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Statistical Commission

Report on the fifty-third session
(28 February–2 March and 4 March 2022)

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Statistical Commission

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Note

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Contents

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

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

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

Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics and data to measure progress towards and in supporting sustainable development and development goals of the United Nations and its Member States and ensure that no one is left behind, and as a basis for rapid and data-driven decision-making,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/261 of 29 January 2014, in which the Assembly endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and stressed that, in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly adopted the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and stressed that all activities of the global statistical system must be conducted in full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 of 24 July 2006;

Recalling further its resolution 2006/6, in which the Council called upon the United Nations system, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the regional commissions and international agencies, to support national efforts in building, developing and strengthening national statistical capacities, in particular of developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 2020/5 of 18 June 2020, in which the Council called for strengthening the coordination of statistical programmes of the various organs and agencies in the United Nations system, and identified the Statistical Commission as the primary body for the coordination of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind the evolution of the statistical and data system, the increased digitalization in every domain of life for which statistics and data are produced and the constant innovation of statistical activities, the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and the necessity for statistical offices and national statistical systems to modernize, allowing them to provide high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable, disaggregated, open and interoperable statistics and data, drawing from both traditional and new data sources and fully utilizing geospatial information systems,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Noting the expanding role of national statistical offices in the changing data landscape, where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national data systems,

Noting also the importance of data privacy, data security, data protection and the ethical use of statistics and data, as well as the need to balance data use, transparency and accessibility with confidentiality and the protection of data collected for statistical purposes, as enablers of trust in statistics and data,

Noting further the necessity to reduce the reporting burden on Member States and support international comparability, adherence to high quality standards, and national ownership of data,

Reaffirming its resolution 8 (I) of 16 February 1946 concerning the establishment of the Statistical Commission, as amended by resolution 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, and its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971, which indicated that the Commission shall assist the Council:

(a)   In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability,

(b)   In the coordination of the statistical work of the specialized agencies,

(c)   In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat,

(d)   In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information,

(e)   In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally,

1.   *Reaffirms* the Statistical Commission as the primary body for the coordination of the global statistical programmes in general and of the United Nations statistical and data-related system;

2.   *Recognizes* the achievements of the Statistical Commission, and supports its current and future work, in promoting the development of the national and international statistical and data systems by means of adopting international statistical standards and the frameworks for monitoring social, economic and environmental progress;

3.   *Calls upon* the United Nations statistical and data-related system to report on work on statistics and data within all domains to the Statistical Commission, to enable the Commission to fulfil its function as the primary body responsible for the management of statistical information and governance of statistics and data;

4.   *Calls upon* Member States and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the regional economic commissions of the United Nations system and other relevant programmes of the Secretariat to observe and uphold the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;[2]

5.   *Emphasizes* the importance for Member States to build resilient, agile, relevant, responsive and robust statistical and data systems adhering to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that fully integrate geospatial information and to seek improved coordination across national statistical and data systems through an expanded role of the national statistical offices in the changing data landscape, where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national statistical and data systems;

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[2] General Assembly resolution 68/261.

6.   *Also emphasizes* the need for technological innovations to systematically modernize statistical offices and national statistical and data systems in response to the wide range of statistical and data sources, including, for example, administrative records, geospatial information, privately held data, and other data sets generated through new tools that can be integrated, after quality assurance, to produce statistics;

7.   *Further emphasizes* the need to promote practices for the generation of information aligned with principles that ensure coherence, comparability, including comparability across time and space, data privacy and confidentiality, while balancing privacy, protection of information collected for statistical purposes with data use, transparency and accessibility;

8.   *Recognizes* the importance for national statistical and data systems to build partnerships with other actors of the statistical and data system and other relevant actors outside of the official national data system and to integrate statistical and geospatial information to capture granular data to effectively leave no one behind;

9.   *Considers* that the ultimate goal of the work of the Statistical Commission and that of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations regional commissions in this respect should be the achievement of an integrated statistical and data system in the compilation, adhering to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Council resolution 2006/6, and effective presentation, visualization and dissemination of international statistics and data by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising progress towards sustainable development, particularly in the context of major United Nations development agendas, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

10.   *Requests* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the regional commissions of the United Nations system and other relevant programmes of the Secretariat to continue to cooperate fully with the Statistical Commission in their efforts to carry out the tasks listed in paragraph 9 above and to regard them as being of central importance in coordinating their work programmes, especially long-term programmes, and to work in new directions;

11.   *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the digital, technological and innovative capacities of the United Nations statistical system and of national statistical and data systems to address the needs and potential of the evolving statistical and data system;

12.   *Requests* the Statistical Commission, with the support of the Statistics Division as its secretariat, to play the role as the apex forum for discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices on statistics and data across all domains, to develop and maintain international statistical standards and norms, tools and methodologies, to support and bolster the development of sustainable national statistical systems, to develop and build the capacity of national systems, to advocate for the professional community of official statistics, and to ensure continued innovations to adapt to the changing statistical and data system;

13.   *Requests* the United Nations development system to support developing countries in strengthening their statistical and data systems adherent to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as the basis for their development plans and the evaluation of their economic, social and environmental progress.

B.   Draft decision for adoption by the Council

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

Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session;

(b) Decides that the fifty-fourth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2023;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth 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

3. Demographic and social statistics:

   (a) Demographic statistics;

      Documentation

      Report of the Secretary-General

   (b) Refugee statistics;

      Documentation

      Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics

   (c) Work and employment statistics;

      Documentation

      Report of the International Labour Organization

   (d) Household surveys.

