


Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-ninth session

(6-9 March 2018)



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Chapter I

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

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

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

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session;
- (b) Decides that the fiftieth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 5 to 8 March 2019;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session

3. Demographic and social statistics:

- (a) Demographic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (b) Human settlements statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

- (c) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

- (d) Crime statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

- (e) International migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (f) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- (g) Civil registration and vital statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General.

- (h) Statistics on drugs and drug use.

Documentation

Report by Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

4. Economic statistics:

- (a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

- (b) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

- (c) Business registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

- (d) International trade and economic globalization statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics

- (e) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

- (f) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

- Report of the World Bank
- (g) Price statistics;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices
- Report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics
5. Natural resources and environment statistics:
- (a) Environmental-economic accounting;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
- (b) Agricultural and rural statistics;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- (c) Disaster-related statistics.
- Documentation**
- Joint report by the Secretary-General, UNESCAP, UNECE and UNISDR
6. Activities not classified by field:
- (a) Coordination of statistical programmes;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
- (b) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Friends of the Chair
- (c) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors
- (d) Statistical capacity-building;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Secretary-General
- (e) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Documentation**
- Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (g) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (h) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

- (i) Big data;

Documentation

Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

- (j) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

- (k) Open data

Documentation

Report by the Friends of the Chair

- (l) Working methods of the Statistical Commission

Documentation

Report by the Bureau of the Commission

7. Programme questions (Statistics Division).

8. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-first session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

9. Report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

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

49/101

Global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs),¹ and expressed appreciation to the group and its workstreams for the progress made;
- (b) Agreed on the proposed annual refinements, as presented in annex II of the report and the proposed timeline for the 2020 comprehensive review;
- (c) Expressed its appreciation on the progress made on the methodological development of Tier III indicators, but expressed concern that some of the Goals still have a majority of indicators in Tier III and stressed that the further development of Tier III indicators will need to continue to advance with urgency, with particular attention to SDG indicators that are critical to SIDS
- (d) Requested the IAEG-SDGs to consider the feasibility of using tentative existing indicators as proxies for immediate use to monitor targets, while Tier III indicators are finalized;
- (e) Asked the IAEG-SDGs to clearly determine the dimensions and categories of data disaggregation required for the indicators in the framework, keeping in mind the resources needed and the key principle of the 2030 agenda of no one left behind;
- (f) Welcomed efforts by the IAEG-SDGs to improve data flows and global reporting. Welcomed the draft guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the SDGs as an initial step to improve coordination and harmonization of national and international data systems, and to ensure full transparency of data, metadata and data aggregates presented in the SDG global database;
- (g) Requested the IAEG-SDGs to work jointly with custodian agencies and establish a fruitful dialogue between all parties, to further refine the guidelines by taking into account concerns raised at the Statistical Commission and prepare criteria for implementation of the guidelines based on best practices and on ways to limit the burden that the envisaged procedures may represent in terms of time and resources for both national and international statistical systems, and resolving outstanding issues;
- (h) Reiterated the urgent need for statistical capacity building for countries to be able to fully implement the SDG indicators;
- (i) Welcomed the recognition of the importance of data as a basis for evidence-based policies in the zero draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular

¹ E/CN.3/2018/2.

Migration and proposed continuous engagement of the Bureau and UNSD to advise on the statistical aspects of the proposed draft;

(j) In this context, welcomed the proposed work of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, including the revision of international recommendations on statistics for international migration;

(k) Approved the proposed work programme of the IAEG-SDGs, as described in section V of its report.

49/102

Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² and expressed its appreciation for the work of UNSD in cooperation with the UN System for global follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, including the preparation of the 2017 SDG Report and the update of the global SDG database;

(b) Requested UNSD to make available adequate and complete metadata and compilation guidance on SDG indicators;

(c) Welcomed the draft principles and guidelines for national reporting and dissemination platforms and requested UNSD to report on it to the Commission at its next session;

(d) Welcomed the efforts to establish a federated system of national and global data hubs for the SDGs to facilitate integration of different data sources, to promote data interoperability and to foster collaboration among partners from different stakeholder groups, including the geospatial community and other data providers, and to improve data flows and global reporting of the SDGs;

(e) Reiterated the importance of statistical training and capacity building and supported the establishment of the Global network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST), and endorsed its Terms of Reference and proposed two-year work plan;

(f) Noted the interest of countries to contribute to the work of GIST and its advisory group.

² E/CN.3/2018/3.

