) Took note of the challenges national institutions may face in adopting the classification and called for mobilizing financial and technical resources to support its successful implementation.

**56/116**

**Food security and nutrition**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Noted the progress made in establishing a stand-alone food security and nutrition (FSN) data domain in the classification of statistical activities (CSA) version 2.0; and reiterated the importance of this initiative to develop harmonized definitions, methodologies and standards for FSN data;
- (b) Supported the establishment of a dedicated expert group on food security and nutrition data and statistics under the umbrella of the Statistical Commission, and its terms of reference, and noted countries' interest in joining this group;
- (c) Endorsed the proposed amendment to the name and the terms of reference of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
- (d) Noted the progress made on the development of a guidance note, encouraged Members to participate in its consultation process, acknowledged other recent initiatives in this area; and

emphasized the need for capacity building and financial support to ensure their implementation.

#### **56/117**

##### **International statistical classifications**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Commended the progress made by the Committee and its task teams on advancing international statistical classifications;
- (b) Endorsed the explanatory notes and introduction to version 3.0 of the Central Product Classification (CPC Ver. 3.0);
- (c) Encouraged the Committee to develop correspondences and supplementary materials to support the implementation of CPC Ver. 3.0 by Member States; requested the translation of CPC Ver. 3.0 into all UN official languages;
- (d) Recommended the submission of the revised Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) to the Commission at its next session in 2026;
- (e) Appreciated the progress on the revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government;
- (f) Endorsed the International Classification for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons (IC-TIP), as the international statistical classification for the production of administrative statistics on trafficking in persons;
- (g) Approved the initiation of a limited update of version 2.0 of the Classification of Statistical Activities to consider a standalone food security and nutrition domain;
- (h) Approved the terms of reference of the standing task team on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification;
- (i) Approved the terms of reference of the task team on best practices and the international family of classifications;
- (j) Requested the provision of technical assistance to Member States to implement international statistical classifications;
- (k) Noted the progress on the update of the International Standard Classification of Occupations; Encouraged the implementation of the latest version of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18).

#### **56/118**

##### **Household surveys**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the progress of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, recognizing its continued efforts in advancing survey methodologies, fostering coordination and promoting the value of household surveys and their integration with broader national data ecosystems;
- (b) Supported the work of the Group on methodologies to integrate survey data with other data sources such as censuses, administrative records, and geospatial data and encouraged the Group to explore the integration of survey with other nontraditional sources such as nonprobabilistic surveys

and citizen data; and develop methodologies to handle other emerging challenges;

- (c) Commended the efforts of the Statistics Division and its partners for the draft of the *Handbook of Surveys on Individuals and Households: Foundations and Emerging Approaches*, which features a scientific foundation, modernized methodologies, inclusivity, and practical guidance for national statistical offices; and supported the newly proposed title and direction for the Handbook;
- (d) Called for timely finalization of the handbook, ensuring relevance and applicability to countries with different levels of statistical development;
- (e) Appreciated the training events and webinars on innovative survey methodologies and stressed the importance for technical assistance, training courses, and regional conferences to support the adoption and uptake of the revised handbook;
- (f) Requested the establishment of a task force under the Working Group, to lead efforts in supporting countries, in response to the termination of the Demographic and Health Surveys and potential reduction of other survey programmes, including (i) exploring access to existing DHS data and documentation, as appropriate; and (ii) developing a sustainable long-term solution to demographic and health data production;
- (g) Supported the work programme of the Group and encouraged the Group to continue its active engagement with national statistical offices.