      Documentation

      Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

4. Economic statistics:

   (a) National accounts;

      Documentation

      Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

   (b) Business and trade statistics;

      Documentation

      Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

   (c) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

(d)   International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(e)   Statistics on science, technology and innovation;

Documentation

Joint 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 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

(f)   Short-term economic statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Network of Economic Statisticians

5.   Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a)   Environment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b)   Environmental-economic accounting.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

6.   Activities not classified by field:

(a)   Coordination of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

Report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System

(b)   Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors

(c)   Statistical capacity development;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d)   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

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks

(g) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

Documentation

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

(h) Big data;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics

(i) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Africa

(j) Management and modernization of statistical systems;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(k) Data stewardship.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship

7. Programme questions (Statistics Division).

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

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth 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 fifty-fourth session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

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

53/101
Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators,[3] and expressed its appreciation for the continued work on the implementation of the global indicator framework;

(b) Commended the Group on the methodological review of the indicator framework and tier classification updates, and recommended that the remaining methodological work be accelerated, while giving careful consideration to the impact on the work of national statistical systems;

(c) Agreed on the proposed annual refinements for Goal indicators 11.5.2 and 16.1.4, noted the reservation on the refinement of indicator 11.5.2, and suggested that the new indicator 11.5.3 be split into two subindicators;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Group in compiling and showcasing best practices on Goal monitoring from countries, and invited more countries to share their experiences;

(e) Welcomed the Toolkit on Using Small Area Estimation for SDGs, and requested continuous support to countries in this area;

(f) Encouraged the Group to further incorporate data innovation in its work, including using non-traditional data sources, to close data gaps in close cooperation with the expert groups that are technically responsible for setting the respective content-related statistical standards;

(g) Adopted the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap for statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework;

(h) Stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for monitoring of the Goals, for the production of Goal indicators and for the modernization of statistical systems;

(i) Encouraged the Group to share all capacity-building and training programmes and materials on Goal monitoring on a common platform for all to benefit;

(j) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Group and the custodian agencies to improve data flows for global reporting and validation processes, and encouraged a regular dialogue between the Group and the custodian agencies to further strengthen these efforts;

(k) Adopted the proposed new indicator 17.3.1 and commended the Working Group on Measurement of Development Support for its transparent process, requested the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be the co-custodians of the new

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[3] E/CN.3/2022/2.

indicator and to work closely to avoid duplications, and agreed to dissolve the Working Group as it had completed its mandate;

(l)   Noted that further developments of the proposal should build on the deliberations held and progress achieved in the Working Group, ensuring stability of the indicator, while noting that the subindicator on mobilized private finance was being proposed on an experimental basis and needed further work;

(m)   Recognized the importance that members submit the necessary information to measure development support under the new indicator, and welcomed the efforts of the Working Group to come to an agreement on the indicator proposal using existing and new databases established at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as data sources;

(n)   Welcomed the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, and requested that further work on this, including on global reporting and capacity-building, be enabled by the co-custodianship of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and led by countries from the global South, building on country-led mechanisms, and included under indicator 17.3.1 in the future, and invited countries involved in South-South cooperation to work closely with the Conference;

(o)   Agreed with the proposed way forward on a further review of the issue of measurement of the global and regional efforts in support of the Goals, while recognizing that this was outside of indicator 17.3.1, welcomed the interest of countries to conduct the review of this issue, which should be country-led, with the participation of both developing and developed countries, requested the Statistics Division to support it as needed, and requested countries to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

(p)   Noted that the countries of the Caribbean Community expressed concern that indicator 8.9.2 had been deleted as a result of the 2020 comprehensive review;

(q)   Requested the Group to work in close coordination with the custodian agency on a proposal for indicators on sustainable tourism to better monitor target 8.9 and report on progress on this to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

(r)   Approved the proposed work programme of the Group, and requested the inclusion of the work on sustainable tourism.

53/102
Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, [4] and took note of the proposed programme of work;

(b)   Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations system, in support of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, [5] including *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021*, the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database and the launch of the new Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Data Platform;

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[4] E/CN.3/2022/3.
[5] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(c)   Expressed its appreciation for the capacity development activities carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners to assist Member States in making data on the Goals available;

(d)   Supported the Data for Now initiative to build capacity in countries to utilize new data sources, valued the sharing of training materials, and suggested that the initiative should be extended to more countries;

(e)   Supported the work of the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, valued the sharing of experiences among peers, and noted that this initiative was important for the monitoring of the Goals and for improvement of data overall;

(f)   Supported the continuation of efforts to advance a federated system of national and global data hubs leveraging the work of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, and expanding the use of open-source technical solutions and platforms;

(g)   Expressed its appreciation for the efforts and achievements of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training, and recommended increased coordination with countries to understand their training needs;

(h)   Expressed its appreciation for the establishment of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians as an effective mechanism for information- and knowledge-sharing and networking;

(i)   Commended the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys for its work, especially its support to countries in overcoming the challenges of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) for household surveys, and encouraged the Group to continue this work, including on the use of innovative methods;

(j)   Recognized the important work undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys in supporting the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment created by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Health Organization in the provision of recommendations to national statistical offices on the use of censuses and surveys to obtain time-sensitive and reliable information on COVID-19 mortality at the country level;

(k)   Recognized the usefulness of citizen-generated data to fill data gaps, while stressing the importance of benchmarking to correct potential biases;

(l)   Welcomed the efforts of the Statistics Division in the development of the toolkit on incorporating citizen-generated data into official statistics, and requested a sharing of best practices in this area;

(m)   Requested the Statistics Division to consider ways to address the need for the distinction of developed and developing regions in the M49 classification.

53/103
Partnership, coordination and capacity-building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] and expressed its appreciation for the work done;

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[6] E/CN.3/2022/4.

(b)   Commended the High-level Group, Switzerland and the programme committee for the organization of the United Nations World Data Forum from 3 to 6 October 2021 in Bern;

(c)   Welcomed the announcement of the hosts of the fourth and fifth Forums, to be held in Hangzhou, China, from 24 to 27 April 2023, and in Medellín, Colombia, in late 2024, respectively;

(d)   Endorsed the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals,[7] and encouraged its further promotion among the data and statistical community;

(e)   Expressed its appreciation for the results of the survey on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

(f)   Agreed with the timeline for the review and revision of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, and expressed its appreciation for the proposed consultative process;

(g)   Recognized the urgent need to fill the funding gap to respond to the demands of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, and the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data and the World Bank Global Data Facility as new key global initiatives in this context, highlighting the need to also increase mobilization of domestic resources; and urged the statistical community to actively engage in the global initiatives to ensure that countries' priorities are given due consideration, and in national funding mechanisms to ensure that funding for data and statistics is prioritized as part of countries' development priorities;

(h)   Approved the amended terms of reference and work programme of the High-level Group, and requested the Group to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on its implementation.

53/104
Data stewardship

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship,[8] and appreciated the work accomplished;

(b)   Supported the establishment of the five workstreams covering data governance, equity and inclusion, sharing and collaboration, links with the city data agenda and development of an overall conceptual framework, and recommended consideration of additional aspects, such as data capability, data quality assessment, and increased attention to issues related to the protection of privacy of data while ensuring its full utilization;

(c)   Recommended the development of a framework outlining the definition and application of the data stewardship concept, the advantages of assigning the role of data steward to the national statistical office, a glossary of terms related to the data stewardship concept, and maturity models covering different national circumstances;

(d)   Encouraged further experience-sharing and the absorption of outstanding work from the Working Group on Open Data;

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[7] Ibid., annex II.
[8] E/CN.3/2022/5 and E/CN.3/2022/5/Corr.1.

