



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
16 December 2019

Original: English

---

## Statistical Commission

Fifty-first session

3–6 March 2020

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

### Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
  - (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (b) Coordination of statistical programmes;
  - (c) Future of economic statistics;
  - (d) National accounts;
  - (e) International trade and business statistics;
  - (f) Price statistics;
  - (g) International Comparison Programme;
  - (h) Environmental-economic accounting;
  - (i) Agricultural and rural statistics;
  - (j) Demographic statistics;
  - (k) Civil registration and vital statistics;
  - (l) Health statistics;
  - (m) Gender statistics;
  - (n) Refugee statistics;
  - (o) Governance, peace and security statistics;
  - (p) Regional statistical development;
  - (q) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
  - (r) Management and modernization of statistical systems;



- (s) Information and communications technology statistics;
  - (t) Big data;
  - (u) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
  - (v) Open data;
  - (w) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;
  - (x) World Statistics Day.
4. Items for information:
    - (a) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
    - (b) Short-term economic statistics;
    - (c) Price statistics;
    - (d) Service statistics;
    - (e) Environment statistics;
    - (f) Disability statistics;
    - (g) Statistics of human development.
  5. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
  6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-second session of the Commission.
  7. Report of the Commission on its fifty-first session.

### **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, elects, from among the representatives of its members, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

The Bureau is elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with one member of the Bureau elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. That duration is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing the 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 fiftieth session (New York, 5–8 March 2019) and were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2019/210. The Bureau 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 fifty-first session.

### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.3/2020/1](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable (E/CN.3/2020/L.1)

### **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 Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its report, the Group describes the activities undertaken in 2019 pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 50/101, including: (a) tier classification updates; (b) the 2020 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals; and (c) activities within the work stream on data disaggregation and undertaken by the Working Group on Interlinkages, the Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the Working Group on Geospatial Information.

The Commission will also have before it a background document containing the second report of the Working Group on Interlinkages on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Points for decision by the Commission include approval of: (a) the revised global indicator framework based on the 2020 comprehensive review; and (b) the programme of work of the group for 2020.

The Commission will also 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. In the report, the Secretary-General describes the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2019/68) on the basis of the data and analysis of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators, as mandated by the General Assembly (see resolution 70/1, para. 83); the work undertaken to update the database on the global indicators; and the launch of the official Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) data structure definition for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the SDMX application programming interface.

In the report, the Secretary-General also presents: (a) the Data for Now initiative, jointly convened by the United Nations, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the World Bank and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network; (b) an update on the progress made in the work on the federated information system of national and global data hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals; (c) a proposal for common internationalized resource identifiers for the Goals, targets, indicators and related statistical series; (d) the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training; and (e) the work by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys on data disaggregation for the Goals.

The Commission is invited: (a) to take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations system and its proposed programme of work and to comment on the progress of work; (b) to endorse the Data for Now initiative; (c) to express its views on the continuation of the implementation of the federated system of national and global data hubs; (d) to express its views on the progress of work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training; and (e) to approve the workplan of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys.

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. The report provides a summary of the recent activities of the High-level Group relating to its work on the implementation of the data revolution, the financing of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, guidance on the engagement of the statistical community with other stakeholders and preparations for the third United Nations World Data Forum, to be held from 18 to 21 October 2020 in Bern.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents, on the implementation of the data revolution and on the financing of the Cape Town Global Action Plan.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (a) reviewing and expressing its views on the work on the implementation of the data revolution; (b) expressing its views on the work on financing for data and statistics; (c) reviewing the work on engagement of the statistical community with other stakeholders; and (d) expressing its views on and approving the workplan of the High-level Group for 2020.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([E/CN.3/2020/2](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2020/3](#))

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.3/2020/4](#))

### **(b) Coordination of statistical programmes**

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System, which was formally established by the Commission in its decision 45/112, in which it also mandated the group of the United Nations chief statisticians to follow up on the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair for improved coordination.

In the report, the Committee describes its work in the area of coordination within the United Nations system, focusing on recent initiatives and improvements. The Committee concludes with proposals on how to further improve coordination and invites the Commission to provide guidance in this area.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which contains a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee in 2019, including the main conclusions of its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, held in 2019. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System on coordination within the United Nations statistical system ([E/CN.3/2020/5](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities ([E/CN.3/2020/6](#))

**(c) Future of economic statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics, in which the group describes the outcomes of its first and second meetings and the results of the global and regional user consultations on matters related to the update of the system of economic statistics and its governance arrangements. The report will also provide information about the proposed activities and deliverables of the group in 2020. The Commission is invited to express its views on the progress made by the group in its work and its proposed programme of work for 2020.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/7](#))

**(d) National accounts**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. In the report, the Working Group sets out the progress that it has made in addressing conceptual issues related to the implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA), in finalizing publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA and in resolving issues on the research agenda for the three priority areas: globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability. The Working Group also provides information on the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and a proposed way forward for updating SNA to ensure its relevance in a changing economic environment. In addition, the report 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 to 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.3/2020/8](#))

**(e) International trade and business statistics**

The Commission will have before it the joint report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics.