## **56/119**

### **Data science**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Endorsed the updated terms of reference and mandate of the Committee of Experts and its task teams;
- (b) Supported the work of the task teams, the regional and global hubs, the United Nations Global Platform and the Data Science Leaders Network, and welcomed the ongoing initiatives to develop a Playbook for the integration of data science in the work of statistical offices and to provide guidance on privacy enhancing technologies;
- (c) Appreciated the contribution of the regional and global hubs in sharing knowledge and building capacity for the use of big data and data science in official statistics; requested to support and strengthen the hubs; and encouraged close collaboration of the hubs with related initiatives, including the Big Data Center of the International Monetary Fund;
- (d) Emphasized the importance of the United Nations Global Platform for the global statistical community as an international collaboration environment for carrying out training activities and joint data innovation projects, and for data and knowledge sharing;
- (e) Stressed the continued need for technical and financial assistance on data innovation, including, on use of mobile phone data for official statistics;
- (f) Encouraged national statistical offices to lead digital transformation efforts and to establish strategic partnerships with academia, civil society and private sector;
- (g) Encouraged continued international collaboration on AI, data science and the use of big data and other alternative data sources, especially on fostering AI-readiness through further work on data interoperability, metadata standards and use of FAIR principles for improved

discoverability and use of official statistics;

- (h) Requested the urgent establishment of a task team on the use of Large Language Models.

**56/120**

### **National Quality Assurance Frameworks**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Appreciated the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks for its work over the last two years;
- (b) Endorsed the draft module for quality assurance when using administrative and other data sources to produce official statistics to address the challenges in using administrative and new data sources;
- (c) Endorsed the draft maturity model on quality culture for official statistics, and stressed the importance of shared values and behaviors for improving official statistics;
- (d) Requested to update and refine both tools when needed based on experiences of countries in their use;
- (e) Recognized the need for capacity development and training for the implementation of a national quality assurance framework and welcomed the planned initiatives of the Group to support countries, including through e-learning, and knowledge platforms with a view of supporting quality assurance throughout the national statistical system and beyond;
- (f) Welcomed the efforts to address the integration and joint implementation of quality assurance and the use of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model in coordination and cooperation with other groups;
- (g) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed work programme of the Group for the next two years and its updated terms of reference.

**56/121**

### **Regional statistical development**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and commended the Statistical Conference of the Americas and other actors for their achievements;
- (b) Commended the significant progress through collaborative efforts among countries and regional and international entities in: (i) modernizing and strengthening national statistical systems; (ii) improving the use of administrative records; (iii) integrating geospatial and statistical data; (iv) improving the production of environmental and climate change statistics; and (v) innovative approaches adopted during the 2020 census round and the use of new technologies;
- (c) Welcomed mechanisms for strengthening interregional collaboration to exchange best practices, methodologies and innovations, building on successful initiatives, such as the knowledge transfer network, to foster dialogue and capacity-building in the region;
- (d) Noted challenges ahead over the next decade for statistical systems in the region and emphasized the need for sustained regional and international cooperation and innovative approaches to data production and a continued commitment to the principles of official statistics.

**56/122**

**World Statistics Day**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary General on the World Statistics Day and thanked the Bureau and the secretariat for the work done thus far;
- (b) Supported the slogan “Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone”;
- (c) Noted the plans for national, regional and global events and requested the secretariat to continue developing multi-lingual promotional materials, enhancing engagement through the website, social media, and other channels, and coordinating preparations for the 2025 World Statistics Day, incorporating suggestions from the discussion.

**56/123**

**Education statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Noted the progress and supported the work of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring Report in guiding countries to set national benchmarks for education indicators;
- (b) Endorsed the new methodology to produce estimates of completion and out-of-school rates using modelling techniques and supported its further expansion;
- (c) Welcomed the convening of the first-ever Conference on Education Data and Statistics, which sets a global education data governance;
- (d) Supported the work of the Education Data and Statistics Commission, which takes forward the Conference’s recommendations between sessions.

**56/124**

**Environment and climate change statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Supported the restructuring of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS);
- (b) Appreciated efforts to enhance communication and collaboration among agencies leading international programmes on climate change data and statistics;
- (c) Welcomed the methodology updates and the establishment of subgroups to address the impact of climate change on health and climate change on women and men;
- (d) Urged countries to strengthen national data collection and compilation in environment and climate change statistics to better inform policy decisions and international reporting, including on the Statistics Division/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics;

- (e) Supported periodic updates to the terms and definitions in the Statistics Division/UNEP Questionnaire and accommodate emerging topics, like e-waste and food waste;
- (f) Supported the work of the subgroup of the EG-ECCS on compiling a core set of environment and climate change questions for censuses and surveys;
- (g) Requested support for national statistical offices and UNFCCC national focal points in producing climate change statistics for their reporting under the Paris Agreement;
  
- (h) Encouraged strengthened collaboration and coordination among partners to improve synergies in capacity-development initiatives;
- (i) Encouraged Member States to enhance the use of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool;
- (j) Urged Member States to apply the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and its implementation support tools to establish national programmes of climate change statistics and contribute to reporting under the Paris Agreement;
- (k) Called on donors to mobilize additional resources for sustained and permanent statistical advancements.

