Economic and Social Council

Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

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Agenda item 4 (i)

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

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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices, the present report presents the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Council adopted in 2021, or earlier, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. It also indicates the actions that were taken or are proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in an effort to respond to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council. The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

I. Introduction

The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices. It provides an overview of the policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2021, or earlier, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The action taken or proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in response to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council is also highlighted.

II. Statistical capacity development

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

1. In its resolution 75/220 entitled "Harmony with Nature", the General Assembly recognized the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity, and invited the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to support the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical assistance.

2. In its resolution 75/316 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the General Assembly urged Member States and other stakeholders to take concerted action to further strengthen emerging technologies and new data sources and to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems, under the leadership of national statistical offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Goals.

3. In its resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system to strengthen the quality of its partnership and coordinated regional efforts in Africa and to align its support for the region to the specific needs and priorities of Africa, with a special focus on, inter alia, improving data and statistics.

4. In its resolution 75/322 entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly reiterated the need to support African countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, and called upon Member States and all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to contribute to the effectiveness and reliability of the United Nations monitoring mechanism process by cooperating in the collection of data and the evaluation of performance.

5. In its resolution 75/215 on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the General Assembly recognized that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and in that regard called upon the Secretary-General, within existing resources and in consultation with Member States, all relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, to identify the Samoa Pathway priority areas not covered by the Goals or the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and, if any are identified, to develop forthwith targets and indicators for those priority areas while ensuring complementarities and synergies and avoiding duplication.

6.   In its resolution 75/323 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the existing cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in supporting statistical capacity-building and data access to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and encouraged further practical steps to enhance such cooperation.

7.   In its resolution 75/324 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, the General Assembly highlighted the importance of high-quality statistics as a tool for the implementation of development goals and the importance of future cooperation and partnership between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Statistics Division in that regard, and encouraged the Division to consider extending technical and financial support to the Organization in the field of statistics, as appropriate.

8.   In its resolution 2021/16 on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the Institute to continue to develop training programming in the fields of, inter alia, sustainable development, mainstreaming a gender perspective and women's empowerment, and in the use of geospatial technologies and knowledge derived from satellite imagery and relevant United Nations entities, to support evidence-based decision-making, notably in the field of disaster risk reduction.

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

9.   In its decision 52/101 (see E/2021/24), the Statistical Commission stressed the need for enhanced technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for monitoring, for the production of Goal indicators, and for the modernization of statistical systems.

10.   The Commission's High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has embarked on a process to update the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, with the objective of reviewing the updated global action plan at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in 2024 (E/CN.3/2022/4, para. 25).

11.   As part of its approved workplan, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators was tasked with, inter alia, focusing on the implementation of the indicator framework and the sharing of experiences and best practices on monitoring the Goals, including on national platforms, dashboards, Goal portals and other progress assessment tools; communication of data on the Goals; data disaggregation; and addressing of data gaps for Goal indicators (E/CN.3/2022/2, para. 17). In that context, the Expert Group has established a task force on small area estimation to complement past work by the Expert Group on the development of a minimum disaggregation set, a comprehensive summary of disaggregation standards for all Goal indicators, a compilation of categories and dimensions of data disaggregation currently in place and planned by custodian agencies, a compilation of policy priorities by disaggregation dimension, and a compilation of existing tools

and methodologies for data disaggregation. To improve statistical capacity on using small area estimates in producing more disaggregated data for Goal indicators, a set of eLearning courses are being developed jointly by the Statistics Division, the Economic and Social Commission of Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and United Nations Population Fund (ibid, para. 24).

12. The Statistics Division has continued to carry out capacity-building activities on Goal indicators, including through a project to support monitoring of the Goals, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for 20 countries in Africa and Asia. Training has also been provided in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the African Development Bank and other partners (ibid, para. 28).

13. The Statistics Division and the nine other entities of the Secretariat continued their close collaboration in the area of statistical capacity development through the joint $10 million United Nations Development Account programme on statistics and data, which had been granted a one-year extension by the Development Account Steering Committee, with additional funding of $1.5 million until the end of 2020 (E/CN.3/2022/3, para. 16).

