

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken in the Economic Commission for Europe region, especially for its focus on emerging topics in statistics, including modernization and measurement of the value of official statistics, legal frameworks of official statistics, the exchange and sharing of economic data and measuring extreme events and disasters, which are also topics of interest to the global statistical community;

(c) Stressed the importance of capacity-building for countries in the region, including in the new statistical areas;

(d) Noted the potential global applicability and usefulness of standards and guidelines developed by the Conference of European Statisticians, including the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, the Common Statistical Production Architecture and methodological guidelines on measuring human capital, migration, poverty, global production, data integration, statistical business registers and climate change-related statistics, especially for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>9</sup> and encouraged the Statistical Division of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistics Division to collaborate closely on these topics;

(e) Recognized the importance of collaboration among the regional commissions to address shared development challenges, in particular those related to the need to strengthen statistical systems in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **48/105**

### **Big data for official statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics<sup>10</sup> and its three background documents, and congratulated the Global Working Group on the organization of third International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, held in Dublin on 30 August and 1 September 2016;

(b) Also welcomed the progressive development and application of methodology in the use of big data sources for purposes of official statistics;

(c) Supported the recommendations of the Global Working Group for access to proprietary data as part of the quality assurance framework for official statistics, including for their consideration in the discussion on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(d) Agreed that the Global Working Group should develop the business case for a global platform on data, services and applications by applying an incremental and step-by-step approach while still applying an agile management approach for its proof of concept;

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<sup>9</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>10</sup> [E/CN.3/2017/7](#).

(e) Stressed that the business case should build on a partnership with technology companies, data providers and academia, as they can contribute and share their technology and technical expertise for the global platform, and that the partnership should give due attention to the formulation of a policy framework for data governance and information management, including addressing issues of trust, privacy, confidentiality and security of data;

(f) Requested the Global Working Group to report back to the Statistical Commission on the business case for the global platform at its forty-ninth session, in 2018.

#### **48/106**

### **Quality assurance in the global statistical system**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>11</sup>

(b) Agreed with the proposal to re-establish the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks,

(c) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed work programme of the Expert Group for the next two years and approved its updated terms of reference;<sup>12</sup>

(d) Stressed the importance of high-quality and disaggregated data for the full implementation and reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and global levels, and recognized that the Expert Group is a good vehicle to ensure data quality for monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Requested the Expert Group to take into account the work on data quality already undertaken at the national, regional and global levels to avoid duplicating existing efforts and with a view to harmonizing existing frameworks, and to consider the relationship with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(f) Emphasized the importance of ensuring the quality of data derived from new sources and new data providers, including those outside the official statistical system;

(g) Requested the Expert Group to address issues involved in the implementation of the national quality assurance framework, including issues of coordination, and the need to support countries in its implementation.

#### **48/107**

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

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Reiterated the growing importance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and noted existing national commitments;

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<sup>11</sup> [E/CN.3/2017/8](#).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, annex.