49/103 High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building (HLG-PCCB) for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and expressed appreciation for the work conducted by the group over the last year;
- (b) Agreed with the revised terms of reference of the Joint sub-group of the High-level Group and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, as presented in annex III of the report;
- (c) Welcomed the survey and the preliminary results on assessing capacity building needs jointly conducted by the HLG-PCCB and PARIS21;
- (d) Recognized the need for a collaborative global effort to mobilize sufficient resources to assist with the collection of data needed to meet SDG reporting requirement, especially those of the less developed countries (LDC) and small island development states (SIDS);
- (e) Recognized the need of a stronger coordination and more efficient UN Statistical system as well as the need of a stronger voice of official statistics within the UN system;
- (f) In this context, the Commission considered an early proposal to establish a UN chief statistician. The commission tasked the HLG-PCCB to report back to the Commission at its next session with a proposal that further clarifies the role, seniority and functions of this possible position, amongst other options taking into account what is likely to improve global statistical performance in a wider context of ongoing reform processes in the UN;
- (g) Asked the HLG-PCCB to conduct consultations with relevant actors especially the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System;
- (h) Acknowledged the importance of the Commission contributing to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as requested in GA Resolution 71/313 (work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda),⁴ and requested the Bureau of the Commission together with the HLG-PCCB to work closely together with the ECOSOC Bureau to ensure that one or more sessions of the HLPF are fully dedicated to data and statistics and to the needs for statistical capacity-building;
- (i) Welcomed the work by the HLG-PCCB in exploring ways to establish a financing framework for the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan;
- (j) Acknowledged the work by the HLG-PCCB and the Programme Committee in preparation of the UN World Data Forum being held in Dubai in October 2018 and reiterated that this forum should provide the space for a dialogue among different data

³ E/CN.3/2018/4.

⁴ A/RES/71/313.

communities as well as data users as media, civil society and policy maker and to launch new initiatives and partnerships for the realization of the data revolution;

(k) Approved the proposed programme of work for the HLG-PCCB, and asked the HLG-PCCB to report back to the Commission at its next session.

49/104 Handbook of Statistical Organization

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report on the update of the Handbook of Statistical Organization⁵ and acknowledged the progress achieved so far;
- (b) Reiterated the importance of the updated Handbook in addressing common challenges and grasping innovative solutions, including those related to the production and utilization of the indicators for monitoring progress towards the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;
- (c) Endorsed the proposed structure, priorities and content of the updated Handbook, subject to suggested adaptations and refinements to be duly considered during the drafting phase of the handbook;
- (d) Requested the updating process to be inclusive and to take into account the various regional and national contexts as well as to build on existing initiatives;
- (e) Supported the proposed coordination and consultation mechanisms, including the establishment of an Advisory Group, to sustain and guide the overall updating process;
- (f) Agreed with the proposal to disseminate the updated Handbook on an interactive web platform targeting chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations;
- (g) Further agreed to disseminate the overview chapter of the Handbook in hard copy version to reach the widest audience possible;
- (h) Stressed the need to make the Handbook widely available in official and non-official UN languages and gratefully noted the offers of support in this respect.

49/105 Open data

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the Secretary-General⁶ and agreed with the recommendations coming out of the international seminar on open data for Sustainable Development Goals held in Seoul in September 2017 which are described in section V of the report;

⁵ E/CN.3/2018/5.

⁶ E/CN.3/2018/6.

- (b) Noted the important role of the national statistical office in promoting data openness not only for data under its own control, but also for data owned by private sector, other government agencies or the academia and in this way redefine the national statistical system to include all data producers and users, taking into account national legal frameworks;
- (c) Noted the urgent need for capacity building and training for the development of new skills to implement open data initiatives in national statistical offices;
- (d) Stressed the importance of balancing the protection of confidentiality and openness of data;
- (e) Agreed to create a subgroup under the Friends of the Chair on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to work on principles, guidance and support for implementation of open data in countries;
- (f) Requested that this subgroup delivers on the proposed tasks of reviewing principles and legal frameworks for open data, clarifying technical aspects and skills needed, and providing guidance on implementation, including anonymization of data, as detailed in paragraph 21 of the report;
- (g) Further requested that the subgroup will map open data principles to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and address the need for data interoperability principles and tools;
- (h) Noted the interest of several countries to join this subgroup;
- (i) Asked the Friends of the Chair on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to report back to the Commission at its fiftieth session, including on the work of its subgroup on open data.

49/106

Household surveys

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWG-HS);⁷
- (b) Stressed the importance of household surveys as a source of data for the 2030 Agenda, and recommended that the work on household surveys be considered in an integrated way as part of the current ecosystem of all data sources to meet the data needs for the SDGs and that strengths and weaknesses of all sources be outlined;
- (c) Welcomed the work done by the group to map Sustainable Development Goal indicators that can be derived from household surveys and agreed that this work should continue in order to understand the contribution of household surveys in statistical production and identify existing gaps;
- (d) Supported the establishment of a trust fund for the implementation of technical coordination, methodological validation and standard setting, and country consultation and advocacy, as specified in Section III of the report, welcoming in particular the cross-cutting approach taken by the group, and encouraged the ISWG-

⁷ E/CN.3/2018/7.

