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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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* E/CN.3/2019/1.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution — one member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-ninth session (New York, 6 - 9 March 2018) ¹ and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2018/227. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed provisional programme of work and timetable for the session is also before the Commission. The Commission is invited to adopt the agenda and provisional programme of work and timetable for its fiftieth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2019/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session (E/CN.3/2019/L.1)

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 4* (E/2018/24), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision.

3. Items for discussion and decision:

(a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on the ongoing work for the implementation of the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its report, the Group describes the activities undertaken in 2018 pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 49/101, including: a) tier classification updates and the methodological development of Tier III indicators; b) criteria for the implementation of the Guidelines on Data Flows and Global Data Reporting for Sustainable Development Goals and best practices; c) possible proxy indicators to be used for immediate monitoring; d) activities within the work stream on data disaggregation and the three working groups on interlinkages, SDMX and geo-spatial information, respectively; and e) annual refinements of the indicators and plan for the 2020 Comprehensive Review. The Commission will also have before it the following background documents: Best practices on data flows and global data reporting for Sustainable Development Goals, prepared jointly by the IAEG-SDGs and the Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities; Data disaggregation for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators; and Interlinkages in the global SDG indicator framework.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (1) Approval of the Criteria for the implementation of the Guidelines on Data Flows and Global Data Reporting for Sustainable Development Goals; (2) Approval of the annual refinements of some indicators in the global indicator framework; (3) Approval of the work programme of the group for the next year.

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Secretary-General on the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report describes the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2018/64), based on the data and analysis of the global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, as mandated by the General Assembly (see resolution 70/1, para. 83). Also described is the work undertaken to update the database on the global SDG indicators, including the launch of a new user interface, and on supporting countries in the implementation of the indicators at the national level. In addition, the report presents: an update of progress of work on the principles and guidelines for national reporting and dissemination platforms, which are provided as a background document; the work on a federated system of national and global data hubs; and the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST). A background document informs about the outputs of GIST in detail. The Commission is invited to take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations system and its proposed work programme and to comment on the progress of work.

The Commission will have before it the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides a summary of the recent activities of the group, including a) Preparation of a document on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CT GAP) for Sustainable Development Data, b) Consultations on the establishment of a financing mechanism to support the implementation of the CTGAP and launch of the Dubai Declaration, c) Organization of the United Nations World Data Forum, held from 22 to 24 October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and d) Preparation of a document on a more efficient coordination of the UN statistical system. Discussions will be focused on each topic separately.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents on Implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and A more effective and efficient UN statistical system in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond, respectively.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (a) approval of the Dubai declaration; (b) review and approval of the recommendations for a more efficient coordination of the UN statistical system; and (c) review and approval of the proposed workplan of the High-level Group for 2019.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2019/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2019/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2019/4)

(b) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on Open Data. The report presents the results of the work undertaken by the group on the Fundamental Principles: the global survey on self-assessment by countries on the implementation of the FPOS, the preparation of a document supplementing the existing guidelines on the implementation of the Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics, including the analysis of issues related to non-compliance and the application of the Fundamental Principles in using non-traditional data sources. The Commission will also have before it a background document presenting the full results of the survey.

The Commission is invited to: 1) discuss the results of the survey on the self-assessment by countries on the implementation of the FPOS; 2) review and approval of document on the implementation of the FPOS; and 3) review and approval of the proposal to consider the work of the Friends of the Chair Group concluded for this round of review and to be resumed in time for the next appraisal in 2024.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on Open Data (E/CN.3/2019/5)

(c) Open data

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on Open Data. The report presents the results of the work undertaken by the group on Open Data on the preparation of a document on the implementation of open data, including interoperability data tools, open data practices, anonymization of data for official statistical and other aspects related to the implementation of open data. The report will also include a mapping of open data principles to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The Commission will also have before it a background document on data interoperability and open data: Data Interoperability: A Practitioner's Guide to Joining Up Data in the Development Sector.

