(h)   Took note of the change in the implementation timeline of the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases.

45/110
Big data and modernization of statistical systems

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Expressed appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on big data and the modernization of statistical systems;[11]

(b)   Reiterated that big data constitute a source of information that cannot be ignored and that the global statistical community must organize itself and take urgent action to exploit the possibilities and harness the challenges effectively;

(c)   Recognized the need to further investigate and share experiences on possible data sources, challenges and areas of use of big data for official statistics at the global level;

(d)   Supported broadly the proposal to create a global working group on the use of big data for official statistics, which will manage the globally relevant issues, and requested that:

(i)   The terms of reference and the mandate of the group be based on strategic considerations, such as the links to the post-2015 development agenda, the data revolution initiative and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(ii)   The programme of work of the group would complement and avoid duplication of the work carried out by the regional commissions, subregional statistical forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Group on Statistics and other international statistical agencies;

(iii)   The programme of work would pay special attention to the circumstances of developing countries, in particular the capacity constraints of the least developed countries;

(e)   Requested the global working group to include the following in its programme of work:

(i)   To make an inventory of ongoing activities and concrete examples regarding the use of big data for official statistics at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(ii)   To address the concerns of methodology, standards and norms, human resources, research, training, quality, volatility and, with priority, confidentiality, access to data and legislation related to big data;

(iii)   To address the issue of obtaining "access at no cost" to big data from the private sector for official statistical purposes, as well as the issue of access to transborder data or access to data on transboundary phenomena;

(iv)   To develop guidelines to classify the various types of big data sources and approaches,

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[11] E/CN.3/2014/11.

(v)   To develop methodological guidelines related to big data, including guidelines for all the legal aspects;

(vi)   To formulate an adequate communication strategy for data providers and users on the issue of use of big data for official statistics;

(vii)   To reach out to other communities, especially those more experienced in information technology issues or in the use of open data platforms;

(viii) To report to the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session in 2015 on the work done;

(f)   Noted that China agreed to host a global conference on big data later in 2014.

45/111
Publications of the United Nations Statistics Division

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the publications programme of the Statistics Division,[12] and supported the idea of a comprehensive review of the Division's publication and dissemination strategy with a view to reorienting it, to the extent possible, towards electronic modes of publication with a reduction of print publications to a minimum for countries with special needs and those who request them;

(b)   Insisted that high-quality translations of methodological publications into all official languages of the United Nations are critical for the successful implementation of global statistical norms and standards and for capacity-building in countries;

(c)   Requested the Secretariat to ensure that such translations are made available and disseminated in print, when requested by the countries.

45/112
Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system,[13] and appreciated the work of the Friends of the Chair under the leadership of Mexico to analyse the elements of the United Nations statistical system and existing coordination mechanisms;

(b)   Stressed that effective coordination is essential, especially in the area of data sharing in order to reduce the reporting burden on countries;

(c)   Supported the long-term vision for an effective global data-collection mechanism.

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[12] E/CN.3.2014/12.
[13] E/CN.3/2014/13.