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Statistical Commission

**Report on the fifty-fourth session
(28 February–3 March 2023)**

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Statistical Commission

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Note

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Chapter I

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

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. 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-fourth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fourth session;
- (b) Decides that the fifty-fifth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 27 February to 1 March 2024;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the annotated provisional 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) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (b) Demographic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (c) Gender statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (d) Disability statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

- (e) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data;

Documentation

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

- (f) Work and employment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Labour Organization

- (g) Health statistics.

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

4. Economic statistics:

- (a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

- (b) Environmental-economic accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

- (c) Service statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

- (d) Agricultural and rural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

- (e) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

- (f) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

- (g) Business and trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

- (h) International Comparison Programme.
Documentation
Report of the World Bank
- 5. Governance statistics:
 - (a) Governance, peace and security statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics
 - (b) Statistics on drugs and drug use.
Documentation
Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- 6. Cross-cutting domains:
 - (a) 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 on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
 - (b) Climate change statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
 - (c) Digital trade and e-commerce statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics
 - (d) Information and communications technology statistics.
Documentation
Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development
- 7. Statistical infrastructure and methodology:
 - (a) Business registers;
Documentation
Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers
 - (b) Civil registration and vital statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General

- (c) Population and housing censuses;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
 - (d) Data science;
Documentation
Report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics
 - (e) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
Documentation
Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
 - (f) Open data.
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
8. Management and modernization of statistical systems:
- (a) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Data stewardship;
Documentation
Report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship
 - (c) 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
9. Specific items of the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division:
- (a) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;
Documentation
Report of the Bureau of the Commission
 - (c) Regional statistical development.
Documentation
Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

10. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
11. Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

12. Report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

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

54/101

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,¹ and expressed its appreciation for its continued work on improving and implementing the global indicator framework;

(b) Commended the Group on the regular conduct of methodological reviews of the global indicator framework, on the review of all metadata files and on providing them to custodian agencies for implementation, which helps to improve the overall quality of metadata for the better implementation of the indicators by countries;

(c) Agreed on the proposed annual refinements to the global indicator framework, as presented in annex II to its report;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts in compiling and showcasing good practices for monitoring the Goals at the national, regional and global levels, especially by adding a new section on the use of non-traditional and innovative data sources, and invited more countries and partners to share their good practices;

(e) Encouraged the Group to further expand its work on data innovation, including using non-traditional and innovative data sources, technologies and methods, such as the integration of geospatial information and statistics, to close data gaps;

(f) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made by the working groups on geospatial information and on the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), welcomed the background paper on examples of the implementation of the SDGs geospatial road map, and encouraged more capacity development efforts to assist countries in these areas;

(g) Welcomed the development of the toolkit on using small area estimation for the Goals, which provides country case studies and practical guidance to improve the availability of disaggregated data;

¹ E/CN.3/2023/2.

(h) Stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for Goal monitoring;

(i) Supported the use of the website UN SDG: Learn as the capacity-building knowledge base to consolidate e-learning resources, documents and guidelines for Goal monitoring;

(j) Requested the Group to continuously coordinate with custodian agencies to improve data flows from national statistical systems to global Goal monitoring to reduce data discrepancies;

(k) Requested the Group to conduct a stocktaking exercise on data availability at the national level before the 2025 comprehensive review;

(l) Recognized that the 2025 comprehensive review provides an opportunity to further improve the global indicator framework, took note of the guiding principles and timeline developed by the Group, and reiterated that the review should not impose an additional burden on national statistical work;

(m) Welcomed the establishment of a task team on sustainable tourism to develop a detailed proposal for better monitoring of target 8.9 to be ready for submission to the 2025 comprehensive review, taking into account and leveraging the work being done by other groups working in this domain and existing statistical infrastructure in countries;

(n) Agreed that a proxy indicator with a sound methodology and good data coverage can be used as a practical interim solution before 2025 for global monitoring and reporting and for informing policy if the current indicator proves to be very challenging for countries to implement. Requested the Group to establish a consultation process that includes national experts in relevant domains to review proxy indicator proposals;

(o) Agreed on the revised terms of reference for the Group to ensure the consistent involvement of members and full regional representation at all meetings, as presented in annex I of its report;

(p) Approved the proposed work programme of the Group, as described in section V of its report.