In section II of the report, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics describes its progress in advancing the following work streams: globalization and digitalization; well-being and sustainability; business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship; exhaustive business registers; and capacity-building (no one left behind) on business registers. The Committee also describes its activities on coordination, communication and the development of global databases.

In section III of the report, the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics presents its work in developing a handbook on measuring digital trade; reducing trade asymmetries; developing a global data set on trade in services by mode of supply; coordinating statistical capacity-building; and measuring the economic activity of multinational enterprises at the global level. Information is also provided

on the progress made in evaluating the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Task Force, as requested by the Statistical Commission in 2014.

The Commission is invited to express its views on the progress of work of the Committee and to take note the activities carried out by the Inter-Agency Task Force, including the first version of the handbook on measuring digital trade.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/9](#))

#### **(f) 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, specifically the process of updating the Consumer Price Index Manual. Following a comprehensive global consultation process, the Commission is invited to endorse the publication entitled *Consumer Price Index Manual: Concepts and Methods* as an international statistical standard and to encourage its use by countries in the compilation of their national consumer price indices.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/10](#))

#### **(g) International Comparison Programme**

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme. In the report, the World Bank outlines the activities undertaken in 2019 at the global, regional and national levels to implement the 2017 comparison cycle and transform the International Comparison Programme into a permanent programme. It describes the governance, capacity-building, research, knowledge and advocacy activities carried out in this regard. The Commission is invited to note the progress made in completing the 2017 cycle and the forthcoming release of the results of the cycle in the second quarter of 2020. The Commission's views are sought on how best to communicate the results to national policymakers and promote their use in socioeconomic analyses and development agendas. The Commission is also requested to impress upon International Comparison Programme stakeholders the need to carry out the 2020 cycle activities in a timely manner and to further incorporate the International Comparison Programme 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 the International Comparison Programme ([E/N.3/2020/11](#))

#### **(h) Environmental-economic accounting**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. In the report, the Committee of Experts describes 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. The Committee of Experts presents progress made in the revision process of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including broad consultation of and involvement with different communities and, in particular, the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts; progress in the development of practical guidance documents on biophysical modelling, valuation and scenario modelling and ocean accounting; progress in meeting the Committee's global implementation targets; advances in mainstreaming SEEA within global and national initiatives, in particular those related to the Sustainable Development Goals and biodiversity; the development of global databases compliant with SEEA; and the development of policy documents and informational materials on the value added of SEEA for various policy initiatives, as well as the promotion of SEEA at major international events, including the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to be held in Marseille, France, in June 2020, and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, in October 2020, at which the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted.

The Commission is invited to provide its views on, among other things: (a) the direction of the revision of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, remaining issues to be addressed and consultation and engagement during the revision process; (b) the guidance on ocean accounting for sustainable development; (c) the engagement and contribution of the Committee to major events, in particular on biodiversity and oceans, that will be held during 2020; and (d) the communication activities relating to SEEA, including the development of informational materials and policy documents.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting ([E/CN.3/2020/12](#))

#### **(i) Agricultural and rural statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics. It includes: (a) the draft results of the independent evaluation of the work of FAO in statistics, outlining the updated agenda for the modernization of food and agricultural statistics; (b) a summary of the final report of the Global Steering Committee on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics on the key achievements of the first phase of programme and the content of the action plan for the second phase, 2020–2025; (c) a report on the new initiatives on capacity development undertaken by FAO, including the “50 x 2030” initiative and the ongoing support for national Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and reporting; and (d) the programme of work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics for the period 2020–2023, defining the new methodological developments to be discussed before their submission to the Commission. The Commission is invited to comment on and to provide its advice on the proposals and points for decision raised in section VI of the report.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/13](#))

**(j) Demographic statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the methodology for delineation of cities and urban and rural areas for international comparison purposes and the results of the survey launched by the Statistics Division in that respect. It also has before it the conclusions and recommendations of an expert group on the methodology for delineation of cities and urban and rural areas. The Commission is invited to take note of the status of the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme; to urge all countries to conduct population and housing censuses or otherwise generate small area census statistics; and to endorse the methodology for delineation of cities and urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the methodology for delineation of cities and urban and rural areas for international comparison purposes ([E/CN.3/2020/14](#))