14. Under the Data for Now initiative, the Statistics Division, with funding from the Government of Italy, has carried out statistical capacity development activities in Colombia and Senegal. It has also supported work in Bangladesh under the United Nations peace and development trust fund through an interdivisional project of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on evidence-based, coherent and well-financed strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda. In 2022, it is expected that the core partners of the Data for Now initiative will be able to increase the level of activity and engage with additional countries with increased financial support from bilateral donors (ibid, paras. 28–29).

15. The Statistics Division has continued to engage with representatives from over 25 countries and 25 regional and international agencies through a collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes,[1] which was initiated in May 2020 as a response to the urgent need for more timely and disaggregated data to inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its socioeconomic effects. In addition, the Statistics Division, in close collaboration with regional commissions and resident coordinator offices, is leading a United Nations Development Account project on administrative data for disaggregated Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America (ibid, paras. 30–32).

16. The Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training, established to address the data demands of the 2030 Agenda and the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, has continued its work to foster training in key areas of official statistics. The Network covers topics in statistical training related to the specific needs of national statistical offices, the development of an e-learning community of practice and an online gateway for training courses, and statistical literacy in the context of the 2030 Agenda (ibid, paras. 35–41).

17. In addition, the Statistics Division has launched a Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians, with the objective of facilitating the professional online social community seeking to help national Governments build resilient and

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[1] The collaborative is co-convened by the Statistics Division and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

sustainable national data and information systems for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (ibid, paras. 42–44).

18. The Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys continued to support countries in the development of comprehensive and efficient national household survey programmes, including by documenting good practices and challenges with regard to coordination, methodological development, and advocacy and communication at the national and regional levels (ibid, paras. 45–50).

III. Open data

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

19. In its resolution 75/202 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, the General Assembly noted that platformization and the monetization of the rapidly expanding volume of digital data were increasingly driving value creation, while acknowledging both the risk that digitalization might contribute to rising inequality and the role that open access to data has played in facilitating significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development in many countries.

20. In its resolution 75/316 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the General Assembly encouraged the promotion of digital solutions through access to and use of digital public goods, which may include open-source software, open data, open standards and open content that adhere to international and domestic laws, to achieve the Goals.

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

21. At its fifty-third session, the Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on Open Data (E/CN.3/2022/27). The report reflects the work of the Group in providing guidance to national statistical offices on open data practices in the production of official statistics. The guidance in the report concerns such topics as data that are open by default and best practices on data licensing; interoperability guidelines and a joined-up data maturity model; and use cases for local-level open statistics.

IV. Poverty and food security statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

22. In its resolution 75/230 on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), the General Assembly recognized the importance of strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to data that are of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated, harnessing partnerships, fostering the global exchange of ideas and experiences and showcasing innovative and efficient initiatives and strategies to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities within and among countries and promote decent work for all.

23. In the same resolution, the General Assembly stressed the importance of using multidimensional indicators and developing transparent measurements of progress on

sustainable development that complement gross domestic product in order to effectively reflect the reality of the populations of all developing countries, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and reduce inequality everywhere, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, and encouraged the United Nations system to continue to support developing countries in capacity development in such areas as building national statistical systems, data analysis and disaggregation, policy formulation and the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and strategies. Moreover, the General Assembly stressed the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support towards the fulfilment of official development assistance commitments, including by raising public awareness, providing disaggregated data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results.

24.   In its resolution 75/235 on agriculture, development, food security and nutrition, the General Assembly encouraged the adoption of the most advanced and appropriate information technology, such as the Internet, mobile platforms, meteorology, big data and cloud computing, in agriculture systems in order to support the efforts of smallholder and family farmers to increase their resilience, productivity and incomes and include them in the development of research and innovation agendas while reducing negative environmental impacts.

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

25.   The Data for Now initiative, has served to support efforts to carry out statistical capacity development activities in Bangladesh and Colombia (see para. 15 above), with a focus on poverty indicators, particularly in relation to small area estimation methods and the use of geospatial data sources.[2]

26.   The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has mobilized extrabudgetary resources for food security statistics (E/CN.3/2022/23, para. 24). Moreover, to evaluate the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on food security and food access and their causes, FAO has conducted repeated rapid assessments of food insecurity using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, which underpins Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.1.2 on the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity. The survey module for the Scale has been adapted to capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households' ability to gain access to food, by slightly modifying the reference period for and wording of the Scale-related questions to make them more effective in monitoring food insecurity trends in relation to the pandemic (ibid, para. 63).