54/102

Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General,² 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 to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ including *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database and the release of an updated Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Data Platform;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the capacity development activities carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners to assist Member States in the

² E/CN.3/2023/3.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

dissemination of Goal data and indicators, and commended the Division for making Goal data more widely available;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the Data for Now initiative to build capacity in countries for the use of innovative data sources, technologies and methods, and encouraged the further inclusion of countries from all regions;

(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 improvement of data, especially for the Goals;

(f) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts and achievements of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training, especially its efforts in addressing countries' training needs, and encouraged the Network to continue to expand its membership and to share training tools;

(g) Expressed its appreciation for the successful establishment of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians as an effective mechanism for information- and knowledge-sharing and networking among statisticians around the world;

(h) Welcomed the activities of the Statistics Division in citizen-generated data, in collaboration with its partners, recognized the usefulness of citizen-generated data to fill data gaps, ensure citizens' contributions to data production and better reflect the realities of less visible groups, stressed the need to develop a conceptual framework for citizen-generated data, and supported the establishment of a collaborative on citizen data, which will provide a space in which to share knowledge and experiences, foster collaboration across different communities, identify conceptual and methodological gaps and capacity needs, and inform the development of guidance, including on quality assurance.

54/103

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,⁴ and expressed its appreciation for the work done in collaboration with other partners, including policymakers, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and the media;

(b) Expressed gratitude to the High-level Group, the Government of China and the programme committee for organizing the fourth United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in a hybrid format in Hangzhou, China, from 24 to 27 April 2023;

(c) Supported the strategy for the realignment of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data with current circumstances, and encouraged the consideration of regional and local dimensions and better advocacy among the data and statistics community for its implementation;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the conducting and dissemination of the results of the second round (2022) of the survey on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, asked the High-level Group and its secretariat to continue to administer the survey on a yearly basis with the objectives of identifying sustainable solutions for addressing the capacity and financial needs of national

⁴ E/CN.3/2023/4.

statistical offices while ensuring that the survey is more focused and that the questionnaire tool used is agile and does not pose a burden for the respondents and at the same time maximizes the use of the information for the continued monitoring of the global action plan;

(e) Encouraged the High-level Group to continue its work on innovative mechanisms for the financing and implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan in coordination with the following global financing initiatives: the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, the Global Data Facility of the World Bank and the Complex Risk Analytics Fund;

(f) Agreed with the work programme of the High-level Group, and asked the Group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the fourth United Nations World Data Forum and for preparations for the fifth Forum, to be held in Medellín, Colombia, in autumn 2024.

54/104

Social statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General,⁵ and expressed appreciation to the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics for the work accomplished;

(b) Endorsed the establishment of the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics as a timely initiative to improve this broad area of statistics;

(c) Supported the goals of the Friends of the Chair group, acknowledged the proposed mapping exercise and evaluation of existing regional and global groups working on social and demographic statistics as essential to identify strengths and areas of opportunity, and welcomed the offer of specialized agencies to support this work;

(d) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to: (i) identify methodological and data gaps to measure social and demographic concerns, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals framework; (ii) promote gender mainstreaming and an intersectional approach to data production, analysis and use; and (iii) encourage data integration within and across pillars, using traditional and innovative data sources and methods, for greater granularity in data, both spatial and in terms of population subgroups, and in this context acknowledged the value of geocoded data as a way to strengthen integration across data sources;

(e) Took note of and welcomed the expressions of interest of Member States to join the Friends of the Chair group, which will ensure that the group's recommendations reflect different national contexts;

(f) Approved the Friends of the Chair group's proposed plan and way forward, including the endorsement of the group's terms of reference by the Bureau of the Commission, and requested the group to report back to the Commission in 2026;

(g) Acknowledged the need to include food security and nutrition statistics as a topic in the social statistics domain;

⁵ E/CN.3/2023/5.

(h) Took note of the need for methodological work to measure technology-facilitated violence against women and existing efforts to address this gap, and asked for this item to be included in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session;

(i) Endorsed the set of core and additional indicators on international migration and temporary mobility as an integral part of the upcoming revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics for International Migration*;

(j) Acknowledged the challenge of identifying indicators on migration and related topics for disaggregation relevant to all countries, and therefore welcomed the selection of migration indicators from the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework and the proposed flexible approach distinguishing between core and additional indicators;

(k) Highlighted the importance of addressing the specific constraints faced in generating data on emigration, as well as challenges in the implementation of the set of core and in particular additional indicators, and requested the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics to be mindful of these concerns in the next steps towards the revision of the *Recommendations*;

(l) Supported the proposed programme of work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group, and requested the finalization of the *Recommendations* and their submission to the Commission in 2025;

(m) Congratulated the Statistics and Population Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Organization for Migration and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the successful organization of the third International Forum on Migration Statistics, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for hosting it in Chile in January 2023, and acknowledged the power of the forum in providing a space for experts from across the world to discuss the challenges in gathering and using migration data, as well as related solutions and best practices.

54/105

Household surveys

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys,⁶ commended the work of the Working Group on improving survey coordination at the national and international levels and on progress made in several methodological areas, as well as the Working Group's effort in sharing experiences in innovative approaches across countries;

(b) Endorsed the paper by the Working Group entitled "Positioning household surveys for the next decade", which identifies eight technical priorities and the required enabling environment to guide the Working Group's work in planning its activities to support countries;

(c) Emphasized the importance of developing a well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics system, recognized the difficulties in measuring adult mortality while such systems are deficient, as evidenced during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and welcomed the establishment of the community of practice on adult mortality to explore innovative methods that leverage integration of household survey data into other sources;

⁶ E/CN.3/2023/6.

