



# Economic and Social Council

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## 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

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
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  - (b) Coordination of statistical programmes;
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  - (l) Health statistics;
  - (m) Gender statistics;
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  - (o) Governance, peace and security statistics;
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\* E/CN.3/2020/1.

- (q) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
  - (r) Management and modernization of statistical systems;
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4. Items for information:
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  5. Programme questions (United Nations 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, 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 fortieth session (New York, 5 - 8 March 2019) <sup>1</sup> and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2019/210. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed provisional programme of work and timetable for

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 4 (E/2019/24)*, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision.

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 for the session (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 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 SDG indicator framework; and c) activities within the work stream on data disaggregation and the three working groups on interlinkages, SDMX and geo-spatial information, respectively.

The Commission will also have before it the following background document: Second report of the Interlinkages Working Group on SDGs.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (1) Approval of the revised global indicator framework based on the 2020 Comprehensive Review; and (2) Approval of the work programme of the group for the next year.

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. The report describes: the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on 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 SDMX Data Structure Definition for the SDG indicators and the SDMX API.

The report also presents: (1) the Data For Now initiative, jointly convened by the United Nations, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the World Bank and the Solutions for Sustainable Development Network; (2) an update on progress of work on the federated system of national and global data hubs for SDGs; (3) a proposal for common Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs) for Sustainable Development Goals, Targets, Indicators and related statistical series; (4) the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training; and (5) the work by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys on data disaggregation for the SDGs.

The Commission is invited to: (a) 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) endorse the Data4Now initiative; (c) express its views on the continuation of the implementation of the federated system of national and global data hubs; (d) express its views on the progress of work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training; and (e), 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 related to the 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, Switzerland.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents on the implementation of the data revolution and 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 view and approval of the workplan of the High-level Group for HLG-PCCB for 2019-2020.

#### **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.

The current report describes the Committee's work in the area of coordination within the UN system focusing on recent initiatives and improvements. The report 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 (CCSA), which summarizes the work undertaken by the Committee in 2019, including the main conclusions of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Committee, 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 CCSA (E/CN.3/2020/6)

#### **(c) Future of economic statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on Economic Statistics. It describes the outcomes of its first and second meeting on the proposed update of the system of economic statistics, how to take these options forward, and the evaluation of the governance arrangements of the system of economic statistics. These outcomes will be presented along with 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 inform about the proposed activities and deliverables of the Friends of the Chair in 2020. The Commission is invited to provide its view on the progress of work and the proposed program of work in 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. The report sets out progress made in addressing conceptual issues related to the implementation of the SNA, the finalization of publications supporting the 2008 SNA and resolving issues on the research agenda for the three priority areas: globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability. The report further provides information on the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and a proposed way forward for updating the SNA to ensure its relevance in a changing economic environment. It also contains the programme of work of the members 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.3/2020/8)

#### **(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.

The first part will describe the Committee's progress made 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 report will also describe the activities of the Committee on coordination, communication, and development of global databases.

The second part will present the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics in developing the Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade. Further, the report will describe the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force in reducing trade asymmetries, developing a global dataset on trade in services by mode of supply, the coordination of statistical capacity building and the measurement of economic activity of multinational enterprises at the global level. It will also inform on the progress of its evaluation of its terms of reference as requested by the Statistical Commission in 2014.

The Commission is invited to provide its views on the progress of work of the Committee and take note of the Task Force's activities including Version 1 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 Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2020/9)

**(f) Price indices**

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 to update the Consumer Price Index Manual. Following a comprehensive global consultation process, the Commission is invited to endorse the “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. The report outlines the activities undertaken in 2019 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 completing the 2017 cycle and the forthcoming release of the ICP 2017 results 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 socio-economic analyses and development agendas. The Commission is also requested to impress upon ICP stakeholders the need to carry out the ICP 2020 cycle activities in a timely manner, and to further 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 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 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 the SEEA within global and national initiatives, in particular those related to the Sustainable Development Goals and biodiversity; the development of global databases compliant with the SEEA; and the development of policy documents and narratives on the value added of the SEEA for various policy initiatives as well as communication and uptake of the SEEA in major international events, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Congress taking place in June 2020 in Marseille, and the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) taking place in October 2020 in Kunming, China launching the post 2020 biodiversity agenda.