(e)   Recommended that the Working Group on Data Stewardship maintain links and collaborate with other international and regional groups with a related or common focus;

(f)   Welcomed additional requests from national statistical offices to join the Working Group on Data Stewardship and its workstreams, to ensure that all regional practices and circumstances are taken into account when developing approaches to data stewardship;

(g)   Agreed with the work programme and the new terms of reference of the Working Group on Data Stewardship, albeit with the addition of maintaining a dialogue with other regional groups working on data stewardship, and requested the Working Group to report on progress to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

53/105
Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Statistical Commission,[9] and thanked the Bureau for its work carried out in the intersessional period;

(b)   Supported the revision of the terms of reference of the Commission as a draft resolution to be recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption;

(c)   Expressed its appreciation for the initial scoping exercise on the normative work of the Commission, and invited the Bureau to continue this workstream;

(d)   Welcomed the initial work on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Commission, and agreed with the proposal that the Bureau should work closely with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics on this topic;

(e)   Called upon the Bureau to initiate the review of the social and demographic statistics pillar through a Friends of the Chair mechanism and to report on progress made at the fifty-fourth session;

(f)   Requested the Bureau to revisit the review of the multi-year programme of work, taking into consideration the updated Classification of International Statistical Activities;

(g)   Noted the request to the Bureau made by Suriname on behalf of Caribbean Community countries to also revisit the issue of equitable geographical distribution used for the composition of the 24 members of the Commission, reckoning with proper subregional representation and/or representation of small island developing States and least developed countries;

(h)   Entrusted the Bureau with continuing all its intersessional activities in support of the Commission.

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[9] E/CN.3/2022/6.

53/106
Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic Commission for Europe on regional statistical development, [10] and commended the significant collaborative work undertaken, under the leadership of the Statistical Division of the Economic Commission for Europe, by countries, international organizations and the United Nations system to advance statistical development in the region;

(b)   Recognized the valuable methodological work, the development of practical tools and the exchange of experiences done in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe, including in areas such as the sharing of economic data in official statistics, statistics for climate change and for disaster risk reduction, measuring the circular economy, and the road map on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, and stressed the relevance of this work at the regional and global levels;

(c)   Welcomed the report on the work of the High-Level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics, and stressed the importance of the work of the Group, emphasizing its relevance to the global level;

(d)   Noted that many methodological guidelines and frameworks of the Economic Commission for Europe can be applied in countries with varying levels of statistical capacity, and in that context expressed its appreciation for the coordination within the regional United Nations system, under the leadership of the United Nations regional commissions, acknowledging the importance of international collaboration and sharing of experience and knowledge at the global level.

53/107
Population and housing censuses

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

(b)   Reiterated its concern regarding the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, resulting in postponements of national censuses and difficulties in ensuring the quality of census planning and operations as well as the overall quality of the resulting census statistics;

(c)   Urged the undertaking of national censuses in the current round, or otherwise the production of census-like small area statistics, as soon as circumstances allow, and continuing to secure financial and human resources to that end;

(d)   Supported the initiative to encourage national statistical authorities to consider the establishment of national statistical population registers based on the census master file produced in the 2020 round of censuses; the establishment of such registers should be undertaken only in full compliance with the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, [12] including the requirement to protect the confidentiality and privacy of individual records, and under clear and

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[10] E/CN.3/2022/7.
[11] E/CN.3/2022/8.
[12] General Assembly resolution 68/261.

unambiguous legal provisions which include permission to exploit the national statistical population register solely for the purposes of compiling aggregate statistics;

(e)   Encouraged modernization in conducting population and housing censuses through information and communications technology and digitization;

(f)   Highlighted the importance of implementing the United Nations recommendation for the 2020 round of censuses regarding the need to georeference housing units during census operations, thus enabling a comprehensive merging of geospatial data and census statistics;

(g)   Requested the Statistics Division, in its role as the secretariat of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to continue to monitor the implementation of the Programme; to continue to develop platforms for exchanging national experiences, practices and lessons learned in conducting population and housing censuses during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to continue to develop the components of the methodological framework for population and housing censuses.

53/108
Civil registration and vital statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General,[13] and took note of the proposed work and activities;

(b)   Reiterated its call from its fifty-first session to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda, namely, universal registration of all vital events, the production of regular, accurate and comprehensive vital statistics and ensuring legal identity for all from birth to death, as a matter of high priority, especially in the light of the adverse impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

(c)   Expressed concern regarding the negative impact of the pandemic on the availability and quality of vital statistics owing to interruptions in the functioning of national civil registration systems, and urged designating civil registration as an essential service and conforming to international standards;

(d)   Expressed its support for the work and activities of the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, welcomed its findings and outputs, encouraged the Group to continue its work and continue to report to the Commission;

(e)   Requested the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme as Co-Chairs, under the auspices of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda task force, to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic, to document the availability of reliable vital statistics, to monitor and report on the overall implementation of the Agenda and to continue to develop the methodological framework in that respect.

53/109
Statelessness statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics,[14] and commended the

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[13] E/CN.3/2022/9.

[14] E/CN.3/2022/10.

work undertaken so far and approved the overall structure of the draft international recommendations on statelessness statistics;

(b) Highlighted that these recommendations present an opportunity to enhance the quality, availability, coordination, sharing and dissemination of statelessness statistics for better use of data to inform policies;

(c) Noted the challenges in the collection of data on stateless populations, including due to countries' specificities related to national laws, policies and regulations determining citizenship, and emphasized that the operationalization of concepts and definitions would require further work, including on identifying stateless populations based on the proposed criteria;

(d) Concerning operationalization through data sources, requested the Expert Group to identify or develop guidance on the integration of data from different sources; encouraged the Expert Group to place greater emphasis on quality issues associated with the data sources; stressed the need to ensure that the recommended data sources enable the measurement and analysis of the characteristics of stateless populations; and highlighted the importance of establishing and maintaining a good administrative system, preferably, and where feasible, a population register that integrates information on civil registration, migration and citizenship;

(e) Stressed the need to provide statistical capacity-building for harmonized reporting on statelessness statistics given the diversity of statistical capacity in countries, and emphasized the critical importance of national coordination to effectively implement the recommendations;

(f) Requested the Expert Group to further develop the recommendations by conducting the necessary consultations and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, in March 2023, and present the international recommendations on statelessness statistics in their entirety.