(d) Requested that the Working Group continue to develop guidance and provide support to improve national capacity on areas such as data integration, inclusive data collection methods for marginalized and difficult-to-reach population groups, sampling, mixed-mode data collection, metadata and microdata dissemination, as well as other innovative household survey methods to meet new data demands;

(e) Expressed appreciation for the network of survey focal points in sharing national experiences and engaging in activities that contributed to the development of household survey guidelines and methodologies;

(f) Supported the work programme of the Working Group for the year ahead, and asked the Working Group to increase country representation from low- and middle-income countries;

(g) Took note of the resource constraints faced by the Working Group, and encouraged the partners involved to continue to support the Working Group so that it can function effectively in responding to countries' demands for technical support;

(h) Requested the Working Group to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

54/106

Economic statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Network of Economic Statisticians,⁷ and commended the Network for successfully convening the organizational sprint, the data access sprint and the “beyond gross domestic product” sprint, as well as for the measurement of owner-occupied housing inflation in the consumer price index sprint to enhance the responsiveness of economic statistics to emerging policy demands and issues and, in collaboration with the regional commissions and other partners, the regional webinars to determine the priorities for their regional statistical systems;

(b) Welcomed the identification of the various use cases from the data access sprint to pursue a process of building relationships with private sector data holders, commended the progress of the formulation of a workplan for these use cases, and suggested regular updates on the progress made;

(c) Commended the work done in the “beyond gross domestic product” sprint and the subsequent global and regional consultations in preparing the research prospectus for an integrated statistical framework for inclusive and sustainable well-being to improve integration between economic and sociodemographic statistics, and welcomed the cooperation between the Network and the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics to facilitate the collaboration between national, regional and global statistical communities for this purpose;

(d) Commended the work on the measurement of owner-occupied housing inflation in the consumer price index sprint in developing a set of recommendations to further refine the existing methods of measuring owner-occupied housing to guide practitioners through a joint exploration by the Ottawa Group on Price Indices and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics to improve international comparability, and noted the proposal to develop an additional index for owner-occupied housing inflation separate from the consumer price index;

⁷ E/CN.3/2023/7.

(e) Commended the collaboration between the Network and the international classifications community, resulting in the proposal to jointly organize an international classifications sprint to raise awareness of the importance of international classifications;

(f) Welcomed the proposal of the Network to develop a branding, communication and outreach strategy to raise awareness of its objectives and activities among partners in the global statistical system, from practitioners to academics and the private sector;

(g) Took note of the first synthesis note of the Network, which identified data integration, international statistical standards and regional commissions as the shared priorities and challenges among the reports of statistical groups to the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission;

(h) Approved the work programme of the Network for 2023, covering the following, and suggested greater involvement and participation of countries from the global South in the work of the Network, including small island developing States, in partnership with the regional commissions and regional agencies:

(i) Implementation of data access use cases of industry-specific studies of global value chains using privately held data to advance methods and principles of data access, in close cooperation with the private sector;

(ii) Exploration of the feasibility of a research agenda for a new integrated statistical framework for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being in accordance with the research prospectus, in collaboration with the Friends of the Chair group;

(iii) Organization of other sprints addressing identified priority topics, such as international classifications, communication, collaboration and outreach, and the shared priorities mentioned in the synthesis note;

(iv) Continuation of regional and global consultations on shared statistical priorities and collaborative arrangements.

54/107

National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,⁸ expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, the Working Group, the regional commissions, other regional organizations and Member States to facilitate the update of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), and endorsed the programmes of work for 2023 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made during 2022 on the work programme of the 2008 SNA update, and commended the outreach activities that had served to keep countries informed of the process and to seek the views of countries through the global consultations on the guidance notes;

(c) Welcomed the enhancing and broadening of the national accounts framework to better account for elements related to well-being and sustainability;

⁸ E/CN.3/2023/8.

- (d) Noted that a number of extensions, supplementary tables and accounts, and thematic accounts are proposed, and stressed that clear implementation priorities and guidance need to be provided;
- (e) Emphasized the importance of testing the implementation of the new recommendations arising from the guidance notes to facilitate the preparedness of countries for implementing the updated SNA after its endorsement by the Commission in 2025;
- (f) Commended the close collaboration between SNA and the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* update teams to ensure alignment between recommendations of SNA and the *Manual* to the greatest extent possible;
- (g) Welcomed the coordination and cooperation between the various economic statistics expert groups to ensure that substantive discrepancies are avoided, as well as that consistent terminology is used across manuals through the development of a common glossary of macroeconomic terms and to reduce duplication of efforts and facilitate optimal outcomes;
- (h) Expressed appreciation for the assessment of the SNA research agenda as a way to monitor progress in the 2008 SNA update and to identify possible topics for a post-2025 SNA research agenda;
- (i) Emphasized the need for capacity-building and funding for Member States with limited resources, including small island developing States, in particular those that have not yet implemented the 2008 SNA, to facilitate the implementation of SNA, and expressed appreciation to international organizations and countries for providing technical support for national account statistics in particular and economic statistics in general;
- (j) 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 data, including the availability of quarterly national accounts data, in support of international comparisons and a global understanding of the world economy.