#### **56/125**

##### **Programme questions**

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the work programme of the Division, including the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. It requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2026.

#### **56/126**

##### **Information items**

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the International Labour Organization on informal economy statistics  
Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics  
Report of the International Monetary Fund on financial statistics  
Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial statistics  
Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme  
Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices  
Report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development  
Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange Sponsors on common open standards for the exchange and sharing data and metadata  
Report of the Secretary-General on the measurement and modernization of statistical system  
Report of 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

## Chapter II

### Items for discussion and decision

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 7th meetings, from 4 to 7 March 2025. At its 7th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission adopted two draft resolutions (see chap. I, sect. A). At the same meeting, the Commission took action on all related draft decisions (draft decisions 56/101–56/122) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. C).

#### A. National accounts

2. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 7th meetings, on 4 March and 7 March 2025. At its 1st meeting, the Chair of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts introduced the report of the Working Group (E/CN.3/2025/2). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 7 States members of the Commission; 19 observer States and 5 international organizations.

3. Also at its 1st meeting, the Chair introduced a draft resolution, entitled “System of National Accounts 2025” (E/CN.3/2025/L.4/Rev.1).

#### B. Population and housing censuses

4. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2025. At its 1st meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on 2020 and 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programmes (E/CN.3/2025/3). At its 2nd meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (b). At the two meetings, statements were made by the representatives of: 5 States members of the Commission; 14 observer States and 3 international organizations.

5. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced a draft resolution, entitled “2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme” (E/CN.3/2025/L.5).

#### C. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

6. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2025. At its 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on the working methods of the Commission (E/CN.3/2025/4). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 5 States members of the Commission; and 12 observer States.

#### D. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

7. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its at its 2nd, 3rd and 7th meetings, on 4, 5 and 7 March 2025. At its 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Capacity Management Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2025/5). At the 3rd meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (d). At the two meetings, statements were made by the representatives of: 6 States members of the the Commission; 9 observer States and 4 international organizations.

## **E. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

8. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At its 3rd meeting, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2025/6). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 10 States members of the Commission; 24 observer States and 9 international organizations.

9. Also at its 3rd meeting, the representative of Albania introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2025/7). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission and 8 observer States.

10. At the 4th meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (e) and the Chief of the Development Data Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2025/8). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission; 8 observer States and 1 international organization.

## **F. Social and demographic statistics**

11. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At its 4th meeting, the representative of Lithuania introduced the report of the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2025/9). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 9 States members of the Commission; 8 observer States and 2 international organizations.

## **G. Migration statistics**

12. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At its 4th meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on Migration statistics (E/CN.3/2025/10). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 7 States members of the Commission; 15 observer States and 4 international organizations.

## **H. Work and employment statistics**

13. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At its 4th meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization introduced the report of the International Labour Organization on work and employment statistics (E/CN.3/2025/11). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission; 9 observer States and 1 international organization.

## **I. Economic statistics**

14. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 5th meeting, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Network of Economic Statisticians (E/CN.3/2025/12). Thereafter,

statements were made by the representatives of: 4 States members of the Commission; 6 observer States and 2 international organizations.

#### **J. Environmental-economic accounting**

15. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 5th meeting, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2025/13). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 4 States members of the Commission; 14 observer States and 3 international organizations.

#### **K. Business and trade statistics**

16. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 5th meeting, the representative of Mexico introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2025/14). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 5 States members of the Commission and 12 observer States.

#### **L. Price statistics**

17. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 5th meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization introduced the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2025/15). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 3 States members of the Commission and 7 observer States.

#### **M. Crime and criminal justice statistics**

18. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 5th meeting, the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime introduced the Joint report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration on crime statistics (E/CN.3/2025/16). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 4 States members of the Commission and 4 observer States.

