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**Items for information: follow-up to the policy decisions of the
General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council**

Policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2017/228 and past practice, the Secretary-General is honoured to transmit the present report to brief the Statistical Commission on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Council adopted in 2017, or earlier, that are relevant to its work. The report also indicates the actions that were taken or are proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in an effort to respond to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council. The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

* [E/CN.3/2018/1](#).



Policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

I. Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/313](#), reaffirmed its resolution [70/1](#), by which it adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and adopted the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. As agreed upon by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, the framework is to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the Commission at its fifty-first and fifty-sixth sessions.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, endorsed by the Commission at its forty-eighth session, which provides the framework for the discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical capacity-building pertaining to the 2030 Agenda.

3. Also in resolution [71/313](#), the General Assembly requested the Commission: to coordinate the substantive and technical work to develop international statistical standards, methods and guidelines, where necessary, to fully implement the global indicator framework to follow up and review the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; and to further refine and improve the framework, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, in order to address coverage, alignment with targets, definition of terms and development of metadata and to facilitate its implementation, including through the periodic review of new methodologies and data as they become available.

4. In the same resolution the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to maintain the Sustainable Development Goals global indicator database to inform the yearly progress report on the Goals and to ensure transparency on the data, statistics and metadata presented on countries and used for the regional and global aggregates and to continue to facilitate collaboration between national statistical systems and the relevant international and regional organizations to enhance data reporting channels and ensure the harmonization and consistency of data and statistics for the indicators used to follow up and review the Goals and targets, within existing resources.

5. In resolution [71/313](#), the General Assembly also urged international organizations to base the global review on data produced by national statistical systems and, if specific country data were not available for reliable estimation, to consult with concerned countries to produce and validate modelled estimates before publication, and to provide the methodologies used to harmonize country data for international comparability and produce estimates through transparent mechanisms.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

6. The report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2018/2) describes the activities undertaken by the Group, pursuant to Commission decision 48/101, including: (a) methodological development of tier III indicators and updates to the tier classification; (b) annual refinements of some indicators and a timeline for the 2020 comprehensive review; (c) guidelines and best practices on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals; and (d) work carried out through the data disaggregation work stream and by the working groups on interlinkages, statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) and geospatial information. At the forty-ninth session, the Commission will also have before it a background document on the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2018/4) provides details on the ongoing work related to the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, the work on statistical capacity needs by the joint subgroup of the High-level Group and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and preparations for the United Nations World Data Forum, to be held from 22 to 24 October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and explores issues regarding the possible creation of the position of Chief Statistician of the United Nations.

8. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2018/3). The report describes the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66), as mandated by the General Assembly (see resolution 70/1, para. 83), as well as the work undertaken to update the database on the global indicators, including the data and metadata repository, and to support countries in the implementation of the indicators at the national level. In addition, the report informs the Commission about the results of a conference on national reporting platforms, the pilot exercise on a federated system of national and global data hubs and the establishment of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training.

II. International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

9. In its resolution 71/211, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem by carrying out training programmes to develop indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem and, where appropriate, by supporting the efforts of requesting States to enhance or develop new national indicators and instruments.

10. In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data, and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*, and encouraged the Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts in supporting States to establish, upon request, the operational frameworks essential for communication within and across national borders and in facilitating the exchange of information on and analysis of drug trafficking trends.

11. Also in its resolution [71/211](#), the General Assembly invited Member States: to promote and improve the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence, as well as the sharing, at the national and international levels, of reliable and comparable data on drug use and epidemiology, including on social, economic and other risk factors; to participate in joint cooperation efforts organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data; and to regularly report data and information relating to all aspects of the world drug problem to the Office on Drugs and Crime through the annual report questionnaires.