54/108

Business and trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics,⁹ and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee and its task teams;
- (b) Approved the establishment of a single task team on statistical business registers to combine the activities of the previous task teams on exhaustive business registers and capacity-building, endorsed its terms of reference, recommended that the task team coordinate its activities with relevant expert groups such as the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, and suggested that a platform for sharing country practices on statistical business registers be established;
- (c) Welcomed the development of guidance on the integration of business and trade statistics, on the integration of a gender perspective into business and trade statistics as an approach to the integration of business and trade statistics with social

⁹ E/CN.3/2023/9.

and demographic statistics, and on data collection methodology for business statistics, such as business surveys;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for and took note of the progress of work on the revision of the trade statistics manuals, and requested the task team to undertake a wide and inclusive consultation with countries and organizations;

(e) Underlined the importance of informal cross-border trade, notably its relationship with social and demographics dimensions, especially in developing countries, and requested the Committee to include this topic in the ongoing revision of the trade statistics manuals;

(f) Stressed the importance of unique identifiers to facilitate microdata linking and the integration of data from different sources;

(g) Endorsed the global initiative on unique identifiers for businesses, supported its main elements as described in the background document, and encouraged countries and relevant organizations to coordinate their activities in this area in an effort to provide solid infrastructure for statistical business registers;

(h) Approved the work programme of the Committee, and commended the Committee's efforts to coordinate its activities with relevant groups of experts.

54/109

Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic Commission for Africa,¹⁰ and commended the region on progress made on statistical development in the African region towards transforming and modernizing national statistical systems;

(b) Welcomed the methodological developments and guidance documents in the Economic Commission for Africa region;

(c) Supported the road map for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa, 2023–2030, as an important way forward, and noted with appreciation the work of the African group already undertaken in this area;

(d) Encouraged partners to support the implementation of the road map and to align their programme support with the priorities identified in the document;

(e) Acknowledged collaborations between the Economic Commission for Africa and other regional commissions to share substantial knowledge, as well as technological expertise to strengthen national statistical systems;

(f) Encouraged Member States from other regions to adapt and use the road map to help to modernize and transform their national statistical systems and bring them in line with national development plans.

54/110

Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting,¹¹ and expressed its appreciation for the continued work in

¹⁰ E/CN.3/2023/10.

¹¹ E/CN.3/2023/11.

advancing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting implementation and its mainstreaming;

(b) Welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, welcomed the acknowledgement by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the value of aligning national monitoring with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in order to mainstream biodiversity, called upon national statistical offices to engage with their biodiversity focal points, and called upon the Committee to actively engage in the Convention on Biological Diversity process and facilitate further collaboration between the statistical and the biodiversity communities to strengthen national monitoring systems and for monitoring and reporting on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) Welcomed the establishment of the new Group of 20 Data Gaps Initiative and the involvement of the Committee in the work to close climate change data gaps using System of Environmental-Economic Accounting accounts for Group of 20 countries and beyond;

(d) Welcomed the Committee's progress towards the development of global databases, in particular through the launch of global data collection for energy and air emission accounts, and noted the importance of these databases for climate change and circular economy initiatives;

(e) Welcomed the collaboration of the Committee with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in advancing a statistical framework for measuring the circular economy;

(f) Welcomed the progress made in advancing the research agenda and developing methodologies to support implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting, in particular the work of the forest ecosystems and ocean accounts groups, and supported the Committee's collaboration with the earth observations community with the aim of providing robust and cost-effective earth observations solutions for ecosystem accounting;

(g) 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 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), noting the importance of taking into account the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting to reflect environmental issues within the updated 2008 SNA;

(h) Requested the Committee to continue to advance the research agenda on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting, taking into consideration the discussions on valuation within the context of the update of the 2008 SNA;

(i) Supported the engagement of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting with the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications in the revisions of the International Standard Industry Classification, the Central Product Classification, the Classification of Environmental Functions and the Standard International Energy Product Classification, as well as the upcoming revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government, noting the importance of ensuring that the updated classifications take into account environmental considerations, are fit for purpose for System of Environmental-Economic Accounting compilation and are sufficiently forward-looking in scope;

(j) Welcomed the increase in country implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and encouraged the continued development of

guides and tools to support implementation, as well as the use of partnerships and regional collaboration to accelerate implementation;

(k) Requested that the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting manuals and e-learning courses be made available in all official languages of the United Nations as soon as possible;

(l) Welcomed the progress of the working group on business accounting, and supported the group's collaboration with the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, the Global Reporting Initiative and the Capitals Coalition to better align private sector methodologies and standards with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, noting the benefits to both the public and private sectors in this regard;

(m) Noted the update provided on the statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism, encouraged the finalization of the document, and welcomed its future submission to the Commission.