The Commission is invited to provide its views, among other things, on (a) the direction of the revision of the SEEA EEA, 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 take place during 2020; and (d) the communication activities of the SEEA, including development of narratives 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 on new developments in agricultural and rural statistics. It includes: (a) the draft results of the independent evaluation of FAO's work in Statistics, outlining the updated agenda for the modernization of food and agricultural statistics; (b) a 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 of the second phase 2020-25; (c) a report on the new initiatives of capacity development undertaken by FAO, including the 50by2030 initiative and the ongoing support to national SDG monitoring and reporting; and (d) the programme of work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics for the triennium 2020-23, defining the new methodological developments to be discussed before their eventual submission to the Commission. The Commission is invited to comment and provide its advice on the proposals and points for discussion raised in the final section of the report.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on new 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 Censuses programme and the results of the survey launched by UNSD in that respect. It also has before it the conclusions and recommendations of an expert group on the methodology for delineation of cities, urban and rural areas. The Commission may wish to take note of the status of the implementation of the 2020 World Programme; to urge all countries to conduct a population and housing census or otherwise generate small area census

statistics; and to support the implementation of the methodology for delineation of cities, 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 on the Methodology for Delineation of 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 UN Legal Identity Agenda in the context of generating regular, accurate, reliable and comprehensive vital statistics. The Commission may wish to adopt the UN Legal Identity Agenda as a holistic approach to civil registration, vital a statistics and identity management in the context of extending the International Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, initially adopted by the Commission at its 27<sup>th</sup> session; to urge all countries to implement the UN 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 UN 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 on health statistics. Timely and reliable statistics are central to monitor health-related SDGs, make policy decisions, forecast future health scenarios, and track the impact of interventions. Most low-and middle-income countries will not be able to report regularly, and in a timely fashion, on even less than half of the health-related SDGs without an accelerated and collaborative effort between national statistics offices, ministries of health, and national authorities responsible for civil registration and vital statistics.

WHO's impact measurement, based on the health-related SDGS, approved by its Member States, reinforces the need for filling data gaps and building country capacity. This has been also reiterated in various discussions with NSOs from around the world. WHO requests the Statistical Commission in 2020 to consider draft strategic approaches to achieve SDG 17.18 with regard to health data and monitor progress towards the health and health related SDGs in partnership with national statistical offices, ministries of health, other relevant UN agencies and technical experts.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organizaiton on health statistics: Strengthening statistical systems to track health related SDGs (E/CN.3/2020/16)

**(m) Gender statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics, providing a summary of recent activities undertaken under the Global Programme on Gender Statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to strengthen gender data in support of progress towards gender equality and SDG monitoring. The report covers the development of guidelines to improve the production of time-use data, in collaboration with a group of subject-matter experts and in line with the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016), as requested by



the Commission (E/CN.3/2017/35, dec. 48/109). The report also discusses the preparation of *The World's Women 2020*, the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics. The Commission is invited to comment on the work undertaken so far to identify options for a more cost-effective production of time-use data. 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 on refugee and IDP statistics prepared by the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics. In the report, the group presents the overall progress made on the development of the international recommendations on IDP statistics and the preparation of the Compilers Manual on Refugee and IDP Statistics. The report also presents a suggestion for the group to continue its work and report back on progress made 3-5 years from now, focusing on the implementation of the recommendations in countries, coordinated capacity development support and further development of the Compilers Manual based on best practices.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents of the Expert Group: The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics and a Compilers Manual on Refugee and IDP Statistics.

The Commission is invited to adopt the IDP Recommendations and support the Compilers Manual on Refugee and IDP Statistics. 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 stated in the road map presented to the Commission in 2016, the Praia Group would 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 this session. The report to the Commission describes (1) the progress update on the work of the Praia Group over the past year and against its workplan; (2) the presentation of the Handbook on Governance Statistics, including an overview of its objectives, target audience, key findings and recommendations; (3) the recommendations on the continuation of the Praia Group and associated future work in further promoting the conceptualization, methodology and instruments needed to produce harmonized governance statistics at a global level; and (4) the suggested update to the terms of Reference of the Praia Group in line with these recommendations.

The Commission is invited to comment on the points for discussion regarding the progress of work, the Handbook on Governance Statistics, the recommendations on the continuation of the Praia Group and the update to the Terms of Reference contained in the last section of the report

### **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 on cooperation for regional statistical development. The report will address the main achievements of cooperation for statistical development between countries in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Some of the results achieved by the working groups of the Conference, the cooperation for the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and the integration between the statistical and geospatial communities are described. The main results of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians are also included.

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 of the X meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on the integration of the statistical and geospatial communities

### **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 implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The report presents the results of the work undertaken by the group on an assessment tool for a compliance and maturity framework of the Principles and guidance on the use of non-official and non-conventional data sources, which supplement the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics Implementation Guidelines.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents: 1) on evaluation criteria for a compliance and maturity framework of the Principles and 2) guidance for the use of non-official and non-conventional data sources, in alignment with and supplementing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics Implementation Guidelines.

The Commission is invited to consider the following points for decisions: (a) take note of the present report; (b) review and approve the proposed compliance and Maturity framework supplementing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics Implementation Guidelines; (c) review and approve the proposed guidance for the use of non-official non-conventional data sources; (d) review and approve the proposal that the work of the Friends of the Chair Group has concluded for the current round of reviews and will be resumed in time for the next appraisal, in 2024; (e) express its views on the re-designed Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics website, and to approve the proposed strategy to update and maintain the country profiles of the National Statistical Systems and documentation of good practices in National Statistical Systems.