12. In addition, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to promote data collection, research and the sharing of information, as well as the exchange of best practices on preventing and countering drug-related crime and on drug supply reduction measures and practices in order to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses, within the framework of applicable law, and invited Member States to consider the need to review the set of national drug policy metrics and tools for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable, comprehensive and comparable data to measure the effectiveness of programmes to address all relevant aspects of the world drug problem, including, as appropriate, those related to the 2030 Agenda.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

13. In 2017, at its forty-eighth session, the Commission discussed a report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on an international road map to improve drug statistics. The Statistical Commission recognized the statistical merit of the road map and commended it to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its consideration and to ensure harmonization with its policy directions. The Statistical Commission also encouraged collaboration between the two Commissions within the United Nations system.

14. In March 2017, Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland), Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission, addressed the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 13–17 March 2017).¹ Subsequently, the Chairs of the two Commissions exchanged letters to explore opportunities for future cooperation. Upon invitation by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 7 December 2017, the Statistical Commission, represented by its rapporteur, Ms. Aija Žīgure (Latvia), participated in a panel discussion on drug statistics organized by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which took place in Vienna, on the margins of the

¹ See [E/2017/28](#).

reconvened sixtieth session of the Commission. Participants in the panel discussion, which provided an opportunity to identify technical challenges and solutions for consideration at the expert consultation in January 2018, discussed practices and challenges in relation to data quality and national capacity to produce drug statistics. The expert consultation will provide a unique venue to discuss ways to improve current methods of data collection on drugs, including the annual report questionnaire of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

III. Disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

15. In its resolution [71/276](#), the General Assembly welcomed the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction ([A/71/644](#) and [A/71/644/Corr.1](#)) and endorsed the recommendations contained in sections IV and V of its report, having stressed, in its resolution [71/226](#), the need for the report to be developed in coherence with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to ensure feasibility and consistency in implementation, collection of data and reporting.

16. In its resolution [71/226](#), the General Assembly also called upon all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets agreed in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and recognized the scale of action needed for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, such as through the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases, national and local risk profiles and available capacities, as well as the conduct of risk assessments. In addition, the Assembly urged States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to continue working on data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including on the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible.

17. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/128](#), encouraged Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen the impartial and timely collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and policy and operational responses and to enhance understanding, analysis, monitoring and assessment of the dynamics and effects of displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change. The Assembly also encouraged Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities, as appropriate, in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk efforts.

18. In addition, in the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on affected populations, including through the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, encouraged Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a

common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, including forecast-based action, and to improve the effectiveness of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encouraged the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis.

19. In its resolution [2017/14](#), the Economic and Social Council encouraged humanitarian and development organizations to consider applying, in coordination with national authorities, risk-management tools in order to allow for better use of baseline information and risk analysis, including analysis of the underlying causes of crises, the different vulnerabilities of countries and regions and the risk exposures of affected populations, and noted the further development of established tools and innovative mechanisms, such as through the introduction of forecast-based financing mechanisms, the networking of disaster risk reduction centres, comprehensive preparedness measures and the Index for Risk Management, to include more data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, as well as information regarding national and regional contexts, taking into account the environmental impact.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

20. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission adopted decision 47/112 (see [E/2016/24](#)), in which it noted the link between climate change and disaster reduction and requested that the Sendai Framework be considered in the development of climate change statistics and indicators. A task force of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), chaired by Italy, has been working on clarifying the role of official statistics in providing data for disaster management and risk reduction and identifying practical steps on how national statistical offices, in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster management, can support work in this area. The task force is planning to finalize its work by the end of 2018. ECE is also contributing to the technical work being undertaken by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to operationalize the monitoring of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, including technical guidance material for the testing and roll-out of the Sendai Framework indicators.

IV. Global geospatial information management

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

21. In its resolution [71/128](#), the General Assembly encouraged the further use of space-based and ground-based remote sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invited Member States to continue to provide their support for the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery.

22. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/90](#), expressing its desire to enhance international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries, emphasized the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels, reiterated the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields and encouraged Member States to promote the inclusion, in those conferences, summits and processes, of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data, with the involvement of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

23. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2017/6](#), acknowledging the strengthened role that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research has been playing in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, as well as in monitoring and evaluating progress and developing statistical capacities to support improved data availability, with a focus on developing countries, encouraged the Institute to continue to respond to requests, including from United Nations entities, for maps derived from satellite imagery and reports to support the humanitarian and development community.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

24. The report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2018/33](#)) summarizes the activities undertaken by the Expert Group since the forty-eighth session of the Commission (decision 48/108) and the sixth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (decision 6/107), by which the Commission endorsed and the Committee adopted the five guiding principles of the global statistical geospatial framework. In its report, the Expert Group provides information on its focus on the consolidation and implementation of the five guiding principles, including in the preparation of country-level examples, and on assuming the overall coordination role for activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The Commission is invited to note the progress made by the Expert Group on its work to consolidate and implement the framework and the Group's views on coordinating activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

V. Refugees and international migration

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

25. By its resolution [71/1](#), the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, in which Member States recognized the importance of improved data collection, particularly by national authorities, including data disaggregated by sex and age on regular and irregular flows and the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, human trafficking, the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities, consistent with applicable national legislation on data protection and international obligations related to privacy. Member States also

indicated that a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration could include, inter alia, disaggregated data on international migration.

26. In its resolution [71/177](#), the General Assembly emphasized the need for reliable statistical data disaggregated by sex, age and migratory status on international migration, including on migrant children, and called upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrant children in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard.

27. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/237](#), emphasized the need for reliable, accurate, disaggregated, nationally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data and indicators on international migration, including, when possible, on the contributions of migrants to development in countries of origin, transit and destination, and invited the entities of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions, in accordance with their mandates and as appropriate, to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

28. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission will consider the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/16](#)), which describes the activities undertaken by the Expert Group since its establishment and highlights the work leading to the development of the set of international recommendations on refugee statistics and a technical report on internally displaced persons statistics, including the organization of global meetings in Copenhagen, Geneva and Oslo and a global consultation on the draft recommendations to solicit comments from a broad base prior to submission to the Commission.

29. The Commission will consider two background documents submitted by the Expert Group: the set of international recommendations on refugee statistics and the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics. While there are many parallels between refugees and internally displaced persons, and the statistical challenges in measuring and reporting on these populations are often similar, they do have different statuses and, hence, statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons are considered and presented in two different documents. The Commission is invited to adopt the set of recommendations on refugee statistics and the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics. The Commission is also invited to provide guidance on the next phase of the work of the Expert Group, namely the development of a refugee statistics compilers manual and more concrete recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics.

VI. Gender statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

30. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2017/9](#), called upon the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their

respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the United Nations system at the global, regional and country levels, in accordance with previous Council resolutions and General Assembly resolutions [64/289](#) and [71/243](#), commensurate with the 2030 Agenda, including by enhancing standards and methodologies for the use of the United Nations system at the global, regional and country levels in order to improve the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and use of accurate, reliable, transparent and comparable data and statistics and, where applicable, and with due respect for confidentiality, open data and statistics related to achieving gender equality, disaggregated by, inter alia, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

31. In its resolution [2017/14](#), the Economic and Social Council requested Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women at all stages of humanitarian response, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, taking into account information provided by affected States, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making processes, in order to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian action, and encouraged greater utilization of the gender marker and other tools, including age-sensitive tools, throughout the humanitarian programme cycle.

32. In its resolution [71/170](#), the General Assembly encouraged States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant parameters, including, where appropriate, administrative data from the police, the health sector and the judiciary, and to monitor all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, through the use of data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and geographical location, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims. It also strongly encouraged all States to regularly provide updated information for the Secretary-General's Global Database on Violence against Women and called upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the Global Database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

33. In the same resolution, the General Assembly acknowledged the work of the Statistics Division, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women and girls. This follows the call of the Assembly on Member States, in its resolution [71/168](#), to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, and on harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, and its renewed request to the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its seventy-third session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilation, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice, on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

34. In its resolution [71/175](#), the General Assembly affirmed the need for States to improve the collection and use of quantitative, qualitative and comparable data on violence against women and on harmful practices, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, civil status, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geographical location, socioeconomic status, education level and other key factors, as appropriate, in order to enhance research and the dissemination of evidence-based and good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

35. At its forty-ninth session the Commission will discuss the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/22](#)). The report provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including the revision of the minimum set of gender indicators to align it with the Sustainable Development Goals indicators framework, and an update on the implementation of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality project. It also reports on the results of capacity-building efforts to strengthen gender statistics programmes in countries worldwide and on the organization of the eleventh meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the ongoing work and future priorities on gender statistics.