53/110
Human settlements statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics, [15] and took note of the achievements and approved the planned human settlements statistics activities of UN-Habitat for the next four years, including the ongoing work on regional capacity-building activities, the global urban monitoring framework, the New Urban Agenda framework, the national sample of cities approach, urban observatories, voluntary local reviews, spatial analysis, and slum and non-slum areas demarcations;

(b) Noted the progress made on rolling out the global urban/city definition and the capacity development plan following its earlier endorsement of the degree of urbanization methodology in 2020;

(c) Endorsed the global urban monitoring framework and its further implementation as part of a harmonized global urban United Nations system-wide strategy;

(d) Requested UN-Habitat to develop technical assistance programmes and instruments to build human settlements statistics capacities in Member States, with

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[15] E/CN.3/2022/11.

an emphasis on ascertaining consistency of data at the national, regional and city levels.

53/111
Gender statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, [16] and expressed its appreciation to the Statistics Division and its many partners for the work undertaken to strengthen gender statistics in support of monitoring progress towards gender equality and sustainable development;

(b) Endorsed the work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, including the minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection, quality considerations for time-use surveys and options to modernize time-use data production, as the core components of the upcoming revision of the United Nations guidelines for producing time-use statistics; noted and welcomed the interest expressed by many countries in contributing to the guidelines and in using and further validating the proposed instruments and methods to assess their performance, particularly in low-income settings, and approved the workplan of the Division and the Expert Group;

(c) Reiterated the need to build capacity in national statistical offices in the area of time-use statistics, and to allow for countries' adaptations of the proposed solutions, to ensure the production of data that are relevant at the national level;

(d) Noted the timeliness of these solutions to produce high-quality data to inform and monitor policies on unpaid household service work, non-market production, gender equality and people's well-being;

(e) Reaffirmed the central role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in all matters related to gender statistics, and committed to continuing to support the Global Gender Statistics Programme;

(f) Supported the proposal of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to implement and monitor Commission decision 51/115, working in collaboration with other subject-matter experts and building on related ongoing work in the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as appropriate; emphasized the need for statistical offices' commitment at all levels and stages in the process of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Commission; and took note of countries interested in actively participating and contributing in the upcoming discussions on this topic;

(g) Approved the work priorities of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including a second global survey of national gender statistics programmes, guidance on the use of administrative registers and non-traditional data sources for gender equality analysis, and the organization of the ninth Global Forum on Gender Statistics.

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[16] E/CN.3/2022/12.

53/112
Health statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics;[17]

(b)   Supported the roll-out of the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases, and called for coordinated capacity-building and training to assist Member States' transition from the tenth revision;

(c)   Acknowledged that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had highlighted the urgent need for robust and timely health statistics, while also noting the lack of available, comparable and reliable health data in many countries, and further reiterated the importance of strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems for accurate death statistics;

(d)   Expressed its appreciation for the contribution of the World Health Organization and the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment on estimating excess mortality associated with the coronavirus disease, urged the Organization to publish these global estimates in March 2022 as a matter of priority, and noted the reservations expressed by India;

(e)   Stressed the importance of the COVID-19 excess mortality global estimates as a valuable set of comparable country estimates to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as input to population estimates, in particular where systems for generating timely information on deaths are lacking or weak;

(f)   Expressed support for new areas of work in the World Health Organization, particularly on health and geographic information systems, which would assist Member States in developing and harnessing administrative data systems as well as in integrating statistical and geospatial data;

(g)   Welcomed planned improvements to the calculation of universal health coverage, and the launch of the World Health Data Hub as a tool to support the dissemination of health statistics as global public goods, while calling upon the World Health Organization to institute appropriate protections to safeguard data privacy and confidentiality;

(h)   Endorsed the decision to dissolve the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics, and welcomed the organization of the international conference on health statistics as a mechanism to develop international standards for health statistics, while promoting continued coordination and harmonization among relevant stakeholders.

53/113
Crime statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on crime and criminal justice statistics,[18] expressed its appreciation for the progress achieved in improving the quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics under

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[17] E/CN.3/2022/13.

[18] E/CN.3/2022/14.

the road map, previously adopted by the Commission, and approved the proposed workplan to continue its implementation;

(b)   Reiterated the importance of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, and requested further guidance for its implementation, including by fostering collaboration among data producers for better crime and criminal justice statistics at the national level and improved comparability across regions and countries;

(c)   Endorsed the conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of illicit financial flows, and recalled the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into estimates of those flows;

(d)   Endorsed the statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls, requested further age disaggregation to accurately reflect the situation of older women, noted the need for national adaptations to reflect different data ecosystems and capacity, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare a global report on countries' experience in implementing the framework by 2025;

(e)   Stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems for the modernization of compiling crime and criminal justice statistics, including to monitor progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

(f)   Welcomed the Sustainable Development Goal 16 Survey, particularly for countries that have limited availability of data to assess progress on indicators under this Goal, while acknowledging that the Survey does not replace stand-alone national surveys, and inviting countries to implement national surveys dedicated to victimization, corruption and violence against women;

(g)   Invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to review the annual data collection on crime and criminal justice (United Nations Surveys of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems);

(h)   Recognized with appreciation the success of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico Centre of Excellence in Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-Statistics of Korea Centre of Excellence in the Republic of Korea in supporting Member States to improve crime and criminal justice statistics, and invited the Office to consider a new partnership for the establishment of such a centre in support of countries in Africa;

(i)   Welcomed the sixth International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2022;

(j)   Invited Member States and donors to support the financing of capacity-building activities included in the workplan and in promoting the implementation of the new methodological tools;

(k)   Requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its partners to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in 2025, on the progress made in the implementation of the road map.