54/111 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,¹² and reiterated the importance of the Principles to promote the production and dissemination of relevant, impartial, objective and reliable official statistics;

(b) Acknowledged the critical contribution of the successive Friends of the Chair Group on social and demographic statistics to promote the Principles and monitor their implementation through self-assessment surveys while recognizing that challenges outlined in the report were still hindering the full implementation of the Principles;

(c) Welcomed the proposed activities paving the road to the 2024 commemoration of the adoption of the Principles, in particular taking forward discussions at regional workshops, reviewing the implementation guidelines to make them shorter and more focused and, where relevant, initiating country-specific actions within and beyond statistical communities to promote compliance;

(d) Requested these activities, including considerations on the extension of the Principles beyond national statistical systems, to be all-inclusive while considering the work already undertaken by relevant bodies and professional organizations at the global, regional and national levels, and noted the offers of support in this respect;

(e) Supported the principle of establishing an independent advisory board reporting to the Statistical Commission to address non-implementation and non-compliance of the Principles;

(f) Requested the board's terms of reference to be submitted, after global consultation, to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission for endorsement, and requested the terms of reference to reflect the board's awareness-raising, communication and promotion functions, with due consideration for existing mechanisms and initiatives at the regional, subregional and, where appropriate, national levels;

¹² E/CN.3/2023/12.

(g) Entrusted the Bureau of the Commission to oversee the planning of the commemoration, as well as the implementation and follow-up of the proposals contained in the report.

54/112

International statistical classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications,¹³ and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee and its task teams;

(b) Endorsed revision 5 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, as presented to the Commission, and encouraged the Committee to finalize the explanatory notes, the development of relevant correspondences and the index as soon as possible;

(c) Recommended that Member States implement revision 5 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, so as to be able to report data at least at the two-digit level of the classification without loss of information, and requested the provision of technical assistance to Member States for the implementation of the revised classification;

(d) Endorsed the establishment of standing task teams to facilitate the ongoing maintenance, updating and implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification, and requested the Committee to formulate a proposal for a regular revision cycle of these classifications and the development of a research agenda for future revisions for consideration by the Commission;

(e) Took note of the progress of work on the revision of the Central Product Classification and requested the Committee to submit the revised Central Product Classification to the Commission at its next session, in 2024;

(f) Endorsed the revised Classification of Statistical Activities as an international standard classification, recommended its inclusion in the international family of classifications, and welcomed in particular the explicit inclusion of the topic of governance statistics and human rights in the classification;

(g) Endorsed the international classification of violence against children as an international standard classification and recommended its inclusion in the international family of classifications;

(h) Approved the terms of reference of the task team on the revision of the Standard International Energy Product Classification;

(i) Welcomed the development of a classification of environmental functions and the process for its finalization, stressed the importance of coordinating the development of this classification with the revision of other relevant classifications to ensure their conceptual consistency, and noted that the timeline for its adoption may be too ambitious;

(j) Welcomed the proposed work programme of the Committee, which includes the revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government, the review of the strategy for the survey of national classifications, the update of the Statistics Division website on classifications, the update of the best practices for developing new

¹³ E/CN.3/2023/13.

classifications and their approval process, and the work on modernization of classifications, and, in this regard, requested the Committee to review tools and mechanisms to facilitate the dissemination of classifications in a user-friendly and interoperable manner.

54/113

Statistical capacity development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development¹⁴ and its background document, and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Statistics Division in the area of statistical capacity development, especially in relation to the compilation and dissemination of Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(b) Underscored the importance of capacity development to improve and maintain statistical capacity in national statistical offices and other institutes within the national statistical systems, and recommended that maturity models be used to assess the statistical capacity needs of those entities;

(c) Commended the collaborative approach of the Statistics Division working with its partners on capacity development initiatives, such as the Data for Now initiative and the Regional Hubs for Big Data, and commended in this regard the work done by the task team on training, competencies and capacity development of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics in making training tools for assessing and building capacity in data innovation available for the statistical community;

(d) Requested the development partners to continue to support capacity development to strengthen the statistical capacity of institutes in the wider statistical ecosystem;

(e) Supported the proposal for an in-depth analysis of targeted statistical capacity development programmes, underlying methodologies, coordination and modes of delivery of capacity development activities, including hybrid modalities and dissemination of materials in all official languages of the United Nations, and to develop a set of recommendations in collaboration with relevant partners, such as those that are part of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training;

(f) Requested a report and recommendations based on this analysis at its fifty-sixth session, in 2025.