V.   Health data and statistics

A.   Action requested by the General Assembly

27.   In its resolution 75/130 entitled "Global health and foreign policy: strengthening health system resilience through affordable health care for all", the General Assembly called upon Member States to scale up efforts to strengthen health information systems and collect quality, timely and reliable data, including vital statistics, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability,

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[2] More information is available at https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/data-for-now/data-for-now-in-Bangladesh and https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/data-for-now/data-for-now-in-Colombia.

geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts as required to monitor progress and identify gaps in the universal and inclusive achievement of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, while protecting the privacy of data that could be linked to individuals, and to ensure that the statistics are used to support evidence-based health sector planning, monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health service supply and demand, and facilitate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

28.　In its resolution 75/151 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of its twenty-fourth special session, the General Assembly recalled the adoption by the Assembly of the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which will go into effect on 1 January 2022.

29.　In its resolution 75/310 entitled "Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", the General Assembly invited the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to review and consider in the context of the global indicator framework for the Goals, at the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission, to be held in 2025, the feasible global indicators on eye health included in World Health Assembly resolution 73.4 of 3 August 2020, entitled "Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness", as a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on progress towards Vision for Everyone and its contributions to the 2030 Agenda.

30.　In its resolution 2021/9 on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Economic and Social Council invited development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing reliable health information and data, encouraged African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, and urged donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development.

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

31.　At its fifty-third session, the Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) entitled "Health statistics: strengthening statistical systems to track the health-related Sustainable Development Goals" (E/CN.3/2022/13). In the report, WHO describes work carried out by the newly created WHO Data and Analytics Division, including the establishment of a new Geographic Information System Centre, Health Information Systems Unit and Health Equity Monitoring Unit; the development of a new, global, modular health survey; a revised and updated composite index of universal health coverage; a routine health information systems strategy; and the new World Health Data Hub. Furthermore, WHO highlights the groundbreaking work carried out, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on modelling estimates for COVID-19-related excess mortality for each member State, disaggregated by sex and age. It also provides information on the statement issued at the Health Data Governance Summit and on data-sharing principles, and refers to the intention to establish a new international conference on health statistics.

VI. Education statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

32.   In its resolution 75/155 entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas", the General Assembly called upon Governments at all levels, as appropriate, to mobilize resources to strengthen literacy measurements and statistics, and to invest in education management information systems and data management capacities according to every State's financial and human capabilities.

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

33.   At its fifty-third session, the Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics (E/CN.3/2022/15). In the report, the Institute refers to the establishment of national benchmark values for selected Goal indicators for 2025 and 2030. In particular, the report provides background information on and the main objective and steps taken by the Institute to encourage countries to submit targets that would represent their own contributions to the global effort to achieve Goal 4 by 2030.

VII. Gender statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

34.   In its resolution 75/156 on strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, the General Assembly encouraged States to collect quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data relating to the impact of COVID-19 and response and recovery efforts to ensure that challenges faced by women and girls are adequately identified and addressed.

35.   In its resolution 75/158 on trafficking in women and girls, the General Assembly stressed the need for the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors, took note of the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators, and encouraged Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat human trafficking.

36.   In its resolution 75/159 on intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report with specific updated statistics and disaggregated data on obstetric fistula to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

37.   In its resolution 75/160 on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation, the General Assembly called upon States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on female genital mutilation and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice, and urged the international community to fulfil its commitment to support developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, in the elimination of female genital mutilation. In addition, the General Assembly renewed

its request to the Secretary-General to submit, at its seventy-seventh session, an in-depth, multidisciplinary, evidence-based report on, inter-alia, progress made on and recommendations for the elimination of female genital mutilation.

38. In its resolution 75/161 on intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, the General Assembly encouraged States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data, including, where appropriate, administrative data, on all forms of violence against women and girls, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims. In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information on violence against women and girls and to raise awareness among all relevant stakeholders of the Secretary-General's Global Database on Violence against Women.

39. In its resolution 75/167 on child, early and forced marriage, the General Assembly encouraged relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate with Member States and national statistical agencies in strengthening and building capacity for data and reporting systems for analysing, monitoring and publicly reporting on progress to end child, early and forced marriage based on evidence. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, including in the context of child, early and forced marriage. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive, evidence-based report, before the end of its seventy-sixth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married girls and women affected by the practice.