53/114
Education statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics;[19]

(b)   Welcomed the work of the Institute on monitoring impacts on learning outcomes to assess the long-term effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on learning and the effectiveness of distance learning mechanisms associated with school closures;

(c)   Commended the Institute and relevant partners for the development of standards and methodological guidelines for the collection and classification of education statistics as well as for providing technical support to Member States in their implementation;

(d)   Supported the work undertaken by the Institute and the *Global Education Monitoring Report* team in setting regional and national benchmarks for selected Goal 4 indicators, supported the update and revision mechanisms proposed by the Institute for keeping the benchmarks relevant, and appreciated the potential of the benchmarking approach in identifying data gaps, in encouraging Member States to collect relevant education statistics, and in promoting interregional and intraregional statistical cooperation in education.

53/115
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Commended the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, and supported its proposed programme of work for the period 2022–2025;

(b)   Adopted the implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting, welcoming the recommendations of a flexible and modular approach, multi-stakeholder engagement, tiered implementation, South-South collaboration and strengthened coordination between international organizations; encouraged all countries to implement the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting; stressed the importance of adequate funding to support SEEA implementation in countries; and requested the translation of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting into all United Nations official languages;

(c)   Welcomed the Guidelines on Biophysical Modelling for Ecosystem Accounting, and requested the Committee to develop compilation materials, e-learning, and tools such as Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability for SEEA (ARIES for SEEA), to support greater capacity-building on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting;

(d)   Supported the establishment of multi-stakeholder subgroups under the Technical Committee of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, working on thematic accounts, including for forest accounts and SEEA Ocean; and welcomed pilot projects and engagement in international events such as the United Nations Ocean Conference;

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[19] E/CN.3/2022/15.

(e)   Supported the close collaboration between the Committee, the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on the update of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA), noting the importance of taking into account SEEA to reflect environmental issues within the updated 2008 SNA; and further supported the engagement of the Committee in a new working group on SNA valuation principles in order to address methodological issues on the research agenda of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, including to resolve the valuation issues in chapters 8 to 11;

(f)   Welcomed the engagement of the Committee in the updates of the International Standard Industry Classification and the Central Product Classification, noting the importance of ensuring that the updated classifications are fit for purpose for SEEA compilation and sufficiently forward-looking in scope;

(g)   Welcomed the progress of the Committee in mainstreaming the use of SEEA in policy, including climate change, circular economy, sustainable finance, and biodiversity policy, and supported the Committee's work in ensuring that SEEA is recognized as the underlying methodological basis for the compilation of the relevant headline indicators of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity agenda;

(h)   Welcomed the involvement of the Committee in the proposal for a new Group of 20 Data Gaps Initiative to close climate change data gaps using SEEA accounts for all countries, in particular given the significant demand for climate change indicators;

(i)   Welcomed the progress of the working group on business accounting and the SEEA, and supported the group's focus on alignment of private sector methodology and standards with SEEA and on increased collaboration and awareness-raising between the statistical and business communities, noting the benefits to both the public and the private sectors in this regard;

(j)   Encouraged the finalization of the statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism for future submission to the Commission, and noted the strong interest from countries in this work.

53/116
Climate change statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General,[20] which presents the global set of climate change statistics and indicators;

(b)   Adopted the global set as the framework for climate change statistics and indicators to be used by countries when preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators according to their individual concerns, priorities and resources, while noting the need for further methodological development for selected indicators, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[21]

(c)   Recognized that, while the global set was designed to meet the needs of all countries following a global consultation, it remained complementary to the Conference of European Statisticians set of core climate change-related indicators and to other regional sets, that may include more region-specific indicators, to encourage harmonization across all levels;

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[20] E/CN.3/2022/17.
[21] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(d)   Expressed its support for comprehensively reviewing the global set in five years from its adoption as was done in the Sustainable Development Goal indicators process, and encouraged more regular reviews by the Expert Group on Environment Statistics in view of continuous harmonization with the ongoing development of related statistical areas, such as biodiversity, disasters, environmental-economic accounting and ecosystem accounting, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and related regional sets such as the Conference of European Statisticians set or thematic sets of climate change indicators. At the same time, it can also be considered to prioritize and explain the relationships between different indicators and develop a short list with recommended indicators out of the large number of 158 indicators;

(e)   Urged the international statistical community to expand its capacity development efforts with regard to climate change statistics by fostering closer collaboration and coordination among the multiple agencies involved in the process;

(f)   Encouraged national statistical systems to invest in the development of climate change statistics, and strengthen environment statistics and accounts, using the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, as a complementary basis for developing climate change information, given their close interrelationship;

(g)   Encouraged the enhancement of collaboration between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change-related information to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, given the increased and more diverse data requirements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement,[22] as well as climate-related Goal indicators;

(h)   Expressed its support for the continuation of activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other key partners to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, such as joint capacity-building efforts and training with other partners;

(i)   Urged the donor community to mobilize resources to enable capacity-building in environment and climate change statistics in developing countries;

(j)   Approved the proposed workplan, and requested the Statistics Division to update the Commission in two to three years.

53/117
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,[23] expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken to facilitate the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2022 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;

(b)   Expressed its appreciation for the considerable progress that had been made on investigating the issues for the updating of the 2008 SNA and the subsequent global consultations on the guidance notes;

(c)   Welcomed the coordination and cooperation between the various economic statistics expert groups in order to ensure that substantive discrepancies

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[22] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[23] E/CN.3/2022/18.

were avoided and that consistent terminology was used across manuals, to reduce duplication of effort and lead to optimal outcomes;

(d) Expressed support for the outreach, experimentation and testing to facilitate the consultation process of new guidance, encouraged Member States to participate in the evaluation process and experimentation and testing of the feasibility of the recommendations of guidance notes, and stressed the importance of providing financial and in-kind support to countries with limited resources;

(e) Took note of the appointment of the lead editor to facilitate the drafting of the update of the 2008 SNA and a project manager to assist the Working Group in coordinating the update process;

(f) Welcomed the introduction of supplemental measures that go beyond gross domestic product (GDP) by developing a broader framework of accounts, based on agreed methodology, which can be used to monitor and analyse well-being and sustainability, including a closer linkage with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and measures of people's well-being and the sustainability of societal developments to inform various policy goals, including those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[24] and to address the call by the Secretary-General for new measures of progress to complement GDP.

(g) Emphasized the need for continued attention devoted to capacity-building and funding for Member States with limited resources to facilitate the implementation of SNA;

(h) Encouraged the continued reporting and evaluation of the availability and scope of official national accounts data reported by Member States, and noted the importance of quality information in support of international comparisons and a global understanding of the world economy.