HS to identify priorities in its work plan and elaborate on the required resources, which should also benefit SIDS;

(e) Recognized that many countries need additional resources and capacity building efforts to conduct surveys to address data needs for the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Recommended that the ISWG-HS develop modules that the countries can integrate into existing surveys and provide guidance on different methodological areas;

(g) Encouraged the ISWG-HS to work on updating the existing methodological guidance on household surveys with a cross-cutting focus, including in particular sampling, disaggregation, multi-mode data collection, and taking into account specific country and regional context.

49/107 Big data for official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Congratulated the Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics on the progress made;⁸
- (b) Appreciated the products delivered by the GWG so far in the form of handbooks, methods and training materials;
- (c) Urged the GWG to make all its products and services easily available ensuring that the quality of each of these products is vetted by an appropriate advisory group whose membership might include experts from national statistical agencies, academia, scientific and technical partners, and other communities as appropriate;
- (d) Confirmed that the use of Big Data and other new data sources is essential for the modernisation of national statistical institutions so that they remain relevant in a fast-moving data landscape;
- (e) Highlighted the opportunity for Big Data to fill gaps, to make statistical operations more cost effective, to enable the replacement of surveys, and to provide more granularity in outputs;
- (f) Encouraged the GWG to build on the success so far, by delivering practical products and services for the global statistical system to support the production of statistics and indicators including the SDG indicators;
- (g) Commended the GWG conferences on Big Data for Official Statistics for showcasing the latest developments, specifically commended the most recent, well organized and graciously hosted conference in Bogota, Colombia, which included hands-on training;
- (h) Supported the Bogota Declaration which gives direction on the envisioned way forward in this area;
- (i) Supported the GWG plans to establish global data collaboratives and data services where the statistical community will work in partnership with technology companies, data providers and academia, including work to formulate standards and guidelines for data governance and information management;
- (j) Emphasized the need to carefully address societal challenges of trust, ethics, privacy, confidentiality and security of data;
- (k) Endorsed the GWG proposal to further develop a global platform as a collaborative research and development environment for trusted data, services and applications using exemplars from the GWG task teams to drive the development of a proof of concept based on a federated architecture of data hubs;
- (l) Agreed that the proof of concept phase for the UN GWG Global Platform should run from now until March 2020, reiterated the need to present the platform's business case and requested that work on the legal, ethical and funding considerations are initiated during this phase and also to take steps to enable access of SIDS to big data;
- (m) Underlined the importance of capacity development activities, especially for developing countries, in the use of satellite data, mobile phone data and other new data sources, such as data from e-commerce platforms;

- (n) Requested that the GWG links its work closely with initiatives ongoing at regional level, paying attention to different user needs and circumstances and trying to avoid duplication of efforts;
- (o) Took note of the interest expressed by Rwanda to host the fifth conference on big data in official statistics in 2019 and the Republic of Korea to host the sixth conference;
- (p) Welcomed the keen interest of countries to join the GWG and its task teams.

49/108

Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on Regional Statistical Development;⁹
- (b) Commended significant work undertaken by African countries, pan-African institutions and other development partners in supporting statistical development in Africa;
- (c) Expressed appreciation for the leading role of the ECA, AfDB and the African Union Commission in support of statistical development and commended in particular the work in taking advantages of the many opportunities offered by the data revolution;
- (d) Supported the call on partners to scale up support to statistics particularly in Africa;
- (e) Stressed the need to allocate adequate financial resources and technical assistance for the implementation of national statistical programmes;
- (f) Welcomed the work by ECA in support of data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063.

49/109

National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts¹⁰ and expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Working Group, the regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries to facilitate the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2018 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;
- (b) Welcomed the initiative by the Working group to address important conceptual issues, some of which may extend beyond the 2008 SNA, and requested the Working

⁸ E/CN.3/2018/8.

⁹ E/CN.3/2018/9.

¹⁰ E/CN.3/2018/10.

Group to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on progress in addressing issues related to globalization (including statistical units and factoryless goods producers), digitalization (including related price and productivity measures) and well-being and sustainability (within the scope of the SNA) which are central to the global economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and issues related to Islamic finance and informal sector;

(c) Expressed concern at the relatively large number of Member States which are still unable to comply with the minimum required scope and detail of national accounts data, welcomed the initiative by the Working Group to step up its support to those Member States that are lagging behind, and urged those countries with a low level of compliance to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts that are policy-relevant and fit for purpose;

(d) Requested the Working Group to continue issuing practical guidance on issues that would facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA through manuals, handbooks and guidelines and the application of modern tools, approaches and technology for capacity building (for example, e-learning) and communication tools to advance the understanding of national accounts by the general public;

(e) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts, and recognized that the implementation of the SDMX protocols by countries will facilitate data transmission and thereby significantly reduce the response burden in submitting data to international organizations.

49/110

Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting,¹¹ noted the increased uptake and growing importance of the SEEA and urged the Committee to scale up its work on the SEEA implementation;

(b) Requested that the Committee of Experts continue to work in coordinating activities in support of the SEEA making available prominently on its website the supercalendar, its work programme and a list of the groups and terms of references working under the auspices of the Committee;

(c) Supported advancement on the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework, and requested the Committee to develop compilation material to support the implementation in countries and to advance the work on linking the SEEA to Tourism Satellite Accounts in support of the measurement of sustainable tourism;

(d) Agreed with the revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and encouraged countries to contribute financially and in kind to the revision process and to continue experimenting and testing ecosystem accounts as input into the revision process;

¹¹ E/CN.3/2018/11.