36. During the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2017, Ms. Aija Žīgure (Latvia), rapporteur of the Statistical Commission, participated in a panel discussion on enhancing availability and use of data and gender-related statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²

VII. Inclusive development for persons with disability

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

37. In its resolution [71/165](#) on inclusive development for persons with disabilities, the General Assembly expressed concern that the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics and recognized the need to intensify efforts to strengthen data collection and capacity-building of Member States to support the development of evidence-based policies and programmes inclusive of persons with disabilities and ensure that no one is left behind.

38. In the same resolution, the General Assembly stressed the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics, such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* and their updates, and encouraged ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with

² [E/2017/27](#), paras. 79–84.

disabilities by gender and age. The Assembly further encouraged the Statistical Commission, within existing resources, to update guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and also encouraged the United Nations system, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system in order to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development.

39. Also in resolution [71/165](#), the General Assembly urged Member States and relevant United Nations entities to submit information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General to its seventy-third session on the implementation of that resolution and in his flagship report to be submitted to the General Assembly in 2018, requested the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing international guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities. The Assembly also encouraged Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics.

40. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2017/12](#), encouraged Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve the collection and analysis and to significantly increase the availability of internationally comparable, high-quality, timely and reliable data on persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics and their updates, disaggregated by, inter alia, disability, sex and age, for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system through appropriate mechanisms and to address the gap in data collection and analysis.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

41. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission will examine the joint report on disability statistics of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/17](#)). The report highlights the experiences of countries in the measurement of disability and presents key findings from a series of regional meetings organized by the Statistics Division in 2016 and 2017. The report also presents current and planned activities on disability statistics by the Division, the regional commissions, the World Health Organization and the Washington Group. The report aims at linking planned activities to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to produce quality statistics on disability for evidence-based policies and programmes on disability.

VIII. Crime prevention and criminal justice

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

42. In its resolution [71/188](#), the General Assembly encouraged States to gather relevant information, including through data collection and research, concerning children within their criminal justice systems so as to improve their administration of justice, while being mindful of the children's right to privacy, with full respect for relevant international human rights instruments and bearing in mind applicable international standards on human rights in the administration of justice.

43. In its resolution [2017/15](#), the Economic and Social Council decided that the issue of "evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices" shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

44. In its resolution [2017/19](#), the Economic and Social Council requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to continue its efforts to promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data on alternatives to imprisonment and research on relevant policies that relate to the social reintegration of offenders and reduce recidivism.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

45. To meet the objectives of the road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the international and national levels (the road map on crime statistics) ([E/CN.3/2013/11](#), annex), a task force has been established by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with, and with the support of, the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice (Mexico City), established jointly by INEGI and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to develop a manual for the measurement of corruption through surveys. The task force, which is formed of representatives of national statistical offices, international organizations, individual experts, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, held two meetings in 2016 and 2017. The manual will be finalized by mid-2018. The work is being conducted with the active participation of several members of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics.

46. The report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/34](#)) describes progress made in the implementation of the activities related to the 2016–2020 road map and the actions taken to develop the handbook on governance statistics. It also includes reporting on the progress made on the technical and methodological work undertaken on the tier III global indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. The handbook will cover the conceptualization, measurement methodology and dissemination of various governance dimensions, including the measurement of a functional criminal justice system.

IX. Sustainable fisheries

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

47. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/123](#), noted with concern that effective management of marine capture fisheries had been made difficult in some areas by unreliable and incomplete information and data caused by, inter alia, unreported and misreported fish catch and fishing effort and that this lack of accurate data had contributed to overfishing in some areas, encouraged States to improve data collection and, where appropriate, to report required catch and effort data, and fishery related information, to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in a complete, accurate and timely way.