53/118
Network of Economic Statisticians

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the first report of the Network of Economic Statisticians,[25] and commended the Network for the progress achieved in developing its terms of reference and workplan, and organizing the three sprints on organization, data access, and beyond gross domestic product (GDP);

(b) Welcomed the proposal of the Network to adopt sprints as its preferred working method to increase its ability to be agile and expedite the formulation of statistical responses to fast-evolving and emerging socioeconomic and environmental circumstances in a short time frame;

(c) Commended the Network for enabling North-South and South-South collaboration and dialogue in its activities;

(d) Recognized the efforts of the Network to connect the work of existing committees of experts, for example, the current work of the data access sprint with the work of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics in global value chains;

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[24] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[25] E/CN.3/2022/19.

(e)   Requested the data access sprint to actively communicate with the private sector and develop collaborative frameworks and strategies to enable access to privately held data;

(f)   Requested the beyond GDP sprint to increase the analytical value of methodological guidance on integrated well-being indicators and the harmonization of economic statistics with sociodemographic and environmental statistics, for example, through related regional training workshops and seminars;

(g)   Approved the terms of reference of the Network and supported the proposal to include in the report of the Network to the Commission in 2023 a synthesis note summarizing the reports of the Commission on economic statistics to promote dialogue with and between the relevant statistical committees to determine shared priorities and actions while avoiding duplication of efforts;

(h)   Approved the proposed activities and deliverables of the work programme of the Network for 2022, including the Global Forum on Economic Statistics and the related series of regional consultation sessions with users and stakeholders of the system of economic statistics.

53/119
Business and trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics,[26] and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee;

(b)   Endorsed the update of the strategic view underscoring the importance of a horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics and identifying emerging priority areas, namely digitalization, productivity and innovation, well-being and social inclusion, and green economy; welcomed the new work programme; and requested the Committee to coordinate with relevant committees and groups of experts to avoid duplication of work and strengthen coordination with other statistical domains;

(c)   Encouraged the Committee to share practices on microdata linking and on the development of an integrated data infrastructure to link microdata on people and businesses;

(d)   Took note of the manual on the maturity model for statistical business registers, encouraged the development of a toolkit and endorsed the launching of a regular global assessment on the status of implementation of statistical business registers in countries, encouraged close coordination with the Wiesbaden Group and other relevant groups, welcomed the proposed capacity-building activities for statistical business registers, and suggested developing guidelines for the integration of geospatial information into statistical business registers;

(e)   Took note of volume 1 of the manual on the principal indicators on business and trade statistics, encouraged the preparation of volume 2 of the manual to further elaborate on the international trade indicators, and encouraged the Committee to prioritize the indicators and to assess the possibility of developing global databases for these indicators building on existing initiatives and based on the capacity of countries in producing this information;

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[26] E/CN.3/2022/20.

(f)   Welcomed the work programme, terms of reference and research agenda of the task team on international trade statistics, including the development of a maturity model for statistics on international trade in services and data tools for international merchandise trade statistics, and expressed its appreciation for the progress made in identifying the list of issues for the revision of the trade statistics manuals;

(g)   Supported the development of a global initiative aimed at improving the availability of unique business identifiers in administrative data sources, considered essential to help countries in strengthening statistical business registers and better understanding globalization; and requested the Committee to further elaborate the initiative and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, in 2023.

53/120
Information and communications technology statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development,[27] and acknowledged and appreciated the work done by the Partnership on measuring information and communications technology for development;

(b)   Endorsed the revised core list of information and communications technology indicators;

(c)   Expressed the need to improve the availability and quality of information and communications technology indicators; and specifically requested that more information be collected on access to and use of information and communications technologies by households and individuals, domestic and cross-border e-commerce, on business use of information and communications technology, and on the information and communications technology sector, including services and Internet platforms in the education, health, housing, travel and tourism sectors;

(d)   Supported the collection of e-waste indicators, and requested the Partnership to identify the possibilities of using available data sources without conducting a new survey;

(e)   Recommended the use of guidelines and training resources produced by the Partnership to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems for improving the availability and quality of information and communications technology statistics, and for assessing the country's digital readiness in times of crisis, such as the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, given the importance of information and communications technology in e-learning, working from home and e-business; and called for more collaboration between national statistics offices and other public and private information and communications technology stakeholders;

(f)   Supported the further exploration of the use of alternative data, including administrative data, big data and data-sharing agreements, for measuring information and communications technology statistics in a timely manner; and requested the preparation of methodological guidance on the use of big data for information and communications technology statistics and the organization of events for the sharing of experiences in this regard.

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[27] E/CN.3/2022/21.

53/121
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme,[28] and noted the significant progress made in the implementation of the International Comparison Programme 2021 cycle, despite challenges related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

(b)   Took note of the extension of International Comparison Programme surveys into 2022, as needed, to mitigate pandemic-related disruptions, and of persistent delays in initiating surveys in some countries and regions;

(c)   Urged all International Comparison Programme participating countries to complete 2021 cycle activities in a timely manner to ensure a timely release of 2021 results, which would provide a unique and vital analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the size and structure of the global economy;

(d)   Welcomed the advocacy publication entitled *Purchasing Power Parities for Policy Making: A Visual Guide to Using Data from the International Comparison Programme*, recommending it to Programme stakeholders, policymakers and other users;

(e)   Reiterated the need for national, regional and global agencies to incorporate the International Comparison Programme into their regular statistical work programmes to sustain the Programme as a permanent programme, and noted the publication of two country guides on integrating consumer price index and International Comparison Programme activities and on producing subnational purchasing power parities to facilitate this.

53/122
Agricultural and rural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics,[29] and supported its content and recommendations;

(b)   Expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in implementing an integrated governance structure for data and statistics, inspired by the Secretary-General's data strategy, and in modernizing its statistical production processes to improve efficiency in data flows and data users' experience;

(c)   Encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop an integrated quality assurance framework for statistics, big data and geospatial data, in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies and in line with already established recommended international methods and standards;

(d)   Noted the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Data Lab for Statistical Innovation, and encouraged the Organization to accelerate the development, testing and knowledge transfer to countries of innovative methods and tools for using alternative data sources;

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[28] E/CN.3/2022/22.
[29] E/CN.3/2022/23.