40. In its resolution 2021/7 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council recognized the importance of strengthening the capacity for coordinating the United Nations system in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

41. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council called upon the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds, and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the United Nations system, including through the use of common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the enhancement of standards and methodologies to improve the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and use of accurate, reliable, transparent, comparable and disaggregated data and statistics and, where applicable and with due respect for confidentiality, open data and statistics related to achieving gender equality.

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

42. At its fifty-third session, the Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2022/12), providing a

summary of 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 monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report provides an update on the development of guidelines to improve the production of time-use data, in collaboration with a group of subject-matter experts and as requested by the Commission in its decisions 48/109 (see E/2017/24) and 51/115 (see E/2020/24), introducing a minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection, quality considerations for time-use surveys and options to modernize time-use data production. The report also provides information on the outcomes of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics and the conclusions of recent meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, including a revised minimum set of gender indicators.

43.   As mandated by the Commission in its decisions 48/109 and 51/115, since 2018, the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics have been working towards the implementation of the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (2016) and the modernization of time-use surveys, in the context of updating the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work* and with the overall objective of further promoting this critical data collection across countries and over time.

44.   In the period since the topic of gender statistics was most recently discussed by the Commission, in March 2020, two annual meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, which comprises representatives of the gender statistics programmes of international, regional and national institutions, have been held, during which methodological developments in measuring and monitoring specific areas of gender concerns and the gender-differentiated impacts of COVID-19 were reviewed and discussed. The collection of data on violence against women during the pandemic was considered particularly complex. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group noted the proposed initiatives to use rapid assessment surveys to collect information on that sensitive topic and highlighted potential challenges. In particular, the Group acknowledged the importance of ensuring that ethical and safety protocols were in place during data collection through phone interviews, given that, during lockdown periods, potential victims might not be alone when answering questions.

45.   The Inter-Agency and Expert Group welcomed the release of the online platform of *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*, developed by the Statistics Division and presenting a compilation of 100 short gender data stories covering progress towards gender equality since 1995, written by the Division and members of the Group. The Group also welcomed the development by the Division of a redesigned global gender data hub for disseminating the minimum set of gender indicators, to be fully interoperable with other geocoded databases maintained by the Division.

46.   In 2022 and 2023, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, will organize and convene the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the Group and the ninth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, planned for 2023.

VIII. Ageing-related statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

47.   In its resolution 75/152 on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the General Assembly recommended that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons, recognized that the

data revolution presented new opportunities and challenges to measure progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and recalled the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data and the consideration of its work.

48.   In the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for data-collection initiatives on ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better understanding of how to promote ageing in a way that is not adversely affected by rapid urbanization and gentrification.

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

49.   At its fifty-third session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data (E/CN.3/2022/30). The report contains a summary of developments regarding the work of the Titchfield City Group since 2018, including planned activities and publications and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work and timeline of the Group. The report also includes a revised road map, by which the timeline of the Group is extended, so as to conclude in 2025.

50.   Updates on the work of the Titchfield Group and global updates on ageing statistics are disseminated through a quarterly newsletter. Blog posts are published on http://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/blog/, and members of the Group use a United Nations Statistics wiki. In addition, the Group is currently working on *A Global Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Framework: Making Older People Visible*, a publication being prepared jointly with WHO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics. The report will contain the conceptual and analytical framework and priority Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant for older people. It will be published on the WHO Institutional Repository for Information Sharing.

51.   Future work outlined at the technical meeting for 2021 includes building on work to assess data gaps for Sustainable Development Goal indicators on ageing and older persons. Under work strand 1, on an assessment of evidence and identification of gaps, there will be a review of additional measures relevant to older people. A second phase of the assessment of current evidence in that sphere will be conducted.

IX.   Statistics on persons with disabilities

A.   Action requested by the General Assembly

52.   In its resolution 75/154 on inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities, the General Assembly underlined the need for internationally comparable data, such as the United Nations Children's Fund module on child functioning and the tools and materials produced by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and requested the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national data and statistics on

persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States. In that regard, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities. In particular, the Assembly encouraged the Statistical Commission, within existing resources, to update guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and also encouraged the United Nations system to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system in order to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities. It also urged all relevant stakeholders to work with the United Nations to provide urgently needed baseline data for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Goals for persons with disabilities, to strengthen national capacities in that regard and to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States.

