Sustainable Development" and annex III to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Emerging issue: the data revolution";[8]

(b)   Welcomed the invitation by the Secretary-General to establish a comprehensive programme of work under its auspices;

(c)   Recognized the challenges posed by the new monitoring requirements for the sustainable development goals, and recommended that new investments be made to increase statistical capacity, including for data collection, in particular for countries in special situations, such as the small island developing States, the landlocked developing countries and the fragile States;

(d)   Stressed that a key element of the data revolution is making quality data available to all;

(e)   Recognized that the data revolution presents new opportunities for national statistical offices; proper governance mechanisms will be needed to engage with new stakeholders and for the use of new data sources;

(f)   Stressed that national statistical offices will have to play a strong coordinating role, including validating data coming from new data sources outside the official statistical system to ensure that they all comply with the Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics;

(g)   Stressed the need for data quality and accountability frameworks for the utilization of new data sources and for the Statistics Division to provide guidance on how to develop and implement them;

(h)   Proposed to establish mechanisms to increase and facilitate access to innovation and technology;

(i)   Stressed that the implementation of the data revolution might take different forms depending on the priorities and the state of development of the countries and that, in that context, the national strategies for the development of statistics will need to be upgraded to include the elements of the data revolution that are relevant to national priorities;

(j)   Acknowledged that managing the data revolution will require new skills from official statisticians, and recommended that the conclusions of the High-level Forum on Partnership for Capacity in the context of the Data Revolution, held on 2 March 2015, be taken into consideration;

(k)   Recognized that a "World Forum on Sustainable Development Data" would be a suitable platform for intensifying cooperation with various professional groups, such as information technology, geospatial information managers and data scientists, and users, as well as with civil society stakeholders.

III.   Big data

(a)   Appreciated the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics[9] and congratulated the Group on its work accomplished so far;

(b)   Congratulated and expressed its appreciation to China for organizing a very successful International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics in

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[8] E/CN.3/2015/3.
[9] E/CN.3/2015/4.

October 2015 and for successfully hosting the first meeting of the Global Working Group;

(c)   Agreed with the terms of reference and mandate of the Global Working Group, as described in annex I to the report, as well as with the division of the work into various task teams, while requesting the Global Working Group to pay special attention to issues such as:

(i)   Sharing of experiences of lessons learned from big data projects;

(ii)   Quality concerns related to the use of big data for official statistics;

(iii)   Coordination of the work of the Global Working Group with the work undertaken at the regional level, especially in Europe, in order to build on achievements and repurpose and reuse outputs;

(iv)   Existing technology gap of developing countries and need for funding for developing countries to be able to take part in the big data projects;

(v)   Legal frameworks for access to big data sources, especially from the private sector, while addressing privacy concerns;

(vi)   Skills, human resources and capacity-building needed to address big data adequately, especially in relation to data science and information technology;

(vii)   Demonstration and explanation of the limitations of big data for official statistics;

(viii) Building of partnerships, which is necessary to exploit and harness big data, especially with the private sector, research institutes and academia;

(d)   Requested the Global Working Group to look into the use of other big data sources in addition to mobile phone data, social media data and satellite imagery, such as transaction data through e-commerce, and also to look into the transboundary aspects and associated challenges of the big data sources;

(e)   Stressed that big data should be seen as part of secondary data sources, and that, in that respect, the use of administrative data sources should receive due attention as well;

(f)   Supported the proposals of the Global Working Group to conduct a global survey on big data projects, and supported as well the pilot big data projects conducted under the umbrella of the Global Working Group, while encouraging and welcoming the participation of interested countries or institutes with the purpose of sharing experiences and building capacity.

IV.   Transformative agenda for official statistics

(a)   Welcomed the report on the outcome of the Global Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics;[10]

(b)   Supported the conclusions of the Global Conference focusing on the modernization of statistical systems, taking into account but not limited to the following thematic areas: (i) coordination of the global statistical system; (ii) communication and advocacy; (iii) data collection, processing and dissemination

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[10] E/CN.3/2015/5.