(e)   Expressed its appreciation for the progress made by the three task teams of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and encouraged the Committee to pursue the implementation of its programme of work, including by reaching out to the countries that have expressed their interest in participating in its work;

(f)   Encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Committee and its partners to pursue the overall improvement of the quality of data produced by countries, by providing sectoral guidelines and hands-on technical assistance for the compilation of high-quality agricultural statistics;

(g)   Reiterated the importance of developing methodological guidelines and technical expertise on the use of big data, earth observation and remote sensing for agricultural statistics;

(h)   Called upon countries to use internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicators to monitor targets related to food and agriculture;

(i)   Commended the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its partners for their work on strengthening the statistical capacity of countries in producing food and agriculture statistics and in monitoring the Goal indicators, and for the role played by the Organization in the implementation of the World Programme for Census of Agriculture 2020, the "50 x 2030" initiative and the second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;

(j)   Agreed with the recommendations recently formulated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations regional commissions on agricultural statistics.

53/123
Informal economy statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the International Labour Organization on informal economy statistics,[30] and expressed its appreciation to the International Labour Organization working group for the revision of the standards for statistics on informality and for the proposal for the new statistical framework on the informal economy being developed by the working group;

(b)   Expressed continued support for the development of a comprehensive set of statistical standards on the informal economy that are more aligned to the System of National Accounts as well as the latest statistical labour standards;

(c)   Highlighted the importance of the development of a statistical framework on the informal economy that strives towards increased harmonization between countries by the introduction of improved definitions, while ensuring sufficient flexibility to reflect the different conditions of the informal economy across countries;

(d)   Supported the proposal to include all forms of paid and unpaid work as defined in resolution I of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, including own-use production of goods and services, within the boundaries of the informal economy, and to distinguish the part of informal productive activities that falls within the System of National Accounts production boundary and the part that is outside the System production boundary;

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[30] E/CN.3/2022/24.

(e)　Supported the proposal to recommend that agricultural activities should be included in the informal sector if they fulfil the conditions for being considered an informal market producing unit;

(f)　Supported the identification of three mutually exclusive sectors (namely, formal, informal, and household own-use and community sectors) as well as the shift of the threshold of market production to "mainly produced for the market" as part of defining the informal sector;

(g)　Highlighted that the concept of informal economy has relevance for all countries independent of level of development, and recognized the importance of integrating dependent contractors in the framework due to the increase in digital platform employment and gig employment;

(h)　Encouraged agencies to continue the work to develop improved practical recommendations relating to data sources, compilation methods, production and dissemination of relevant indicators as part of the implementation of the proposed standards, and recognized the need for agencies to support countries in their implementation of the future standards;

(i)　Noted the commitment of countries and agencies to actively participate in the revision processes of developing a new set of standards for statistics on the informal economy, to be presented at the twenty-first International Conference of Labour Statisticians, in 2023.

53/124
Big data

The Statistical Commission:

(a)　Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics,[31] and acknowledged and supported the work done by the Committee's task teams, the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs;

(b)　Supported the proposed direction of future work of the Committee, in particular regarding mainstreaming big data and data science in the daily work of national statistical offices taking into account the local circumstances, prioritizing case studies on strategic issues related to main policy agendas, creating a network of data science leaders of national statistical offices, and strengthening the collaboration with the geospatial community;

(c)　Commended the work of the joint task team on the global facilitation of access to privately held data and its innovative ways of advancing access to new data sources on global value chains and e-commerce, while expanding the dialogue with stakeholders from the private sector, academia and policymakers, and creating a community of practice;

(d)　Supported the capacity development programme for big data and data science, especially the international mentoring programme; and empowering the regional hubs as centres for training and project implementation for the statistical community, while encouraging close collaboration with universities and other educational institutions and to acknowledge regional initiatives on big data collaborations;

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[31] E/CN.3/2022/25.

(e)　Emphasized the importance of collaboration among the regional hubs as well as between the hubs and the various task teams of the Committee; and urged that relevant data sources in the regional hubs of the Global Platform be made interoperable, so as to realize the sharing and coordination of data sources in relevant statistical fields;

(f)　Supported the creation of the sector hub of Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, as a means to advance the interoperability of data and models in the domain of environmental-economic accounting and sustainability;

(g)　Supported the creation of the United Nations Privacy-enhancing Technologies Lab to demonstrate the value of the use of privacy-preserving techniques for official statistics, noting that this would increase the possibilities of accessing privately held data;

(h)　Reiterated the importance of modernization of official statistics, and encouraged all Member States to take part in the work of the various task teams under the Committee, especially small island developing States and other developing countries.

53/125
International statistical classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a)　Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications,[32] and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee and its task teams;

(b)　Endorsed the proposed revised structure of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), and encouraged the task team on ISIC to finalize the structure at the most detailed level (four-digit level) and its explanatory notes, taking into consideration the comments received during the global consultation;

(c)　Encouraged the task team on ISIC to continue its work as planned, namely, to finalize the revision of ISIC and conduct a global consultation prior to its submission for approval to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

(d)　Noted the progress on the revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC), and encouraged the task team on CPC to continue the planned activities in order to submit the revised CPC for approval to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

(e)　Recommended the development of tools and programmes to support the implementation of the revised classifications, once finalized, including the development of indices and correspondences as well as implementation guides for ISIC and CPC;

(f)　Requested the Committee to revise the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) to improve harmonization between SIEC and CPC, and to present a work programme for the update to be considered by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, and encouraged countries to take part in the revision of SIEC;

(g)　Endorsed the classification of business functions as an international statistical classification, while requesting the Committee to develop a maintenance

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[32] E/CN.3/2022/26.

and implementation plan that clarifies implementing issues and supports countries in its use;

(h)   Urged the finalization of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose 2018 and the development of the relevant correspondences to assist countries in its implementation;

(i)   Recommended the revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government and an assessment of whether changes are required in the other classifications of expenditure according to purpose, and the presentation of a proposed work programme for the update, to be considered by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

(j)   Requested the Committee to engage with the International Labour Organization technical working group on the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations;

(k)   Requested the Committee to develop a proposal for more frequent and regular revision cycles for international statistical classifications to: (1) increase coordination among the relevant classifications at the international and regional levels; (2) promote flexible and innovative approaches to classifications; and (3) respond to contemporary analytical, policy and data needs;

(l)   Welcomed the proposed future work programme of the Committee, and encouraged sharing of national experiences in new and emerging issues facing statistical classifications.