53. In its resolution 75/166 on protecting children from bullying, the General Assembly recognized the importance of generating appropriate and disaggregated statistical information and data on bullying, and called upon Member States to generate and analyse such data and to provide information on disability, with regard to the problem of bullying.

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

54. At its fifty-third session, the Statistical Commission will have before it a joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2022/31). The report provides information on current and planned activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to produce quality statistics on disability for evidence-based policies and programmes that are carried out by ECLAC, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the World Bank, WHO and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

55. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics was established by the Statistical Commission to improve the quality and international comparability of disability statistics. It has some 162 country members and partners, including multiple United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities. It has developed multiple question sets that address different aspects of disability statistics and incorporate the definition of disability enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The question sets include the Washington Group short set of questions on disability, the enhanced and the extended short sets on functioning, the module on child functioning and the labour force survey disability module. The sets have been developed collaboratively with partners and widely tested to ensure that they generate internationally comparable data relevant for policy and programme development and evaluation. They are extensively documented including through guidance for implementation and analysis.

56. The Group will continue its efforts to support the regional disability statistics groups to advance the work among countries that share a common language or culture

and common disability data challenges. The following were identified at its 21st annual meeting as the next steps to be taken: (a) test psychosocial functioning questions; (b) develop questions on transportation; (c) finalize an age-adjustment guidance document; (d) facilitate exchanges on experiences with the teacher version of the module on child functioning and develop module evaluation guidance; (e) address the need for a focused disability survey; (f) address the use of the Washington Group tools in humanitarian contexts and disasters; (g) advance the plans of the regional disability statistics groups; (h) convene a midyear meeting in 2022; and (i) explore additional avenues of communication among the members.

57. The Washington Group disseminates its work products through its website (www.washingtongroup-disability.com) and scientific publications.

X. Human settlements, housing, and urban development statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

58. In its resolution 75/224 on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly urged UN-Habitat to continue to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation, with the objective of supporting Member States, especially developing countries, when needed, in dealing with emerging urban challenges and opportunities.

59. In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon UN-Habitat to continue supporting efforts of the Statistical Commission to establish a functional definition of urban areas and develop a common methodology for aggregating subnational urban statistics.

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

60. At its fifty-third session, the Commission will have before it the report of UN-Habitat on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2022/11). In the report, UN-Habitat highlights the progress that it and partners have achieved on the development of human settlements statistics and relevant methodologies and on advancements in urban data collection and reporting in a consistent manner across a set of selected human settlements indicators. UN-Habitat also provides information on progress made in the implementation of previous recommendations on improving the global monitoring of and reporting on human settlement indicators.

61. Following the recommendations contained in the report of the UN-Habitat on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2019/18), which was presented at the fiftieth session of the Commission, an incremental and inclusive reporting system has been established to reinforce the United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism for monitoring and reporting, the roll-out of a harmonized definition of cities and rural areas, the establishment of an expert group to work on the categorization of slum and non-slum areas, and the development of a harmonized urban monitoring framework.

62. The data stewardship and the city agenda workstream of the Commission's Working Group on Data Stewardship, which is led by the Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, links the

working group and those engaged in the smart cities initiative, with the aim of fostering knowledge exchange, finding areas of mutual interest and suggesting solutions to improve and connect data stewardship at the national and city levels (E/CN.3/2022/5, paras. 21–25).

XI. Humanitarian and disaster preparedness and response data

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

63. In its resolution 75/124 entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development", the General Assembly noted the importance of sharing best practices on the collection of data on persons displaced in the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and encouraged Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of such data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

64. In the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invited Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery. Moreover, it encouraged the United Nations to continue to strengthen its provision of data-related services and policy advice and build the data skills of its humanitarian staff, in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response.

65. The General Assembly encouraged Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, and encouraged the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis.

66. The General Assembly also encouraged Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies.

67. In its resolution 75/127 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the use of open and disaggregated data to effectively respond to the needs of people affected by crises and called upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity to ensure that humanitarian relief made greater use of sex- and age-disaggregated data. It also called upon the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations organizations to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible, disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response. In the same resolution, the

Assembly encouraged efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker.

68.   In its resolution 75/216 on disaster risk reduction, the General Assembly urged States, while implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, to prioritize the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases to augment efforts to create or enhance systems for data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including livelihood and other losses affected populations, and to work towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible.