- (e) Stressed the importance of developing global SEEA databases based on existing national or international data sets, whenever possible; reiterated the importance of countries approving the information in the database prior to dissemination; emphasized the need to strengthen and improve basic statistics in support of SEEA implementation and beyond;
- (f) Commended the Committee of Experts efforts to strengthen capacity building in countries through increased coordination, e-learning, face to face workshops and in-countries technical assistance, ensuring that countries' needs are met in an efficient manner, and encouraged the Statistics Division to expand its support to countries building upon the successful implementation of the Development Account project and the experience of the EU funded project on Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services;
- (g) Noted the clarification provided by the Secretariat with regards to the use of the appropriate energy statistics and balances held in international databases as source data for the compilation of national SEEA energy accounts;
- (h) Highlighted that the SEEA implementation facilitates breaking the silos within the national statistical office and national statistical system, and hereby harmonizing concepts, definitions and terminology across the national statistical system;
- (i) Noted the strong support in using the SEEA in compiling SDG indicators when relevant and requested that the Committee of Experts take an active role in the SDG indicators process in view of the review of the indicators in 2020;
- (j) Took note of the communications strategy and welcomed the Newsletter and the efforts to promote the SEEA in the statistical community, policy makers and other stakeholders;
- (k) Requested that oceans statistics be integrated in the work of the revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and noted the interest of UNESCAP and UNEP taking the lead in this work;
- (l) Welcomed the release of the SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries prepared by FAO in collaboration with UNSD and encouraged its implementation.

49/111

Statistics for economies based on natural resources

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Commended the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies based on Natural Resources for the work carried out;¹²
- (b) Endorsed the Handbook on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources and urged that it be published quickly;
- (c) Acknowledged that the group had completed its original work assignment, but noted that there is a larger area of work related to natural resources that should be addressed and requested the Bureau to consult with stakeholders to decide on the most appropriate work arrangements.

¹² E/CN.3/2018/12.

49/112

Agriculture and rural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);¹³
- (b) Congratulated the Global Strategy Steering Committee and the regional partners on the excellent work done in implementation of the Global Strategy and noted with appreciation the results achieved in implementing its objectives in the research and development of cost-effective methodologies for food and agriculture statistics, training materials and delivery of technical assistance to countries;
- (c) Supported the preparation of a second action plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, with a focus on implementing cost-effective methods at country level, and requested the inclusion of the Latin American and Caribbean region in the implementation of this second action plan;
- (d) Commended the work being carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG-AG) to strengthen methodological developments in agriculture statistics and supported its continued efforts;
- (e) Endorsed the proposed guidelines for the collection of food data in household consumption and expenditure surveys and urged their implementation in order to improve international comparability in this area;
- (f) Took note of the final draft of volume 2 of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 and encouraged member countries to use it as a reference for the implementation of the 2020 round of the census of agriculture;
- (g) Urged member countries to conduct at least one census of agriculture in the period 2016–2025;
- (h) Requested countries, resource partners and other donors to mobilize resources for the implementation of the 2020 round of the census of agriculture;
- (i) Welcomed the work of the IAEG-AG in partnership with the European Commission, OECD and the World Bank on developing an international and integrated definition of urban and rural areas and supported the proposal to submit this definition for discussion at the 50th session of the commission in 2019;
- (j) Welcomed and supported the advancement in the definition of small-scale food producers and requested that further work be carried out.

49/113

Climate change statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General prepared by the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and for

¹³ E/CN.3/2018/13.

the first time also with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to promote the policy and statistics interface;¹⁴

(b) Expressed its support for the work of the Statistics Division in the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, building upon all other processes in an effective and appropriate manner;

(c) Endorsed the list of activities presented by the Statistics Division for the development of the global set of climate change statistics and indicators that will be included in the workplan to be presented to the Statistical Commission at a future session;

(d) Supported the expansion of the mandate of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics to cover more aspects of climate change statistics and indicators and to contribute to the development of the above-mentioned workplan;

(e) Urged countries to participate in the Pilot Survey on Climate Change-related Statistics and Indicators currently being undertaken by the Statistics Division, as well as in the planned Global Consultation on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators;

(f) Reiterated the importance of enhancing collaboration between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change related information to UNFCCC secretariat and investing in the development of climate change statistics, in particular the underlying environment, energy, agriculture and industry statistics, given the expected increased and possibly more diverse data requirements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(g) Requested the Statistics Division and the UNFCCC secretariat to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, for example, by undertaking joint initiatives in the development of climate change statistics and indicators, encouraging joint capacity-building efforts and trainings with other partners, and exploring ways to encourage national statistical offices to be more involved in the preparation of data submissions to the UNFCCC secretariat, for supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(h) Expressed its support for the work being undertaken by the ECE Task Force on the core set of climate change-related indicators, encouraged countries to pilot test the initial set of key indicators developed by the ECE Task Force and to prepare national road maps for the development of climate change-related statistics;