53/126
Open data

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Open Data,[33] and commended the Working Group for providing guidance to national statistical offices on open data practices in the production of official statistics;

(b)   Expressed its appreciation for the progress made on developing an open by default model for the dissemination of statistics, and approved the proposed guidance, while stressing the need to comply with national legal frameworks;

(c)   Further, took note of the reviews of best practices on data licensing and their harmonization with national laws;

(d)   Underlined the significance of interoperability as key to disclosing open data potential, and welcomed the joined-up data maturity model and accompanying guidance as a practical instrument for national statistical offices;

(e)   Expressed its appreciation for the relevance given to local-level open data, and welcomed the review of use cases for local-level open statistics;

(f)   Agreed that, as open data issues become more relevant and in order to create innovative new value from data, open data issues should be incorporated in the discussions of the Working Group on Data Stewardship; and invited other members to join the dialogue fostered in that Group, recognizing that the plurality of perspectives would have a positive impact on the products to be developed;

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[33] E/CN.3/2022/27.

(g)   Expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Working Group on Open Data for its years of dedicated efforts to provide guidance to national statistical offices on open data practices, and approved the proposal to dissolve the Group.

53/127
Integration of statistical and geospatial information

The Statistical Commission:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information,[34] and noted the important role of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and other data sources, for informed decision-making in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[35] at both the national and local levels;

(b)   Recognizing the many national experiences of how the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework had been implemented, endorsed the Implementation Guide of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as an excellent resource for supporting the implementation and operationalization of the Framework for the production and dissemination of geospatially enabled statistical data, and encouraged statistical offices to collaborate with their national geospatial information agencies to ensure that the Framework is implemented to its potential based on national circumstances;

(c)   Urged the continued implementation and operationalization of the Framework, and noted that several countries, especially developing countries, still lacked adequate capacity to integrate statistical and geospatial information;

(d)   Welcomed the increased focus on the coordinating role of the Expert Group and its efforts to strengthen interlinkages with relevant groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities, and encouraged the Expert Group to strengthen its collaboration with the regional committees of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders;

(e)   Noted the execution and analysis emanating from the global survey on readiness to implement the Framework and the Expert Group workplan for the period 2022–2024, and welcomed its continuing efforts to provide guidance to Member States to support the adoption and implementation of the Framework, including continuing the development of key statistical standards and processes to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information;

(f)   Noted the suggestions for the Secretariat to provide more technical support to Member States in the implementation of the Framework, to strengthen statistical and geospatial integration at the national level, and to facilitate this through the organization of workshops and other technical assistance mechanisms.

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[34] E/CN.3/2022/28.
[35] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

53/128
Governance, peace and security statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics,[36] and acknowledged and supported the work of the Praia Group; and expressed its appreciation for the products developed, in particular the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) guidance note;

(b) Commended the handbook on governance statistics, to be used for producing national statistics on governance, especially for monitoring and implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16, noted that there were methodological elements in the production of governance statistics that required more attention; and noted that they should be consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[37]

(c) Supported the workplan of the Praia Group for the period 2020–2025 and its three pillars:

(i) Improving and standardizing methodologies to measure governance;

(ii) Strengthening the capacities of statistical offices to produce reliable statistics on governance;

(iii) Advocacy to increase the demand for governance statistics and to mobilize national and international resources to facilitate producing those statistics;

(d) Welcomed the establishment of the task teams on non-discrimination and equality, and on participation in political and public affairs, supported their workplans, encouraged broad participation, especially from African countries, in the work of these task teams, and supported the establishment of additional task teams on other dimensions of governance that require further methodological work, while ensuring synergies and coordination with other relevant workstreams.

53/129
Work programme of the Statistics Division

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the work programme of the Division, including the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division, and requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2023.

53/130
Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data[38]

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[36] E/CN.3/2022/29.
[37] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[38] E/CN.3/2022/30.

Joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics on disability statistics[39]

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics[40]

Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial statistics[41]

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers[42]

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics[43]

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics[44]

Report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System on coordination within the United Nations statistical system[45]

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[46]

Report of 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 Commission[47]

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[39] E/CN.3/2022/31.
[40] E/CN.3/2022/32.
[41] E/CN.3/2022/33.
[42] E/CN.3/2022/34.
[43] E/CN.3/2022/35.
[44] E/CN.3/2022/36.
[45] E/CN.3/2022/37.
[46] E/CN.3/2022/38.
[47] E/CN.3/2022/39.

Chapter II

Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

1. On 11 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda, as set out in document E/CN.3/2022/L.2, and the dates of the fifty-fourth session, under silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2022/312, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B).

2. The Commission had before it the following documents, which were introduced by a representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2022/L.2), as orally revised;

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2022–2026 (E/CN.3/2022/40), as orally revised.

3. Also on 11 March, under the same silence procedure, the Commission decided to recommend to the Council that its fifty-fourth session be held from 28 February to 3 March 2023.

4. Further, on 11 March, under the same silence procedure, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2022–2026 (E/CN.3/2022/40), as orally revised.

Chapter III
Report of the Commission on its fifty-third session

On 11 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-third session, including the draft resolution and decisions contained therein, as orally revised, under silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2022/312, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Chapter IV
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1.   Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decisions 2022/312 and 2022/313, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic that are affecting the working arrangements and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, the Statistical Commission did not hold formal meetings during its fifty-third session. The Commission held eight virtual informal meetings with remote simultaneous interpretation from 28 February to 2 March and on 4 March 2022, pursuant to Council decision 2022/313.

2.   The Commission conducted its business during the fifty-third session through correspondence and informal consultations and considered proposals under silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2022/312.

B. Attendance

3.   The virtual informal meetings of the fifty-third session were attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance at the meetings 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.

C. Election of officers

4.   The Commission elected the following officers by acclamation under silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2022/312:

Chair:
        Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs:
        Juan Daniel Oviedo (Colombia)
        Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland)
        Osman Alimamy Sankoh (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:
        Ryu Keunkwan (Republic of Korea)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5.   On 24 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2022/1, under silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2022/312.

6.   The Commission also approved the provisional programme of work and timetable of the session (E/CN.3/2022/L.1/Rev.1), under the same silence procedure.

7.   The Commission also adopted a decision under the same silence procedure, in which it invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its fifty-third session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Arab Maghreb Union; Bank for International Settlements; Common Market

for Eastern and Southern Africa; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; Central African Economic and Monetary Community; Eurasian Economic Commission; European Free Trade Association; and the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its fifty-third session are available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents.

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