48. Also in resolution [71/123](#), the General Assembly requested that FAO initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas by vessels flying their flag at the subregional and regional levels where no such arrangements exist. It also reaffirmed its request that FAO revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch is taken.

49. In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to provide assistance to developing States to meet data-collection and reporting obligations, requested States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to strengthen or establish data-collection programmes to obtain reliable species-specific estimates of by-catch and encouraged them to coordinate in the development and implementation of clear and standardized by-catch data-collection and reporting protocols for non-target species, in particular endangered, threatened and protected species.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

50. The report of FAO on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/13](#)) included a report of the Global Strategy Steering Committee on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, which presents the key activities undertaken in 2017 and the plans for a second phase of implementation beyond 2018. Since the beginning of the implementation of the Global Strategy in 2013, efforts have been made by the Global Office of the Global Strategy to carry out a comprehensive research programme and to prepare guidelines and training materials that could be used for supporting the provision of technical assistance to countries and regional statistical training institutions, including specific guidelines dedicated to fisheries. It is expected that the guidelines will be published in the first half of 2018. A key output that addresses the specific needs of the Pacific subregion, the Pacific strategic action plan for agriculture and fisheries statistics, was jointly prepared by FAO and the Pacific Community, with the support of the Global Office.

X. Data protection and data privacy

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

51. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/17](#), reaffirmed that, with the development of the information society and the Internet, freedom of expression, as well as the right to privacy, as set out in article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, must be protected and respected, including as they relate to data protection, while lawful restrictions set out in national legislation in accordance with international human rights law must also be recognized. The Assembly also welcomed and encouraged the cooperation between relevant United Nations agencies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council, most notably with regard to the follow-up to Assembly resolution [70/125](#) on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

52. The privacy of individual data is guaranteed under principle 6 of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In subparagraph (h) of its decision 48/102, the Commission welcomed the conclusions of the seminar on open data on the theme “Adding value by matching access with privacy and security”, held in New York on 3 March 2017. The seminar defined open data as “data that is high quality, well documented, respects data privacy concerns, is free, and easily accessible and usable”, and discussed, in particular, how to balance openness with security and privacy.

53. At the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Forum on Information and Communications Technology and Education 2030, held in Qingdao, China, on 10 and 11 July 2017, representatives of Member States and other partner organizations noted that measuring and tracking data related to the availability and use of information and communications technology is critical for making evidence-based policies and reaffirmed that policies and strategies are increasingly needed to ensure secure, appropriate and ethical use of data, including safeguarding the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information.

XI. Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

54. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2017/11](#), encouraged African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urged donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical

communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

55. The report of ECE on regional statistical development in Africa (E/CN.3/2018/9) highlights activities being undertaken in Africa on statistical development, some of which have global significance. The report covers methodological work in support of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want” and includes key areas of focus, such as the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, civil registration and vital statistics, agricultural statistics, gender statistics and open data and the data revolution.

XII. Information and communications technology

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

56. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2017/21, reiterated the importance of information and communications technology indicators in open data format as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, emphasized the importance of the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators and acknowledged the importance of digital monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council encouraged Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries on capacity-building exchange programmes. The Council also noted with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the annual publication of the International Telecommunication Union, *Measuring the Information Society Report*, which provides recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index. In addition, the Council encouraged the Partnership to follow up on Statistical Commission decision 47/110, on information and communications technology statistics, and recommended that the Partnership develop guidance to improve cooperation with the different stakeholders for the purpose of producing high quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for the production of official statistics.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

58. The report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development ([E/CN.3/2018/26](#)) presents an overview of its work since the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2016, including updates to the core list of information and communications technology indicators, information relating to recent developments in measuring the digital economy (such as e-commerce and international trade in information and communications technology-enabled services) and measuring electronic waste. In its report, the Partnership also presents a proposal for the preparation of a thematic list of information and communications technology indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and in this context highlights challenges for national statistical offices in producing information and communications technology statistics, including in relation to capacity-building.