**(k) Civil registration and vital statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report the Secretary-General on the introduction of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda in the context of generating regular, accurate, reliable and comprehensive vital statistics. The Commission is invited to endorse the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda as a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management in the context of extending the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems, initially adopted by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session; to urge all countries to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda as a matter of priority; and to take note of the existing methodological framework for that purpose.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the introduction of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda: a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management ([E/CN.3/2020/15](#))

**(l) Health statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) on health statistics and strengthening statistical systems to track the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Timely and reliable statistics are central to monitoring the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, making policy decisions, forecasting future health scenarios and tracking the impact of interventions. Most low-income and middle-income countries will not be able to report regularly, or in a timely fashion, on even half of the health-related Goals without an accelerated and collaborative effort between national statistical offices, ministries of health and national authorities responsible for civil registration and vital statistics.

The WHO impact measurement, which is based on the health-related Goals and has been approved by the member States of WHO, reinforces the need to fill data gaps and build country capacity. That need has been reiterated in discussions with national statistical offices around the world. The Statistical Commission is invited to consider approaches to achieve target 17.18 of the Goals with regard to health data and monitoring progress towards the achievement of the health and health-related Goals



in partnership with national statistical offices, ministries of health, other relevant United Nations agencies and technical experts.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics and strengthening statistical systems to track the health-related Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2020/16](#))

#### **(m) Gender statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics, which provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme to strengthen gender data in support of progress towards gender equality and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring. The report covers the development by the Statistics Division and a group of subject matter experts of guidelines to improve the production of time-use data, in line with the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016), as requested by the Commission in its decision 48/109 (see [E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35](#)). The Secretary-General also discusses the preparation of *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*, the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the organization of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics. The Commission is invited to comment on the work undertaken to date to identify options for producing time-use data in a more cost-effective manner. The Commission is also invited to express its views on the ongoing work on gender statistics and on future priority areas.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/17](#))

#### **(n) Refugee statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics. In the report, the Expert Group presents the overall progress made on the development of the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and the preparation of the compilers' manual on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics. The report also contains a suggestion for the Group to continue its work and to report to the Commission on progress made in the next three to five years, focusing on the implementation of the recommendations in countries, coordinated capacity development support and further development of the compilers' manual on the basis of best practices.

The Commission will also have before it three background documents of the Expert Group: the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics; a compilers' manual on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics; and the terms of reference of the Expert Group.

The Commission is invited to endorse the recommendations and to welcome the development of the compilers' manual. The Commission is also invited to provide guidance on the continuation of the work of the Expert Group, including on internally displaced persons statistics.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/18](#))

**(o) Governance, peace and security statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. As set out in the road map presented to the Commission in 2016, the Praia Group is to submit the handbook on governance statistics to the Commission for its consideration at its fifty-first session in March 2020. The handbook has been completed and is submitted as a background document to the Commission at its fifty-first session. The report contains: (a) a progress update on the work of the Praia Group over the past year and against its workplan; (b) information pertaining to the handbook on governance statistics, including an overview of its objectives, target audience, key findings and recommendations; (c) recommendations on the continuation of the Praia Group and its work and associated future work in further promoting the conceptualization, methodology and instruments needed to produce harmonized governance statistics at a global level; and (d) a suggested update to the terms of reference of the Praia Group, in line with those recommendations.

The Commission is invited to comment on the progress made by the Praia Group in its work, the handbook on governance statistics and the recommendations on the continuation of the Praia Group and its work under the proposed revised terms of reference.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/19](#))

**(p) Regional statistical development**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on cooperation for regional statistical development. In the report, ECLAC highlights the main achievements of cooperation for statistical development between countries, in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. A description is provided of some of the results achieved by the working groups of the Conference, of the cooperation for the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals and of the integration between the statistical and geospatial communities. The main activities undertaken within the framework of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians are also presented.

The Statistical Commission is invited to discuss the progress made in the Latin American and Caribbean region on statistical development and take note of the declaration on the integration of geospatial and statistical information between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its tenth meeting.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on cooperation for regional statistical development ([E/CN.3/2020/20](#))

**(q) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In the report, the group presents its work in producing two supplementary chapters to the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Implementation Guidelines*, one on a maturity model/

framework to assess compliance with the Fundamental Principles and the other on guidance on the use of non-official and non-conventional data sources.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents: (a) on evaluation criteria for a compliance and maturity framework supplementing the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Implementation Guidelines*; and (b) on guidance on the use of non-official and non-conventional data sources, in alignment with and supplementing the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Implementation Guidelines*.