The Commission is invited to: 1) review and approval of the document on the implementation of open data; 2) express its views on the document on data interoperability and open data; and 3) review and approval of the proposal to consider a Working Group to continue the work on Open Data and present its work at the 51st session of the Statistical Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on Open Data (E/CN.3/2019/5)

(d) National Quality Assurance Frameworks

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks. The report presents the draft of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual), which contains recommendations on quality assurance, an updated national quality assurance framework, practical guidance for its implementation and reference materials concerning quality assurance in the global statistical system. The draft Manual is available as background document. In addition, the report presents the results of a survey on the implementation of a national quality assurance framework in countries, a proposal to support countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework for the period 2019-2023 and the proposed work programme of the Expert Group for the next two years. The full results of the survey are provided in a background document. Points for decision by the Commission include: 1) review and endorsement of the new Manual; 2) review and approval of the proposed work programme of the Expert Group; and 3) review and approval of the proposed plan to support countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (E/CN.3/2019/6)

(e) Regional statistical development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The report summarizes challenges faced by countries in the Asia and Pacific with respect to statistics for national, regional and global agendas. The report highlights five action areas prioritized by countries to strengthen statistics capacity: engaging users and investing in statistics; assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics; integrated statistics for integrated analysis; modernizing statistical business processes; and developing requisite skills set.

The report reflects on the future strategic direction for Asia-Pacific collaboration on statistics in areas such as skills development through training partnerships, joint advocacy efforts for strengthened statistical systems, greater focus on public-private partnerships, and innovation among others.

The Commission is invited to reflect on the issues raised in the paper and advise on future collaboration to develop capacities of National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ESCAP on regional statistical development (E/CN.3/2019/7)

(f) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report progress with addressing important conceptual issues, some of which may extend beyond the 2008 SNA and its support to those Member States that are lagging behind. The report further provides information on issues emerging from the implementation of SNA, in particular the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, progress with the research agenda on practical issues of implementation of the 2008 SNA and an update on

the finalization of publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA. It also contains the programme of work of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level and an update on the international coordination of regional and global data collection and data exchange activities. The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Working Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2019/8)

(g) Finance statistics

The Commission will have before it a note prepared by the International Monetary Fund on the Review of the Task Force on Financial Statistics (TFFS) and its sub-structures. It is proposed to transfer the activities of the Task Force related to conceptual/methodological issues on external debt statistics to the IMF's Committee of Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) and on public debt statistics to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and the IMF's Government Finance Statistics Committee (GFSC).

The proposal seeks to streamline the current setting (the TFFS plus three sub-structures): while methodological issues will be dealt with by the three existing bodies mentioned above, data management issues will be discussed by the creation of a dedicated network, the Inter Agency Working Group on Debt Statistics (IAWGDS), which is expected to conduct its work electronically, including videoconferences. The IAWGDS will focus exclusively on data management and capacity building matters. It is expected that the new body (IAWGDS) would have a rotatory chairmanship and will produce a yearly report to be sent to BOPCOM, ISWGNA and GFSC. It is finally proposed that the TFFS be put on hold until there is a sufficient determination that the new simplified structure and migration of its work program have been successful.

The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the proposed new simplified structure and migration of the work program on financial statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the review of the Task Force on Financial Statistics (TFFS) and its sub-structures (E/CN.3/2019/9)

(h) International trade and business statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics (EG ITEGS). The report summarizes the progress made toward the development of a Handbook on Accounting for Global Value Chains (GVC), which presents a GVC satellite account through a system of extended national accounts and integrated business statistics from the perspective of the national statistical system. As such, this Handbook provides a measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization and is prepared at the request of the Commission at its 46th session in 2015. This report will also present the proposal for a High-Level Group on Economic Statistics and a related user-centered consultation mechanism through an UN Global Forum on Economic Statistics. This mechanism is proposed to serve the Commission in management and coordination of the global economic statistics programs and to support the Commission in response to emerging user demands. The Commission is invited to consider the points for discussion.