(i) Welcomed the harmonized and coordinated efforts being carried out by the Statistics Division and ECE in terms of methodological work and the development of indicators and encouraged these efforts to be continued;

(j) Noted the use of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting for deriving the ECE set of climate change related statistics so as to allow linkages with the economy to support analytical work and encouraged further consideration of the SEEA, in particular in the context of the development of air emission accounts;

(k) Welcomed a greater focus on disaster-related statistics given the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster-risk Reduction and requested a separate agenda item on this topic building on existing work in UNESCAP, UNECE and UNISDR.

¹⁴ E/CN.3/2018/14.

49/114

Statistical classifications

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications¹⁵ and appreciated the work carried out by the expert group;
- (b) Endorsed the revised version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) and recommended that countries use this classification as a statistical standard in the respective areas;
- (c) Urged the provision of technical assistance for the implementation of international classifications in the form of training workshops, as well as the provision of supporting documents like correspondence tables;
- (d) Supported the broadening of the work of the Expert group to classifications in emerging areas, such as classifications on gender identity, environment-related classifications and the adaptation of regional classifications, as described in paragraph 26 of the report;
- (e) Request the Expert Group to establish a calendar of the revisions of the central classifications to simplify and harmonise the revisions of classifications at both UN and regional / local level and to avoid complications and difficulties in their implementation.

49/115

Refugee statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics,¹⁶ and commended the work undertaken by the group;
- (b) Appreciated that the Expert Group conducted the global consultation involving national statistical offices and endorsed the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and the Technical Report on Statistics on Internally Displaced persons, taking full account of comments received during the discussion;
- (c) Supported the proposal of upgrading the Technical Report on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons to a set of Recommendations;
- (d) Recognized the challenges in implementing the recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics and expressed support for the development of a compiler's manual to provide hands-on guidance and refined methodology in collecting statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons;
- (e) Requested that the recommendations on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons and the compiler's manual to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session in 2020;

¹⁵ E/CN.3/2018/15.

¹⁶ E/CN.3/2018/16.

(f) Acknowledged the importance of a harmonized statistical framework on refugees and internally displaced persons statistics for comparable data within the country and between countries and international agencies and emphasized that all data sources including population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources should be used;

(g) Expressed the need for clear definitions of refugees, migrants and IDPs and the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, and invited international and regional organizations to support Member States in this regard, upon their request;

(h) Emphasized the need for better coordination of different data needs between the United Nations, Eurostat and other relevant international organizations.

49/116

Disability statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the Joint Report of the Secretary General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics,¹⁷ and expressed its appreciation for the work being done in disability statistics and the achievements made at international and regional levels;

(b) Took note of the proposed planned activities of the United Nations organizations and of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics;

(c) Noted the use of the Washington Group question sets the WHO/WB model disability survey and other national instruments in national data collections and their use for disaggregation of the SDGs;

(d) Endorsed the creation of a group of experts for the revision of the United Nations Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics including the expansion of the scope of the work to include the review of methodological instruments and provide guidance for the disaggregation of data by disability status;

(e) Noted that while data availability has increased over the years, there are still significant differences within and among countries in estimates of disability and called on the Statistics Division, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders to compile and analyse information on national practices with a view to understanding the causes of the observed differences;

(f) Called upon countries, in the context of monitoring the 2030 Agenda and its need for disaggregation of data by disability status, to choose appropriate measurement tool(s) depending on national data needs and to examine the underlying concepts, purposes and advantages of existing relevant data collection tools and instruments;

(g) Called upon all relevant stakeholders in this field at the international, regional and sub-regional levels, to work together under the leadership of UNSD to ensure a harmonized and coordinated approach for national capacity building that takes into

¹⁷ E/CN.3/2018/17.

account short and long-term statistical development needs of the countries.

49/117

Work and employment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on recent developments in work and employment statistics;¹⁸ fully supported the wide implementation of the new standards on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians; and acknowledged the contribution of the standards to the monitoring of the decent work-related SDG indicators;
- (b) Noted the implications of the new standards on national labour force statistics programmes and requested guidance to develop a communication strategy to introduce the changes to users and guidance on how labour force statistics can be used in policy making;
- (c) Urged the ILO and its partners to speed up the process of issuing practical guidance and survey tools, and to provide assistance to countries in a timely manner during their transition to the new work statistics standards;
- (d) Commended the methodological work and extensive consultation process carried out by the ILO in preparation for the forthcoming 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and welcomed the proposal to update the 1993 International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), to enable monitoring of recent changes in the employment relationships, including the new identification of dependent contractors;
- (e) Supported the proposal by the ILO to undertake a review of existing guidelines and standards relating to statistics on the informal sector and informal employment in close collaboration with the Delhi Group on informal sector statistics.