### **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 (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 49<sup>th</sup> session in 2018, the Commission reiterated the importance of the updated Handbook of Statistical Organization in addressing common challenges and grasping innovative solutions and endorsed the proposed structure, priorities and content of it, subject to suggested adaptations and refinements to be duly considered during the drafting phase of the Handbook. The overall updating process is supported by a series of (sub-)regional Thematic Conferences targeting chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations. This report informs the Commission about the progress in the drafting of the Handbook and how the first Thematic Conferences have contributed to inform and enrich the Handbook by identifying regional initiatives and good national practices. The report also describes some slight changes of the structure of the Handbook that were considered during the drafting phase.

The Commission is invited to comment on the points for discussion regarding the overall progress and the proposed changes in the structure of the Handbook contained in the last section of the report.

#### **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 (ICT) for Development. The report presents an overview of the recent work undertaken by the Partnership, including the revision of the methodological manuals of ICT indicators which include new indicators that reflect latest developments in ICT adoption and use by households and individuals, and recent progress on the use of big data for measuring the information society. The report will also provide an update of the Partnership thematic list of ICT indicators for monitoring progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The SDG-related thematic list of ICT indicators is now available for use by countries and will be shared with the IAEG-SDG. The report will further highlight challenges for national statistical offices in producing ICT statistics, including related to capacity building.

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

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications 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 Decision 49/107 of 2018, the Commission endorsed the GWG proposal to develop the UN Global Platform as a collaborative research and development environment for trusted data, services and applications, and agreed that the development phase for the platform

should be completed by March 2020 leading to a business model which is sustainable for all stakeholders and ensures access to a 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 now reports how it has delivered on time on the UN Global Platform, which consists of several hubs in most regions of the world. The report describes the UN Global Platform and lays out its governance structure under the Commission, its business model and the work programmes of each of the hubs. The report further gives an overview of the project activities, the training activities and the partnerships, which took place or were established on and for the platform. These activities prove the usefulness of the platform and 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 points for discussion regarding the governance structure, business model and work programme of the UN 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 progress towards 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 to endorse the Framework; take note of the Expert Group's revised Terms of Reference, Work Plan for 2020 - 2022, and its progress regarding the development and implementation of the Framework; and, urge Member States to participate in, and implement, the work of the Expert Group.

#### **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 discusses and provides guidance on the application of the 'open by default' principle in the context of official statistics. The report also discusses best practices in the design and implementation of open data policies in official statistics; includes relevant links to the principles and guidelines for national reporting platforms; and proposes a mapping of the interoperability guidelines to the phases of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents on: 1) proposed guidance and best practices for the dissemination of Local-level Statistics as Open Data by National Statistical Offices, and 2) guidance on the application of the “open by default” principle in the context of official statistics.

The Commission is invited: (a) To take note of the present report; (b) To review and approve the proposed guidance on the application of the “open by default” principle in the context of official statistics; (c) 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-centered approach, and relevant links to the principles and guidelines for national reporting platforms; (d) To review and approve the proposed guidance and best practices for the dissemination of Local-level Statistics as Open Data by National Statistical Offices; (e) 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. The report updates stock of all existing groups and presents the results of the consultation with the Chairs of the groups currently active, as requested by the decision 50/122. The consultation asked Chairs about the current interlinkages, reporting lines and cross-participation within and across group families, and also asked them to describe plans, if any, for streamlining governance among the groups in their pillar. Chairs offered a wealth of information and ideas with a view to achieve more coherent and coordinated working methods. The Bureau analysed this information and, based on this analysis, is presenting both the current state of affairs, as well as specific potential collaboration, overall cooperation opportunities and best practices that can be replicated. The report also puts forward a simple operational framework that can serve as a guide to achieve improved coherence and coordination for both existing and forthcoming groups.

The report is accompanied by 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 the detailed list of groups.

The Commission is invited to further reflect on the groups’ governance issues, endorse the operational framework, and 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**

Following 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 Commission's 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 or 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 General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council policy decisions**

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 which describes the results of the most recent meeting and other outcomes from the group. The Ottawa Group meets biennially with the most recent meeting taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in May 2019. Additionally, the report will highlight topics for discussion at the next Ottawa Group meeting in Rome, Italy, 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. The report describes the progress of the Group since its previous report to the Statistical Commission in 2017. This progress pertains to such topics like 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 the 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 present report provides a summary of activities carried out during the biennium 2018-2019, including on: the increasing adoption of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics by countries; 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, sub-regions and countries. It also lays out the work plan for the biennium 2020-2021. Since the work programme 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 of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs from 1999 to 2018, as well as conclusions with relevance to future work (especially with regard to the environmentally-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 on Disability Statistics 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 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 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 statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2020/35)

**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-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.

**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, 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 fifty-first session

Informal paper with draft decisions

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