The Commission will also have before it the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics. The report summarizes recent developments regarding the work of the Wiesbaden Group, as presented at its 26th meeting, held in Switzerland in September 2018 and areas of future work of the Group. In accordance with a request of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session, the report will also contain the programme of work and the mandate and governance of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics building on the outcome of its first meeting organized by the United Nations Statistics Division held in Mexico in May 2018. As part of the Committee's report, the work on International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures, which was prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and endorsed by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications, and the Interagency Task Force on International Trade Statistics are described. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress of work of the Wiesbaden Group; endorse the mandate and governance and work programme of the Committee; endorse the United Nations Guidelines for Statistical Business Registers; take note of the activities of the Interagency Task Force; and endorse the international classification of non-tariff measures.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics (EG ITEGS) (E/CN.3/2019/10)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2019/11)

(i) Industrial statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on industrial statistics, which is presented for discussion. The report describes activities of UNIDO in the field of industrial statistics carried out since the last report in 2016, and provides information on capacity building and training activities carried out for implementation of international recommendations for industrial statistics.

The report further states the role of UNIDO as a custodian agency for SDG monitoring process. In this context, certain activities related to industrial statistics that were undertaken by Statistics Division of DESA in the past are now being transferred to UNIDO. The transfer is expected to enable UNIDO to assume the full responsibility in the field of industrial statistics and thereby streamline the data reporting by National Statistical Offices only to UNIDO. The report also highlights the difficulties faced in financing the industrial statistical activities in developing countries, especially to obtain timely data for small enterprises required for SDG monitoring.

The Commission is invited to comment on the issues raised in the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2019/12)

(j) Price statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The report outlines the latest developments and activities in the area of price statistics, in particular the progress with the Consumer Price Index Manual Update. The Commission is invited

to comment on the progress made to date, note that a global consultation on the Manual will take place in the first half of 2019, and encourage a timely response to the consultation from national price compilers

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2019/13)

(k) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme. The report outlines the activities undertaken in 2018 at the global, regional and national levels to implement the 2017 comparison cycle and transform the ICP into a permanent programme. The report describes the governance, capacity-building, research, knowledge and advocacy activities carried out in this regard. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress made in implementing the 2017 cycle and outstanding risks; urge national, regional and global agencies to complete the 2017 cycle activities without further delays; advise ICP stakeholders to initiate preparations for the 2020 cycle; and impress upon national, regional and global agencies the need to incorporate the ICP into their regular statistical work programmes, to ensure its sustainability as a permanent programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2019/14)

(l) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. In its report, the Committee of Experts reports the progress made in advancing the following areas of work: (a) coordination; (b) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research, consisting of (i) the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and (ii) SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (c) development of databases; (d) implementation and statistical capacity-building; and (e) formulation of a statistical response to emerging policy issues, consisting of (i) communication and (ii) SEEA and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The report presents progress made in the revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including the financing of the project, advances in mainstreaming the SEEA within global and national initiatives including related to the SDGs, climate change and biodiversity, the development of global databases compliant with SEEA, progress in implementation and the communication strategy. The Commission is invited to provide its views on the progress of work of the Committee and its programme of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2019/15)

(m) Disaster-related statistics

The Commission will have before it the report on disaster-related statistics. The report was prepared by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). As requested by the Commission at its 49th session, the report

contains a discussion of disaster-related statistics and highlights the growing relevance and greater focus of disaster-related statistics, given the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The report discusses an increased focus on disaster-related statistics and illustrates the need to develop a common position on this important and emerging field of statistics. It elaborates on the growing data demands and needs for disaster-related statistics and takes stock of the current situation of activities around the world, with emphasis on the constraints developing countries face. The report summarizes the work of the main international and regional organizations active in disaster-related statistics, and demonstrates that there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation taking place on this topic under the purview of the Commission. In this regard, ways to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a community of practice for disaster-related statistics among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved, are also explored in the report. The Commission is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the way forward.

Documentation

Joint report of the Secretary-General, UNESCAP, UNECE, UNECLAC and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on disaster-related statistics (E/CN.3/2019/16)

(n) International migration statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics. The report presents recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics in 2018 to fulfil the requests of the Statistical Commission contained in decision 49/101, in terms of: (a) engagement of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission during the negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and (b) the work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics on methodological development, including on the revision of the *United Nations Recommendations on Statistics for International Migration*. Furthermore, the report describes other ongoing work including data and metadata collection and capacity building, as well as future priorities for the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics in strengthening international migration statistics. The Commission is invited to comment and provide guidance on the ongoing work and future priorities on migration statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2019/17)

(o) Human settlements statistics

The Commission will have before it, the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics presented to the Commission for discussion. It presents progress led by United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the field of human settlements statistics collection and compilation methods and on development of methodologies and advancements in data collection and reporting on selected human settlements indicators relevant to SDG's. Recommendation on improving monitoring and reporting on human settlement indicators for national statistical offices is highlighted.