54/114

Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on the working methods of the Commission,¹⁵ and recognized the Bureau's increased role in carrying out work in the intersessional period, following up on the decisions of the Commission and preparing for the next session;

¹⁴ E/CN.3/2023/14.

¹⁵ E/CN.3/2023/15.

(b) Noted with appreciation the Bureau's efforts to facilitate a dialogue (e.g. through a high-level virtual seminar) on how the Commission can translate its updated and strengthened mandate for the global statistics and data ecosystem into concrete effective actions, and requested the Bureau to intensify its work in this area;

(c) In this context, noted the proposed draft resolution (E/CN.3/2023/L.4), and agreed that further discussion should be held to ensure that the Commission is more inclusive. This could include an enlargement of the Statistical Commission to address issues raised related to geographical representation of developing countries. It requested the Bureau to prepare a note with options including an impact assessment. This note will be used to inform and to create consensus, including on the question of the proposed number of Commission members and their distribution by regional and subregional groupings. This report, as well as the draft resolution, will be provided to Member States by December 2023 in order to be presented to the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission;

(d) Welcomed and supported the proposed revision of the multi-year programme of work, which is aligned with the international classification of statistical activities and will allow for a more structured discussion of agenda items;

(e) Supported the new agenda category of decision items (in addition to discussion and information items) in order to streamline the Commission's discussions and decision-making using the limited session time effectively;

(f) Noted other workstreams of the Bureau on gender mainstreaming and clarifying normative categories of its work, and encouraged the Bureau to continue its work in those areas.

54/115

National quality assurance frameworks

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks,¹⁶ expressed its appreciation for the work accomplished over the past two years, and thanked countries that supported the translation of the manual;

(b) Took note of the results of the survey on the implementation of the National Quality Assurance Framework and the progress achieved, but also acknowledged the fact that many countries have yet to implement a national quality assurance framework;

(c) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed road map for the development and implementation of a national quality assurance framework;

(d) Recognized the need for capacity-building and training for the implementation of a national quality assurance framework, and welcomed the planned initiatives of the expert group to support countries, including through the promotion of the manual, self-assessment, its website, the creation of a community of experts, the sharing of best practices and the development of additional materials and guidance, such as on the quality assurance when administrative or other data sources are used, in coordination and cooperation with other groups as required and with a view towards supporting quality assurance throughout the national statistical system and beyond;

¹⁶ E/CN.3/2023/16.

(e) Requested that materials and guidance be made available in all official languages;

(f) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group for the next two years and its updated terms of reference.

54/116

Big data

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics¹⁷ and its background document, and acknowledged the many accomplishments of the task teams and the regional hubs, such as the guidance developed for the use of mobile phone data for tourism, migration, and disaster and displacement statistics;

(b) Recognized the need of national statistical offices for capacity-building activities on big data and data science, and supported using the opportunities offered by the regional and sector hubs, including training in the use of artificial intelligence for ecosystem accounting, the use of mobile phone data for official statistics, the use of scanner data and web scraping for the calculation of the consumer price index and the use of remote sensing for agriculture statistics;

(c) In this regard, supported the proposal of China to become a global centre on specific topics of big data and data science, and welcomed the proposal of Indonesia to become a regional hub on big data and data science for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Supported the initiative for enhanced collaboration between the Committee and the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information;

(e) Endorsed the terms of reference of the Data Science Leaders Network, especially supported the fact that this Network focuses on strategic issues related to the role of data science in official statistics, and noted the interest of Member States to participate in the Network;

(f) Recognized the need for further exploration of privacy-enhancing technologies to safely access and share sensitive data in official statistics, especially for access to privately held data and for access to the microdata of statistical institutes;

(g) Endorsed the Yogyakarta Declaration;

(h) Encouraged Member States to take part in the work of the Committee.

54/117

Price statistics

The Statistical Commission expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Ottawa Group on Price Indices and endorsed the updated terms of reference of the Group.

¹⁷ [E/CN.3/2023/17](#).

54/118 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,¹⁸ and noted its new strategic direction to enhance the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and other data sources, for informed decision-making in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁹ at the national, subnational and local levels;

(b) Noted the Expert Group's revised terms of reference and workplan for 2022–2024, inclusive of expanding on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain and updating the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework to reflect national and regional experiences in its implementation;

(c) Welcomed the Expert Group's offer to assist the Commission in its efforts to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/3;

(d) Noted with concern that several countries, especially developing countries, still lack adequate capacity to integrate statistical and geospatial information, urged the continued implementation and operationalization of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, welcomed the many translations of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and expressed appreciation to Brazil and Kuwait for translating the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework into Portuguese and Arabic, respectively;

(e) Encouraged statistical offices to collaborate with their national geospatial information agencies to ensure that the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework is implemented to its potential based on national circumstances;

(f) Encouraged the Expert Group to strengthen interlinkages with relevant groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities, including the subsidiary groups of the Commission, the regional committees of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, regional commissions of the United Nations and relevant stakeholders;

(g) Noted the requests for the Secretariat to provide more technical support to Member States in the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial 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.