The Commission is invited: (a) to take note of the report of the group; (b) to review and approve the proposed compliance and maturity framework supplementing the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Implementation Guidelines*; (c) to review and approve the proposed guidance for the use of non-official and non-traditional data sources; (d) to express its views on the redesigned Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics website; (e) to approve the proposed strategy to update and maintain the country profiles and documentation of good practices in national statistical systems; and (f) to review and approve the proposal to consider the work of the Friends of the Chair group concluded for the present round of reviews, but 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 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/21](#))

#### **(r) Management and modernization of statistical systems**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on management and modernization of statistical systems. At its forty-ninth session in 2018, the Commission reiterated the importance of the updated *Handbook of Statistical Organization* in addressing common challenges and developing innovative solutions and endorsed its proposed structure, priorities and content, subject to suggested adaptations and refinements to be duly considered during its drafting phase. The overall updating process is supported by a series of subregional and regional thematic conferences, involving the participation of chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations. The report contains information on the progress made in the drafting of the *Handbook* and how the first thematic conferences have contributed to the *Handbook* by identifying regional initiatives and good national practices. Some slight changes to the structure of the *Handbook* that were considered during the drafting phase are described.

The Commission is invited to comment on the overall progress made and the proposed changes to the structure of the *Handbook*.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on management and modernization of statistical systems ([E/CN.3/2020/22](#))

#### **(s) Information and communications technology statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development. In the report, the Partnership presents an overview of its recent work, including the revision of the methodological guidelines on information and communications technology (ICT) indicators, which include new indicators that reflect the most recent developments in the adoption and use of ICTs by households and individuals, and recent progress on

the use of big data for measuring the information society. The Partnership also provides an update of its thematic list of ICT indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The thematic list is now available for use by countries and has been shared with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

The Commission is invited to review the progress made on the availability of ICT statistics; to welcome the revised guidelines for the production of ICT statistics; to endorse the thematic list of ICT for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and to express support for the continued work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development ([E/CN.3/2020/23](#))

#### **(t) Big data**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. In its decision 49/107 of 2018, the Commission endorsed the proposal of the Global Working Group to further develop the Global Platform as a collaborative research and development environment for trusted data, services and applications, and agreed that the development phase for the Global Platform should be completed by March 2020, leading to a business model that is sustainable for all stakeholders and ensures access to trusted data and technology infrastructure. The Commission also supported the idea that the statistical community would work in partnership with technology companies, data providers, academia and civil society on global data collaboratives, while developing standards and guidelines for data governance and information management. The Global Working Group reports on the timely delivery of the Global Platform, which consists of several hubs in most regions of the world. It describes the Global Platform and sets out its governance structure under the Commission, its business model and the programmes of work of each of the hubs. The report also contains an overview of the project and training activities that were carried out and the partnerships that were established for the Platform. Those activities proved the usefulness of the Platform and will strengthen its sustainability over time. The regional hubs, together with an extensive network of experts, should make it possible for all national statistical offices to engage in innovative data projects and to receive training for developing new skills. The Global Working Group task teams continued their work in many areas by preparing handbooks, conducting training workshops and collaborating in data projects.

The Commission is invited to comment on the governance structure, business model and work programme of the Global Platform and the progress of work of the Global Working Group and its task teams contained in the last section 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.3/2020/24](#))

#### **(u) Integration of statistical and geospatial information**

The Commission will have before it the report of 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 finalization of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and its subsequent adoption by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its ninth session, convened in August

2019. The Commission is invited: (a) to endorse decision 9/106 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management regarding the adoption of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework; and (b) to take note of the report of the Expert Group, including its progress in the integration of statistical and geospatial information, its revised terms of reference and its workplan for 2020–2022.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2020/25](#))

#### **(v) Open data**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on Open Data. The report provides information and guidance on the application of the principle that data are open by default in the context of official statistics. The Working Group also presents best practices in the design and implementation of open data policies in official statistics; includes relevant links between such policies and the principles and guidelines for national reporting platforms; and proposes a mapping between the interoperability guidelines and the phases of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents, on: (a) proposed guidance and best practices for the dissemination of local-level statistics as open data by national statistical offices; and (b) guidance on the application of the principle that data are open by default in the context of official statistics.