#### **N. Food security and nutrition**

19. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 5th meeting, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations introduced the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization on food security and nutrition data and statistics (E/CN.3/2025/17). At the 6th meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (n). At the two meetings, statements were made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission; 9 observer States and 1 international organization.

#### **O. International statistical classifications**

20. The Commission considered item 3 (o) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 6th meeting, the representative of New Zealand introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (E/CN.3/2025/18). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission; 7 observer States and 1 international organization.

## **P. Household surveys**

21. The Commission considered item 3 (p) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 6th meeting, the representative of the World Bank introduced the report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2025/19). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 3 States members of the Commission; 8 observer States and 2 international organizations.

## **Q. Data science**

22. The Commission considered item 3 (q) of its agenda 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 6th meeting, the representative of South Africa introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2025/20). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 6 States members of the Commission; 10 observer States and 2 international organizations.

## **R. National quality assurance frameworks**

23. The Commission considered item 3 (r) of its agenda 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 6th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (E/CN.3/2025/21). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission; 11 observer States and 1 international organization.

## **S. Regional statistical development**

24. The Commission considered item 3 (s) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 6th meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean introduced the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on cooperation for regional statistical development (E/CN.3/2025/22). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of: 1 State member of the Commission and 3 observer States.

## **T. World Statistics Day**

25. The Commission considered item 3 (t) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At its 6th meeting, a Statistician at the Statistical Capacity Management Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2025/23). Thereafter, statements were

made by the representatives of: 2 States members of the Commission; 2 observer States and 1 international organization.

## **Chapter III**

### **Items for decision**

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025. At the same meeting, the Commission took action on all related draft decisions (draft decisions 56/123–56/124) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 8 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. C).

#### **A. Education statistics**

2. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at 7th meeting. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization introduced the report of Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics (E/CN.3/2025/24). Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of: 1 State member of the Commission and 1 observer State.

#### **B. Environment and climate change statistics**

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 7th meeting. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on environment and climate change statistics (E/CN.3/2025/25). Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of: 3 observer States and 2 international organizations.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Items for information**

1. The Commission considered item 5 (a) to (j) of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of all the reports under these agenda items for information (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 56/126, and chap. VIII, para. 6).

## Chapter V

### Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the Division's current activities, plans and priorities.
2. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the oral report and requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2026 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 56/125).

## Chapter VI

### **Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission**

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025. A representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division introduced the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2025/L.2), as orally revised;

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2025–2029 (E/CN.3/2025/36), as orally revised.

2. At its 7th meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session (E/CN.3/2025/L.2, as orally revised), and entrusted the Bureau with finalizing it. The Commission decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission also decided to recommend to the Council that its fifty-seventh session be held from 3 to 6 March 2026 (see chap. I, sect. B).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2025–2029 (E/CN.3/2025/36), as orally revised.

## **Chapter VII**

### **Report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session**

1. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 1 March 2025, and heard a statement by the Rapporteur, who introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session (E/CN.3/2025/L.3), together with an informal paper containing the draft decisions.
2. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the draft decisions were made by the representatives of: 8 States members of the Commission; 6 observer States and 3 international organizations.
3. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-sixth session, including draft decisions, as orally revised, as well as the draft resolutions, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing the report.

## Chapter VIII

### Organization of the session

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its fifty-sixth session at Headquarters from 4 to 7 March 2025. It held 7 meetings.

#### B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance were observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2025/INF/1.

#### C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Chair:*

Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Graciela Márquez Colín (Mexico)

Hyoung Il Lee (Republic of Korea)

Apolonija Oblak Flander (Slovenia)

*Rapporteur:*

Andrew Bob Johnny (Sierra Leone)

#### D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda (E/CN.3/2025/1/Rev.1) and approved the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session (E/CN.3/2025/L.1/Rev.1).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Commission invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its fifty-sixth session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Bank for International Settlements; Central African Economic and Monetary Community; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa; and Eurasian Economic Commission.

#### E. Documentation

6. The documents before the Commission are available at <https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/documents/56>.