54/119 Data stewardship

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship,²⁰ and expressed its appreciation for the work accomplished;

¹⁸ E/CN.3/2023/19.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁰ E/CN.3/2023/20.

(b) Supported the continued focus on 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, including a set of principles related to data stewardship;

(c) Approved the draft consultation questionnaire to be circulated among national statistical offices to further understand attitudes on the scope and priorities of data stewardship, which will be conducted in coordination with other international and regional groups with a related or common focus and will provide further information on the different national starting points and circumstances;

(d) Agreed with the work programme of the Working Group and asked the Working Group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

54/120

Crime and criminal justice statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on corruption measurement,²¹ and expressed its appreciation for the progress achieved in the implementation of the road map to improve the quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics at the national and international levels;

(b) Welcomed the partnership with the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(c) Welcomed the statistical framework for measuring corruption as a statistically robust framework to measure the phenomenon of corruption;

(d) Acknowledged the ambitious nature of the framework and the current limited ability of countries to fully implement it due to its wide range of indicators and data sources and the high level of coordination needed among national statistical offices and several governmental institutions;

(e) Encouraged UNODC to provide technical support to implement the framework, as necessary and subject to the availability of resources, and invited national statistical offices to take an active role and collaborate with other relevant national institutions, civil society and academia in the implementation of the statistical framework for measuring corruption;

(f) Requested UNODC to report on progress made in the implementation of the framework to the Commission under the agenda item on crime and criminal justice statistics.

54/121

Refugee, internally displaced persons and statelessness statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics,²² commended the work undertaken by the Group to develop the recommendations, and endorsed the international recommendations on statelessness statistics;

²¹ E/CN.3/2023/21.

²² E/CN.3/2023/22.

(b) Reiterated that the international recommendations on statelessness statistics are a valuable tool that will support national production of statelessness statistics, taking note that their implementation will require Member States to review and adjust current practices, noted that the recommendations will facilitate greater harmonization of statelessness data regionally and globally, and highlighted the need for the recommendations to be translated into other United Nations languages;

(c) Supported the Expert Group's current programme of work, specifically priorities to assist countries to implement the international recommendations on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics, and the continuation of the Group's mandate beyond 2024;

(d) Requested that the Expert Group continue to work with countries and international organizations to build statistical capacity where needed to improve data on forcibly displaced and stateless persons, recognizing the need for a clear and coordinated allocation of resources in this regard;

(e) Took note of the initial work undertaken on measuring the health of refugees and called upon the World Health Organization and partners to further develop this work, ensuring alignment with existing definitions and statistical frameworks on refugees and international migrants, and in coordination with the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics.

54/122

Programme questions

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. It requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2024.

54/123

Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics²³

Report of the International Monetary Fund on finance statistics²⁴

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme²⁵

Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on statistics on science, technology and innovation²⁶

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics²⁷

Report of the core group of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics²⁸

²³ [E/CN.3/2023/23](#).

²⁴ [E/CN.3/2023/24](#).

²⁵ [E/CN.3/2023/25](#).

²⁶ [E/CN.3/2023/26](#).

²⁷ [E/CN.3/2023/27](#).

²⁸ [E/CN.3/2023/28](#).

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors²⁹

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 Commission³⁰

Report of the Secretary-General on management and modernization of statistical systems³¹

²⁹ E/CN.3/2023/29.

³⁰ E/CN.3/2023/30.

³¹ E/CN.3/2023/31.

Chapter II

Items for discussion and decision

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 7th meetings, from 28 February to 3 March 2023. At its 7th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission took action on all related draft decisions (draft decisions 54/101–54/116) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. B).

A. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 28 February and 3 March 2023. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([E/CN.3/2023/2](#)), the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2023/3](#)) and the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.3/2023/4](#)). The Commission considered those reports in turn.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission heard a statement by the observer for Canada, who introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 12 States members of the Commission and 20 observer States.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission continued its consideration of the sub-item and heard a statement by the Chief of the Development Data and Outreach Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 10 observer States.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement under item 3 (a) by the observer for Albania, who introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of four States members of the Commission and six observer States.

B. Social statistics

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 28 February and 3 March 2023. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/5](#)) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 5 States members of the Commission, 16 observer States and 3 international organizations.