The Commission is invited: (a) to take note of the report of the Working Group; (b) express its views on the background document on the implementation of open data within national statistical offices; (c) to review and approve the proposed guidance on the application of the principle that data are open by default in the context of official statistics; (d) to express its views on the compilation of best practices in the design and implementation of open data policies in official statistics using a user-centric approach, and on relevant links between such policies and the principles and guidelines for national reporting platforms; (e) to review and approve the proposed guidance and best practices for the dissemination of local-level statistics as open data by national statistical offices; and (f) to approve the proposed terms of reference of the Working Group.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on Open Data ([E/CN.3/2020/26](#))

#### **(w) Working methods of the Statistical Commission**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Bureau on working methods. In the report, the Bureau takes stock of all existing groups and presents the results of the consultation with the Chairs of the groups that are currently active, as requested by the Commission in its decision 50/122. In the consultation, the Chairs were asked about the current interlinkages, reporting lines and cross-participation within and across groups, and were also asked to describe any plans for streamlining governance among the groups in their pillar. The Chairs offered a wealth of information and ideas with a view to achieving more coherent and coordinated working methods. The Bureau analysed that information and, based on its analysis, presents both the current state of affairs and specific potential areas for collaboration, overall cooperation opportunities and best practices that can be replicated. The Bureau also puts forward

a simple operational framework that may serve as a guide to achieve improved coherence and coordination for both existing and future groups.

The Commission will also have before it three background documents: a summary table of the updated review of groups, a graphical presentation of the groups currently operating under the auspices of the Commission and a detailed list of the groups.

The Commission is invited to further reflect on the governance issues of the groups, to endorse the operational framework and to give guidance based on the potentialities, opportunities and best practices highlighted by the Bureau.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau on working methods: towards more coordinated and coherent structure and functions of groups ([E/CN.3/2020/27](#))

#### **(x) World Statistics Day**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [69/282](#), the next World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20 October 2020. The Commission has before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal for theme and overall organization of World Statistics Day 2020, which were developed in consultation with the Bureau. It is suggested that a similar modus operandi be used as the one used for the last World Statistics Day, which was held 20 October 2015. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposed theme for World Statistics Day 2020 and to request the Statistics Division and international agencies to support and promote national, regional and global events in observance of the day.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day ([E/CN.3/2020/28](#))

#### **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) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the 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, containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Assembly, the Council and other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the 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.3/2020/29](#))

**(b) Short-term economic statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic statistics. The report provides an overview of the progress made and presents the ongoing and future activities in support of the implementation of a short-term economic statistics programme. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/30](#))

**(c) Price statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices. In the report, the Group describes the results of its most recent meeting and other outcomes. The Group meets biennially. Its most recent meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in May 2019. In addition, the Group highlights topics for discussion at its next meeting, to be held in Rome in June 2021. 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.3/2020/31](#))

**(d) Service statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. In the report, the Group describes its progress since its previous report to the Commission in 2017. That progress pertains to such topics as the updating of sector papers for specific industries, the development of a template for drafting service-industry-specific papers on the measurement of output and/or price indexes and the description of intermediaries in the provision of services. The deliverables from the work of the Group are made available on its new website. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/32](#))

**(e) Environment statistics**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics. The report provides a summary of activities carried out during the biennium 2018–2019, including on: the increasing adoption by countries of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics; advancements in methodological work (including the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool and the Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics); the fifth and sixth meetings of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics; developments in climate change statistics; and training and capacity-building provided to regions, subregions and countries. It also lays out the workplan for the biennium 2020–2021. Since the workplan includes global collection, compilation and dissemination of environmental statistics and indicators, the report also provides a summary of the results of the international collections of environment statistics carried out by the Statistics Division from 1999 to 2018, as well as conclusions with relevance for future

work, especially with regard to the environment-related Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics ([E/CN.3/2020/33](#))

**(f) Disability statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report on disability statistics prepared jointly by international agencies that are undertaking work on disability statistics and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The report will provide an update on recent work undertaken by the international agencies and the Washington Group to strengthen evidence for disability policies and programmes. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

**Documentation**

Joint report of the Secretary-General, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and international agencies ([E/CN.3/2020/34](#))

**(g) Statistics of human development**

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the United Nations Development Programme on the statistics of human development, focusing on Human Development Reports, their statistical content and the related statistical activities. The report provides a summary of recent activities undertaken by the Human Development Report Office. It also presents a summary of planned activities aimed at strengthening and updating methodologies of composite indices for the assessment of human development. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on the statistics of human development ([E/CN.3/2020/35](#))

**5. Programme questions (Statistics Division)**

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

**6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-second 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-second 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 2020–2024. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-second session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme of work.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2020/L.2](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2020–2024 ([E/CN.3/2020/36](#))



**7. Report of the Commission on its fifty-first session**

The Commission will have before it the procedural report of the fifty-first 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 fifty-first session, including the draft decisions, which will be submitted to the Council, and to entrust the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

**Documentation**

Draft report of the Commission on its fifty-first session

Informal paper with draft decisions

---