

(f) Requested a final report on the outcomes and recommendations from the regional conferences on a transformative agenda, to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session;

(g) Agreed that the progress of the High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics be reported on regularly under this agenda item.

## 47/104

### Big data for official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics<sup>8</sup> and supported the outcome of the second International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics held in Abu Dhabi in 2015;

(b) Agreed generally with the conclusions of the 2015 global survey on big data strategies and projects, especially regarding the need for training and more pilot projects with participation from developing countries;

(c) Expressed its support for the proposed priorities of the work programme of the Global Working Group and requested that the Group:

(i) Complete the package of initiatives to improve access to proprietary data, such as big data, including increased political support at the national and international level, improved legislation and fostering of mutually beneficial partnerships with the data owners, while considering and maintaining the confidentiality of data;

(ii) Develop training courses, in cooperation with the European Statistical Training Programme and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and other training institutes and especially targeted at developing countries, on the topics of the processing and use of big data and of transparent methodologies and estimation methods for big data;

(iii) Undertake more pilot projects in the use of big data for official statistics, including those aimed at supporting the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and in this respect make use of the big data sandbox in Ireland;

(iv) Further develop the big data quality framework to ensure trust in the compiled official statistics;

(d) Requested that the following be added to the work programme:

(i) A review of web scraping of proprietary data;

(ii) Improvement of the Group website and the big data repository;

(iii) Advocacy of big data in developing countries;

(iv) Linking of the work of the Group to the work of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; to the transformative agenda; and to the

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<sup>8</sup> E/CN.3/2016/6.

work of the Economic Commission for Europe High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics;

(e) Agreed that the national statistical offices play a key role in coordinating the use of big data for official statistics, a role that needs to be strengthened, especially if not regulated by existing laws governing official statistics.

## **47/105**

### **National accounts**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,<sup>9</sup> 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*<sup>10</sup> and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programme of work of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts for 2016;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made in resolving research issues related to the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*, noted the emergence of some conceptual issues that extend beyond the *System of National Accounts 2008* and requested the Working Group to report to the Commission on progress in addressing those issues, taking into consideration the integration of economic, social and environmental statistics and frameworks for measuring progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>11</sup>

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the guidance provided on issues emerging from the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*, including the completion of several manuals, handbooks and guidelines that will facilitate its implementation and supporting statistics, and urged the Working Group to continue to give priority to practical guidance on issues that would facilitate the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*;

(d) Welcomed the progress made in implementing the *System of National Accounts 2008*, expressed concern at the relatively low level of compliance with the minimum required data set and urged countries to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts that are policy-relevant and fit for purpose, and in this regard called upon the global and regional agencies to provide a focused, funded and coordinated programme on integrated household and business statistics, in support of the compilation of national accounts;

(e) Recognized the needs of countries, especially small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and least developed countries, for continued statistical capacity-building for the implementation of national accounts, based on an integrated statistics programme using multi-source and multi-mode statistics;

(f) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts, and recognized that

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<sup>9</sup> E/CN.3/2016/7.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.

<sup>11</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/11.