## United Nations Statistical Commission Fifty-second session 1–3 and 5 March 2021 Item 6 of the provisional agenda Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-third session of the Commission

Document E/CN.3/2021/L.2 - Draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission

Document E/CN.3/2021/29 - Draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2021-2025

*Statement provided by:* Sierra Leone

Statement:

Sierra Leone would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter.

We do support the provisional agenda for the next year. In particular, we do expect that **health statistics** should be at the centre of our discussion to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in our countries and to seek ways of improving health statistics.

However, we would also like to see **population and housing census** in the agenda as well as **price statistics** in the context of pandemic.

Due to a number of reasons including the funding and the pandemic, African countries are experiencing difficulties to conduct their population and housing censuses during the current cycle. Therefore, our capacity to derive indicators and inform the SDGs will be seriously impacted.

Thanks to ECA for setting a price watch; however, due to the pandemic, alternative ways of collecting price data should be explored and implemented. Africa region, as informal market, would seek better methodologies that have been experimented elsewhere and that can be sustainable.

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