69.   In the same resolution, the General Assembly recognized that disaster risk reduction required a multi-hazard and systemic approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, and analysis with an adequate understanding of how the information was to be interpreted and used, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, interoperable, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, for a wide range of users and decision makers, complemented by traditional knowledge. In that regard, the Assembly encouraged States to commence or enhance the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, and to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, and invited Member States to mobilize national statistical and planning offices and other relevant authorities, and strengthen their capacity in the systemic collection, analysis and validation of disaster risk data to institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors. Moreover, the Assembly recognized the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council, on 2 July 2018, of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and which contributed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

70.   In its resolution 2021/17 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council encouraged States, as well as the United Nations, and humanitarian organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and in line with humanitarian principles, and learning from the COVID-19 pandemic experience, to continue to scale up anticipatory approaches, early warning early action systems, forecasting, prevention-oriented responses and emergency preparedness, and improve predictive and risk data analytics across sectors, reinforce systematic risk monitoring, early warning and preparedness capacities.

71.   In the same resolution, the Council requested Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all stages of humanitarian response, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

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

72.   Further to its decision 50/116 (see E/2019/24), in which the Statistical Commission supported the development of a common framework for disaster-related statistics, and pursuant to decision 10/108 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (see E/2021/46), in which the Committee of

Experts expressed its commitment for the efforts to continue, together with the statistical community, to provide and expand on the availability of geospatial information and disaster-related statistics, a core group comprising the Statistics Division, ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Europe, ECLAC, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was tasked with preparing the terms of reference to create a formal mechanism and network. [3]

73. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics, currently co-chaired by the ESCAP Statistics Division and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the latter also providing secretariat support, held its first meeting on 25 and 26 May 2021. The Group provides guidance on the production, dissemination and use of disaster-related statistics to inform national disaster risk reduction policies and plans and facilitate reporting with regard to internationally agreed development agenda as they relate to disaster risk reduction, proposals on the process for developing a common statistical framework for disaster-related statistics, preparations for its first expert forum, and the identification of research topics for a common statistical framework for disaster related statistics.

74. The 2020–2023 workplan of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters follows four overarching goals, namely to: (a) foster communication and awareness-raising; (b) implement the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; (c) design and prepare scenario-based exercises on different hazards; and (d) provide a forum for dialogue, coordination and capacity-building.

XII. Crime and drug statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

75. In its resolution 75/196 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support Member States, upon request, in their efforts to address the links between the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, technical support, improved data collection and analysis and strengthened national statistical systems.

76. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to gradually adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), within its existing mandate, to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, timely and comparable data and information, and to continue to develop, in close cooperation with Member States, technical and methodological tools and trend analyses and studies to enhance knowledge of crime trends.

77. In its resolution 75/198 on international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, the General Assembly requested UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States and pertinent United Nations entities, intergovernmental and regional organizations and, when appropriate, the scientific community and civil society, to continue to support Member States, upon request, in strengthening their capacity to develop their reporting mechanisms, including by identifying gaps in the

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[3] See the background report prepared by the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, which is available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/meetings/ggim-committee/11th-session).

current drug statistics and by exploring possibilities to strengthen existing data-collection and analysis tools at the national level.

78. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled Statistical Commission decision 48/110 on statistics on drugs and drug use, and encouraged collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, within their mandates, to exchange information on the latest data trends on the world drug problem, stressed the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of drug statistics and to respond effectively to data-collection requests from UNODC, and invited international and regional organizations to support Member States in that regard, upon their request.

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

79. At its fifty-third session, the Commission will have before it the report of UNODC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) on crime and criminal justice statistics (E/CN.3/2022/14). The report contains a review of activities and accomplishments since 2019. Among other developments, it presents new methodological tools that have been developed over the past few years, such as the new conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of illicit financial flows, developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and UNODC; the common initiative by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and UNODC on standardized Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey modules; and the statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killings of women and girls, developed by UNODC and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Furthermore, it describes existing challenges and future activities to be undertaken at the international level.

80. The activities related to the development of methodological tools envisaged in the road map presented to the Commission in 2019 (see E/CN.3/2019/19) have all been completed or are ongoing. All the capacity-building targets included in the updated 2019 road map have been met, with the exception of the establishment of a centre of excellence in crime and criminal justice statistics in Africa. Despite reaching out to possible donors, UNODC was unsuccessful in securing the needed resources.

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