The Commission is invited to endorse the national sample of cities methodology for countries that are constrained with the national monitoring and reporting on all their cities; endorse the establishment of the Group of experts for the revision of Guidelines and Principles for the implementation of City Prosperity index measure; endorse the establishment of the Group of experts for the development of Guidelines for identifying slums; comment on challenges related to the definition of cities; and comment on the coordination mechanism for work on human settlements statistics at the international level.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2019/18)

(p) Crime statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on crime statistics presented to the Commission for discussion. In the four years since this last report (presented at forty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, March 2013), major progress has been made in accomplishing the objectives in all areas of the workplan. After the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework in 2016, the work on crime and criminal justice statistics was prioritised in relation to SDG indicators on security, violence, trafficking, access to justice and corruption.

The report - besides reviewing activities and accomplishments since 2015 - will describe existing challenges and future activities to be undertaken. Among them, the development of new methodologies to measure illicit financial flows and sexual harassment, and the technical support to countries and regions to implement surveys (e.g. on corruption and crime victimisation and improve administrative data to align them to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes).

The Statistical Commission is invited to comment on challenges and provide advice on planned activities that will shape the second phase of implementing the Road map to improve crime and criminal justice statistics at national, regional and global level.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime and criminal justice statistics (E/CN.3/2019/19)

(q) Drugs and drug use statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on drugs and drug use statistics presented to the Commission for discussion. The report reviews steps undertaken to implement the road-map to improve drug statistics discussed at the Forty-Eighth United Nations Statistical Commission in 2017. In particular, UNODC started a review of data collection tools and of activities to support Member States in strengthening their capacity to produce and analyse drug statistics at the national level

The report reviews activities, accomplishments and future challenges to improve drug statistics and on ways to further strengthen the collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including in relation to the revision process of international data collections on drugs.

The Statistical Commission is invited to provide advice on planned activities, on ways to further strengthen the collaboration with the Commission of Narcotic Drugs and promote the role of national statistical systems in the production of drugs data.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drugs and drug use statistics (E/CN.3/2019/20)

(r) Education statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Institute for Statistics (UIS) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The UIS is the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education with the mandate to work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to assess progress in SDG4. The report provides information on recent developments in international education statistics, in particular in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development regarding standards, methodologies, data collection and funding gaps including financial aid. The 2030 Agenda demand high- quality, timely and disaggregated statistics to respond to new data needs and emerging challenges. The report includes the UIS initiative to better coordinate and implement of the global efforts to strengthen the capacity of national educational statistical systems. This involves expanding its current mandate to include brokerage within their roles with the objective of better coordinate donors and countries' investments. The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance about the pillar and lines of action proposed by the UIS in this new 'brokerage' role to support more integrated, better quality, cost-effective, and timely statistical data for education at the national level.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on education statistics (E/CN.3/2019/21)

(s) Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Commission will have before it the report of the Bureau on working methods. The report presents the comprehensive review of the structure and functions of groups operating under the auspices of the Statistical Commission. The report takes stock of all existing groups and highlights the need of streamlining existing arrangements to achieve more coherent and coordinated working methods and, in this sense, puts forward possible actions by the Commission. The report is accompanied by two background documents: a summary table of the comprehensive review of groups, and a graphical presentation of the groups currently operating under the auspices of the Commission.

The Commission is invited to reflect on the groups' governance issues and give guidance with a view of coherent arrangements.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau on working methods: comprehensive review of the structure and functions of groups (E/CN.3/2019/22)

4. Items for information:

The following items are presented to the Commission for information. Limited time will be allocated for interventions under this item.