C. Household surveys

7. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 28 February and 3 March 2023. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on

Household Surveys ([E/CN.3/2023/6](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 14 observer States and 1 international organization.

D. Economic statistics

8. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 7th meetings, on 28 February and 1 and 3 March 2023. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Network of Economic Statisticians ([E/CN.3/2023/7](#)). At the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the observer for Canada, who introduced the report.

9. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (d), where statements were made by the representatives of 4 States members of the Commission and 17 observer States.

E. National accounts

10. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 1 and 3 March 2023. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts ([E/CN.3/2023/8](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 5 States members of the Commission and 18 observer States.

F. Business and trade statistics

11. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 1 and 3 March 2023. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/9](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for Italy, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission and eight observer States.

G. Regional statistical development

12. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 1 and 3 March 2023. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on regional statistical development ([E/CN.3/2023/10](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for ECA, who introduced the report.

13. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (g). At the two meetings, statements were made by the representative of one State member of the Commission and seven observer States, as well as by the representatives of three international organizations.

H. Environmental-economic accounting

14. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 1 and 3 March 2023. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before

it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2023/11) and heard a statement by the representative of Australia, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 7 States members of the Commission and 14 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

I. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

15. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 1 and 3 March 2023. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2023/12) and heard a statement by the Inter-regional Adviser of the Statistics Division, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 7 States members of the Commission and 11 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 6 international organizations.

J. International statistical classifications

16. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 7th meetings, on 1, 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (E/CN.3/2023/13) and heard a statement by the observer for New Zealand, who introduced the report.

17. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (j). At the two meetings, statements were made by the 6 States members of the Commission and 8 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 4 international organizations.

K. Statistical capacity development

18. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development (E/CN.3/2023/14) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Data Innovation and Capacity Branch of the Statistics Division, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 3 States members of the Commission and 10 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 2 international organizations.

L. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

19. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 1st, 5th and 7th meetings, on 28 February and 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it a draft resolution (E/CN.3/2023/L.4) and the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on the working methods of the Commission (E/CN.3/2023/15) and heard a statement by the Chair, who introduced the draft resolution.

20. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission resumed its consideration of agenda item 3 (l) and heard a statement by the Chair, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 9 States members of the

Commission and 18 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

M. National quality assurance frameworks

21. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks ([E/CN.3/2023/16](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for the Philippines, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 4 States members of the Commission and 10 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

N. Big data

22. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/17](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for Denmark, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 6 States members of the Commission and 12 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

Chapter III

Items for decision

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 7th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission took action on all related draft decisions (draft decisions 54/117 to 54/121) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 8 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. B).

A. Price statistics

2. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices ([E/CN.3/2023/18](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of Australia, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of seven observer States.

B. Integration of statistical and geospatial information

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2023/19](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of Brazil, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two observer States.

C. Data stewardship

4. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship ([E/CN.3/2023/20](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for Poland, who introduced the report. Thereafter, a statement was made by the representative of one State member of the Commission.

D. Crime and criminal justice statistics

5. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on corruption measurement ([E/CN.3/2023/21](#) and [E/CN.3/2023/21/Corr.1](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for UNODC, who introduced the report. Thereafter, a statement was made by the representative of one observer State.

E. Refugee, internally displaced persons and statelessness statistics

6. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2023. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/22](#)) and heard a statement by the observer for Norway, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of four observer States, as well as by the representative of one international organization.

Chapter IV

Items for information

The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 2 March 2023. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of all the reports under items for information (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 54/123, and chap. VIII, para. 7).

Chapter V

Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 3 March 2023, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.
2. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. The Commission requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2024 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 54/122).

Chapter VI

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

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 3 March 2023. It 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-fifth session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2023/L.2](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2023–2027 ([E/CN.3/2023/32](#)).

Thereafter, a statement was made by the representative of one observer State.

2. At its 7th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, as outlined in document [E/CN.3/2023/L.2](#), as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fifty-fifth session be held from 27 February to 1 March 2024 (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2023–2027 ([E/CN.3/2023/32](#)).

Chapter VII

Report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session

1. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 3 March 2023, and heard a statement by the Rapporteur, who introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session ([E/CN.3/2023/L.3](#)), together with an informal paper containing the draft decisions.
2. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of 13 States members of the Commission and 32 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 3 international organizations.
3. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-fourth session, including the decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its fifty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 3 March 2023. The Commission held seven meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance 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. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.3/2023/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs:

Hoon Han (Republic of Korea)

Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland)

Adnen Lassoued (Tunisia)

Rapporteur:

Graciela Márquez Colín (Mexico)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.3/2023/1](#).

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session ([E/CN.3/2023/L.1](#)), as orally revised.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its fifty-fourth session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Bank for International Settlements; Central African Economic and Monetary Community; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa; European Free Trade Association.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its fifty-fourth session are available at <https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/documents/54>.