49/118

Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;¹⁹
- (b) Agreed that the SDGs provide an excellent framework to support work for development of standardised tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related statistics;
- (c) Agreed to establish a Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data to move this work forward and endorsed its proposed terms of reference as outlined in the annex to the report;

¹⁸ E/CN.3/2018/18.

¹⁹ E/CN.3/2018/19.

- (d) Encouraged the Titchfield Group to work in close consultation with other existing mechanisms on data disaggregation, including the Washington Group;
- (e) Noted the need for resources and technical assistance to support work in the development of ageing related statistics and age-disaggregation;
- (f) Noted the strong interest of countries to contribute to the work of the group, especially in consideration of priorities in rapidly ageing populations.

49/119

Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the initiative and report by the Bureau;²⁰
- (b) Acknowledged the excellent work done by city groups over more than 20 years since their inception;
- (c) Recognized the specific role that city groups have vis-à-vis other groups operating under the auspices of the Commission, and stressed that flexibility in working methods was an essential characteristic for city groups to work effectively;
- (d) Encouraged all groups to cooperate and create more synergy in their work;
- (e) Agreed that there is a need for the Commission to improve its oversight function, for example through proper reviews of groups after their initial mandate ends, and comprehensive reviews of longstanding groups;
- (f) Requested all city groups to thrive for a more balanced participation in their work, for example, through seeking adequate resources for members and the use of modern communication technologies;
- (g) Called upon all actors and stakeholders to better integrate the work of city groups in their own work; and called upon city groups to make their individual working methods and outputs more transparent;
- (h) Requested the Bureau to prepare a comprehensive review of the structure and functions of all types of groups operating under the Commission for the fiftieth session taking into account suggestions made during this session.

49/120

Programme questions (Statistics Division)

The Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning 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 2020.

²⁰ E/CN.3/2018/20.

49/121 Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports and the pertinent comments on some of them:

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics²¹

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics²²

Report of the World Bank on poverty statistics²³

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics²⁴

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics²⁵

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development²⁶

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme²⁷

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics²⁸

Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on statistics on science, technology and innovation²⁹

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics³⁰

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics³¹

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities³²

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information³³

Report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics³⁴

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 Commission³⁵

²¹ E/CN.3/2018/21.

²² E/CN.3/2018/22.

²³ E/CN.3/2018/23.

²⁴ E/CN.3/2018/24.

²⁵ E/CN.3/2018/25.

²⁶ E/CN.3/2018/26.

²⁷ E/CN.3/2018/27.

²⁸ E/CN.3/2018/28.

²⁹ E/CN.3/2018/29.

³⁰ E/CN.3/2018/30.

³¹ E/CN.3/2018/31.

³² E/CN.3/2018/32.

³³ E/CN.3/2018/33.

³⁴ E/CN.3/2018/34.

³⁵ E/CN.3/2018/35.

Chapter II

Items for discussion and decision

A. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of the agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 9 March 2018. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2018/2), the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2018/3), and the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2018/4). The Commission considered those reports in turn.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of Mexico, who introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), the Netherlands, Cuba, Switzerland, Latvia, Belarus, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Egypt, Romania, China and Peru, as well as by the observers of Brazil, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African States), Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Bangladesh (also on behalf of the Least Developed Countries), Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, Albania and New Zealand.

3. At the same meeting, statements were also made on the report by the representatives of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as by the observers for the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and for the State of Palestine.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission continued its consideration of the sub-item and heard statements made on the same report by the representative of Mexico, as well as by the observers of Jamaica, Poland, Italy, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco (on behalf of the Group of African States), Montenegro and Nepal.

5. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the observer for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

6. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

7. At the same meeting, the Commission also heard a statement under item 3 (a) by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable

Development Goals. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Japan and Qatar, as well as by the observers of Suriname (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Turkey, Brazil, Sweden and the Philippines.

8. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

9. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Commission heard a statement under item 3 (a) by the observer for Hungary, who introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Japan, Mexico, Canada, South Africa, the United States and Denmark, as well as by the observers of Argentina, Angola, the Philippines, Poland, Ecuador, Finland, Mongolia, Suriname, Armenia, Italy, Brazil, Sweden, Australia, Albania and Haiti.

10. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer of the State of Palestine (on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and by the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (on behalf of the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN System).

11. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

12. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (a) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/101 above).

13. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it another draft decision under item 3 (a), also contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur, which the Commission also adopted, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/102 above).

14. At its 7th meeting, and also under item 3 (a), the Commission had before it another draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/103 above).

B. Handbook of Statistical Organization

15. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of the agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 9 March 2018. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Handbook of Statistical Organization (E/CN.3/2018/5).

16. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard a statement by the Inter-Regional Adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems

of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Belarus, Mexico, Kenya (on behalf of the African States), Cuba, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Qatar, as well as by the observers of Armenia, Argentina, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Suriname (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Turkey, the Gambia, Malaysia, Jordan, Poland, Ecuador, the United Republic of Tanzania, Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer of the State of Palestine (on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and by the representative of the Economic Commission for Europe.

18. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-Regional Adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

19. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (b) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/104).

C. Open data

20. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of the agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on Open Data (E/CN.3/2018/6) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report.

21. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany (also on behalf of the European Union), the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, Egypt (also on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), Denmark and Mexico, as well as by the observers for Italy, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Tunisia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Jordan, Mauritius, Argentina, Suriname, Finland, Poland, Brazil, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania and France.

22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

24. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (c) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/105).

D. Household surveys

25. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of the agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2018/7) and heard a statement by the representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), who introduced the report.

26. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Japan, the United States, China and Egypt, as well as by the observers for Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Nigeria (also on behalf of the African Group), Suriname, Cambodia, Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Morocco (also on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), Haiti, Tunisia, Indonesia and Nepal.

27. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (also on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of the Statistical Activities), and by the observers for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (also on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States) and the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community.

28. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (d) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/106).

E. Big data for official statistics

30. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of the agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/8) and heard a statement by the representative of Denmark, who introduced the report.

31. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Egypt, Switzerland, Germany, Romania, the United States, Canada and the Netherlands, as well as by the observers for Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Rwanda (also on behalf of the African Group), Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Philippines, France, Finland, Poland and Indonesia.

32. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission continued its consideration of this sub-item and heard statements by the representatives of Qatar and China, as well as by the observers of Italy, the United Arab Emirates and the Dominican Republic.

33. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the representative of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century Consortium (PARIS21).

34. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (e) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/107).

F. Regional statistical development

36. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of the agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa (E/CN.3/2018/9), and heard a statement by the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, who introduced the report.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and the United Kingdom, as well as by the observer of Uganda.

38. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

39. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

40. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (f) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/108).

G. National accounts

41. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of the agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2018/10) and heard a statement by the representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who introduced the report.

42. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, the United States, the Russian Federation, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, China and South Africa, as well as by the observers of Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Senegal (on behalf of the African Group), Cambodia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Suriname, Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait, Finland, Malaysia, Italy, Sweden, Indonesia and India.

43. At the same meeting, the representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistics Centre (GCC-Stat) also made a statement.

44. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

45. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (g) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/109).

H. Environmental-economic accounting

46. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of the agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2018/11) and heard a statement by the representative of the Netherlands, who introduced the report.

47. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, the Russian Federation, Belarus, South Africa, Mexico and Egypt, as well as by the observers of Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Suriname, Bangladesh, Italy, Turkey and Sweden.

48. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (also on behalf of the UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also made statements.

49. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

50. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (h) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/110).

I. Statistics for economies based on natural resources

51. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of the agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies based on Natural Resources (E/CN.3/2018/12) and heard a statement by the observer for Australia, who introduced the report.

52. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Mexico, Cuba and the Russian Federation, as well as by observers

of Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean States), Gabon (on behalf of the African Group), Oman, Mongolia, Angola and Suriname.

53. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

54. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division and the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

55. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (i) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/111).

J. Agricultural and rural statistics

56. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics (E/CN.3/2018/13). The Commission heard a statement by the representative of FAO, who introduced the report.

57. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United States, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Cuba, Canada, China, Colombia and Egypt, as well as the observers of Mongolia, Italy, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Ecuador, Finland, Brazil, Cambodia, Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Sweden, Nepal, Bangladesh, Guyana (on behalf of the CARICOM Group), Poland, Morocco, the Dominican Republic and Norway.

58. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Bank.

59. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

60. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (j) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/112).

K. Climate change statistics

61. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics (E/CN.3/2018/14) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report.

62. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Belarus, Germany, Cuba, Mexico, Japan and China, as well as by the observers of France, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Jamaica (on behalf of the CARICOM Group), Jordan, Norway, Italy, Finland, the Philippines, Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania, Nepal and Poland.

63. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme.

64. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

65. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (k) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/113).

L. Statistical classifications

66. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (E/CN.3/2018/15) and heard a statement by the observer for New Zealand, who introduced the report.

67. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and China, as well as by the observers of Namibia (on behalf of the African Group), Australia, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Finland, the Philippines, Mali and Azerbaijan.

68. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

69. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (l) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/114).

M. Refugee statistics

70. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of the agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/16) and heard a statement by the observer for Norway, who introduced the report.

71. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Latvia and Colombia, as well as by the observers of Chad, France, Bangladesh, Finland, Turkey, Uganda, Azerbaijan, Tunisia, Jordan, Georgia, Austria, Myanmar and Armenia.

72. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Commission (EUROSTAT).

73. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

74. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (m) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/115).

N. Disability statistics

75. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a Joint Report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/17) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report.

76. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United States, Egypt, Japan, Germany, Canada, Qatar and Cuba, as well as by the observers of New Zealand, Australia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Serbia, Turkey, Finland, Spain, Haiti, Ghana, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Italy and Turkmenistan.

77. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the World Health Organization and the observer of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community.

78. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

79. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (n) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/116).

O. Work and employment statistics

80. The Commission considered item 3 (o) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on recent developments in work and employment statistics (E/CN.3/2018/18) and heard a statement by the representative of ILO, who introduced the report.

81. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, China and Egypt, as well as by the observers of Zambia (on behalf of the African Group), Indonesia, Viet Nam, Rwanda, Algeria, the Gambia, Malaysia, Angola, Albania and Tunisia.

82. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Social Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

83. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (o) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/117).

P. Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data

84. The Commission considered item 3 (p) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it 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) and heard a statement by the representative of the United Kingdom, who introduced the report.

85. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Japan, Cuba, South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), China, Egypt and the United States, as well as by the observers of Malaysia, Mauritius, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Finland, Malawi, Hungary, Turkey and Suriname.

86. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as by the observer of the Secretariat of Caribbean Community.

87. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

88. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (p) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/118).

Q. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

89. The Commission considered item 3 (q) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2018/20) and heard a statement by the Chair of the Commission, who introduced the report.

90. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Cuba and Japan, as well as by the observers of Sweden, Cameroon (on behalf of the African Group), New Zealand, Finland, Turkey, Oman, Malaysia, Mongolia, Poland, Norway and Suriname.

91. At the same meeting, the representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

92. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (q) of the agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/119).

Chapter III

Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 (sub-items (a) to (o)) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018.
2. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Japan, as well as by the observers of Kyrgyzstan, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Poland and Viet Nam.

A. Demographic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2018/21).
4. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2018/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

B. Gender statistics

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2018/22).
6. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2018/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

C. Poverty statistics

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the World Bank on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2018/23).
8. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the World Bank on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2018/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

D. Energy statistics

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2018/24).

10. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2018/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

E. Service statistics

Action taken by the Commission

11. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Voorburg Group on service statistics (E/CN.3/2018/25).

12. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Voorburg Group on service statistics (E/CN.3/2018/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

F. Information and communication technology statistics

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2018/26).

14. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2018/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

G. International Comparison Programme and price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2018/27).

16. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2018/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

H. Digital trade and e-commerce statistics

Action taken by the Commission

17. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/28).

18. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

I. Statistics on science, technology and innovation

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it a joint report of the Institute for Statistics of the UNESCO and the Directorate for Science of the OECD on science, technology and innovation (E/CN.3/2018/29).

20. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the joint report of the Institute for Statistics of the UNESCO and the Directorate for Science of the OECD on science, technology and innovation (E/CN.3/2018/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

J. Informal sector statistics

Action taken by the Commission

21. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Delhi Group on informal sector statistics (E/CN.3/2018/30).

22. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Delhi Group on informal sector statistics (E/CN.3/2018/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

K. Environment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

23. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2018/31).

24. At its 7th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2018/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

L. Coordination of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

25. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2018/32).

26. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2018/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

M. Integration of statistical and geospatial information

Action taken by the Commission

27. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2018/33).

28. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2018/33) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

N. Governance, peace and security statistics

Action taken by the Commission

29. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/34).

30. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/34) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

O. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Action taken by the Commission

31. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of the agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2018/35).

32. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2018/35) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

Chapter IV

Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, on 9 March 2018, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At the 7th meeting, the Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2020 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/120).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, on 9 March 2018. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by a representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2018/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2018-2022 (E/CN.3/2018/36).

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, as outlined in document E/CN.3/2018/L.2 and as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fiftieth session be held from 5 to 8 March 2019 (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. Also at its 7th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2018-2022, as orally revised (E/CN.3/2018/36).

Chapter VI

Report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, on 9 March 2018.
2. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session (E/CN.3/2018/L.3), together with an informal paper containing the draft decisions of the session.
3. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of Mexico, Japan, the United States, Canada, Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Cuba and South Africa, as well as by the observers for Suriname, Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, Jamaica, Sweden, Finland, Australia (also on behalf of Suriname, Finland and Argentina), Tunisia, Argentina, Norway, New Zealand, Algeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Myanmar, Angola and Mongolia.
4. At the same meeting, statements were also made on the text of the draft decisions by the observer of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
5. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its forty-ninth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 9 March 2018. The Commission held seven meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 23 States members of the Commission.³⁶ 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.3/2018/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Zachary Mwangi Chege (Kenya)

Vice-Chairs:

Masato Aida (Japan)

Tudorel Andrei (Romania)

Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell (Mexico)

Rapporteur:

Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2018/1.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional programme of work and timetable of the session (E/CN.3/2018/L.1).

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its forty-ninth session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Bank for International Settlements; the Central African Economic and Monetary Community; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; the Eurasian Economic Commission; the European Free Trade Association; and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne.

³⁶ The Economic and Social Council decided to postpone the election of one member from the African States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its forty-ninth session are available from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/>.