(a) Demographic statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General presenting activities carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in the area of demographic statistics. It provides a yearly summary of the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, with a focus on the contemporary methods for conducting population and housing censuses, including real-time and conventional editing of census records for the current population and housing census round. It provides information on activities relating to the promotion of the revised set of international statistical standards for civil registration and vital statistics and the development of handbooks on the legal framework and on communication for development for civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems. It also provides information on the collection of demographic

statistics through the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires. It presents the summary overview of an expert group meeting on the use of contemporary methodology for delineation of urban and rural areas. The paper also provides an update on the development of and related activities of the Titchfield group on ageing statistics which was established at the 49th session of the commission. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2019/23)

(b) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the World Health Organization outlining its work on health statistics in relation to SDG monitoring and its new monitoring framework to track progress towards the triple billion targets – 1 billion more people protected from health emergencies, 1 billion more with universal health coverage and 1 billion more lives made healthier, all by 2023 – these targets are key milestones towards the achievement of the SDG targets. Working closely with the National Statistical Offices, WHO will support countries to fill key data gaps. Committed to leaving no one behind, WHO's monitoring will continue its work on disaggregation of data to address health inequalities. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization outlining current work on health statistics (E/CN.3/2019/24)

(c) Household surveys

The Commission has before it, for information, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. The report provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group. The report also presents: (a) an analysis of how household surveys can be used to provide data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with particular emphasis on leaving no one behind. Furthermore, the report provides an overview of future activities planned to be undertaken by the Group. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2019/25)

(d) Price indices

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices. The report provides an update on recent activities and an outline of the plans of the Ottawa Group. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2019/26)

(e) Big data for official statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics. The Global Working Group responds to the requests made by the Commission at its last session, in particular by making products and services available to the global statistical community on the UN Global Platform, by addressing concerns on privacy and

confidentiality and by providing further details on the business model of the platform in a background document. This platform is a research and development environment for sharing and testing trusted methods, trusted data and trusted training materials, and offers technology infrastructure and services for official statistics together with private sector, academia and civil society. Further, the various task teams of the Global Working Group (on Earth Observations, mobile phone, social media and scanner data, and on privacy preserving techniques) conducted training workshops, prepared handbooks and collaborated on innovative projects. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics (E/CN.3/2019/27)

(f) Statistical capacity development

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development, which provides an overview of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division in support of countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical capacity to better respond to the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also provides updates on new and continuing collaborative efforts for synchronizing initiatives, leveraging partnerships and coordination in the area of statistical capacity-building. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development (E/CN.3/2019/28)

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

The Commission will have before it, for information, the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) sponsors on SDMX, which summarizes the achievements and planned activities related to the development and implementation of common standards on data and metadata sharing. The standards are for data in areas such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and international trade statistics, among others. An overview of achievements of and plans for capacity development in the area of data and metadata exchange is also included. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) sponsors on SDMX (E/CN.3/2019/29)

(h) Coordination of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which summarizes the work undertaken by the Committee in 2018, including the main conclusions of the thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the Committee, held in 2018. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the CCSA (E/CN.3/2019/30)

(i) Integration of statistical and geospatial information

The Commission will have before it, for information, a report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on its recent activities. In its report, the Expert Group provides information on the progress towards the finalization of the five principles of the global statistical geospatial framework, and the adoption of the Expert Group's short- and longer-term statistical-geospatial interoperability projects by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its eighth session, convened in August 2018. The Commission is invited to take note of the development of the five principles of the framework and the Expert Group's progress on the development and implementation of the framework.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2019/31)

(j) Follow-up to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council policy decisions

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken to date by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division and those suggested to be taken in response to the decisions and mandates of the parent bodies. The Commission may wish to take those actions into account in its discussions under relevant agenda items. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2019/32)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-first session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2019-2023. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-first session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2019/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2019-2023 (E/CN.3/2019/33)

7. Report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

The Commission will have before it the procedural report of the fiftieth session of the Commission covering organizational matters relating to the Commission's work. The Commission will also have before it an informal paper containing the draft decisions submitted by the Rapporteur.

The Commission is invited to adopt the draft report on its fiftieth session, which will be submitted to the Council, including the draft decisions and entrust the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

Informal paper with draft decisions
