

**DRAFT DECISIONS**

(text subject to editing)

**Decision 1: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)**

**Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report, and appreciated the continued work on the implementation of the global indicator framework;
- (b) Commended the group on the methodological review of the indicator framework and tier classification updates, and recommended that the remaining methodological work be accelerated, while giving careful consideration to the impact on the work of national statistical systems;
- (c) Agreed on the proposed annual refinements for SDG 11.5.2 and SDG 16.1.4, noted the reservation on the refinement of the indicator 11.5.2, and suggested to split the new indicator 11.5.3 into two sub-indicators;
- (d) Appreciated the efforts of the IAEG-SDGs in compiling and showcasing best practices on SDG monitoring from countries and invited more countries to share their experiences;
- (e) Welcomed the Toolkit on Using Small Area Estimation for SDGs, and requested continuous support to countries in this area;
- (f) Encouraged the Group to further incorporate data innovation in its work, including using non-traditional data sources, to close data gaps in close cooperation with the expert groups that are technically responsible for setting the respective content-related statistical standards;
- (g) Adopted the SDGs Geospatial roadmap for statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework;
- (h) Stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for SDG monitoring, for the production of SDG indicators and for the modernization of statistical systems;
- (i) Encouraged the Group to share all capacity building and training programmes and materials on SDG monitoring on a common platform for all to benefit;
- (j) Appreciated the effort of the Group and the custodian agencies to improve data flows for global reporting and validation processes, and encouraged a regular dialogue between the Group and the custodian agencies to further strengthen these efforts;

- (k) Adopted the proposed new indicator 17.3.1 and commended the Working Group on Measurement of Development Support for its transparent process; requested OECD and UNCTAD to be the co-custodians of the new indicator and to work closely to avoid duplications; and agreed to dissolve the Working Group as it has completed its mandate;
- (l) Noted that further developments of the proposal should build on the deliberations held and progress achieved in the Working Group, ensuring stability of the indicator, while noting that the sub-indicator on mobilized private finance is being proposed on an experimental basis and needs further work;
- (m) Recognized the importance that members submit the necessary information to measure development support under the new indicator, and welcomed the efforts carried out by the Working Group to come to an agreement on the indicator proposal using existing and new databases established at the OECD and UNCTAD as data sources.
- (n) Welcomed the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, and requested that further work on this, including on global reporting and capacity building, be enabled by UNCTAD's co-custodianship and led by countries from the global South, building on country-led mechanisms, and included under indicator 17.3.1 in the future; invited countries involved in South-South cooperation to work closely with UNCTAD;
- (o) Agreed with the proposed way forward on a further review of the issue of measurement of the global and regional efforts in support of the Goals, while recognizing that this is outside of indicator 17.3.1; welcomed the interest of countries to conduct the review of this issue, which should be country-led, with the participation of both developing and developed countries; asked the Statistics Division to support it as needed; and requested countries to report back to the Commission at its next session;
- (p) Noted that the CARICOM countries expressed concern that indicator 8.9.2 was deleted as a result of the 2020 comprehensive review;
- (q) Requested the IAEG-SDGs to work in close coordination with the custodian agency on a proposal for indicators on sustainable tourism to better monitor target 8.9 and report on progress on this to the 54th session of the Statistical Commission.
- (r) Approved the proposed work programme of the Group and requested the inclusion of the work on sustainable tourism.

## **Decision 2: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)**

### **Report of the Secretary-General on work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report, and took note of the proposed programme of work;
- (b) Appreciated the work of the Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations system, in support of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database and the launch of the new SDG data platform;

- (c) Appreciated also the capacity development activities carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners to assist Member States in making data on the Goals available;
- (d) Supported the *Data for Now* initiative to build capacity in countries to utilize new data sources, valued the sharing of training materials and suggested the initiative should be extended to more countries;
- (e) Supported the work of the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, valued the sharing of experiences among peers; and noted that this initiative is important for the SDG monitoring and for improvement of data overall;
- (f) Supported the continuation of efforts to advance a federated system of national and global data hubs leveraging the work of the Geospatial Roadmap, and expanding the use of open-source technical solutions and platforms;
- (g) Appreciated the efforts and achievements of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training and recommended increased coordination with countries to understand their training needs;
- (h) Appreciated the establishment of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians as effective mechanism for information and knowledge sharing and networking;
- (i) Commended the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys for its work, especially its support to countries in overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 on household surveys; encouraged the Group to continue this work, including on the use of innovative methods;
- (j) Recognised the important work undertaken by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys in supporting the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment created by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Health Organization, in the provision of recommendations to national statistical offices on the use of censuses and surveys to obtain time-sensitive and reliable information on COVID-19 mortality at the country level;
- (k) Recognized the usefulness of citizen-generated data to fill data gaps while stressing the importance of benchmarking to correct potential biases;
- (l) Welcomed the effort of UNSD in the development of the toolkit on incorporating citizen-generated data into official statistics, and requested a sharing of best practices in this area;
- (m) Asked the United Nations Statistics Division to consider ways to address the need for the distinction of developed and developing regions in the M49 classification.

### **Decision 3: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)**

#### **Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and expressed its appreciation for the work done;

- (b) Commended the HLG-PCCB, the Swiss Confederation, and the Programme Committee for the organization of the United Nations World Data Forum from 3 to 6 October 2021 in Bern;
- (c) Welcomed the announcement of the hosts for the fourth and fifth Forum to take place in Hangzhou, China between 24 and 27 April 2023 and Medellín, Colombia in autumn 2024, respectively;
- (d) Endorsed the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals and encouraged its further promotion among the data and statistical community;
- (e) Appreciated the results from the survey on the Implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;
- (f) Agreed with the timeline for the review and revision of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and appreciated the proposed consultative process;
- (g) Recognized the urgent need to fill the funding gap to respond to the demands of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, and the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data and the World Bank Global Data Facility as new key global initiatives in this context, highlighting the need to also increase mobilization of domestic resources; urged the statistical community to actively engage in the global initiatives to ensure countries' priorities are given due consideration, and in national funding mechanisms to ensure funding for data and statistics is prioritized as part of countries' development priorities;
- (h) Approved the amended terms of reference and work programme of the HLG-PCCB and asked the group to report back to the Commission at its 54<sup>th</sup> session on its implementation.

#### **Decision 4: Data stewardship (Item 3b)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and appreciated the work accomplished;
- (b) Supported the establishment of the five work streams covering data governance, equity and inclusion, sharing and collaboration, links with the city data agenda and development of an overall conceptual framework, and recommended consideration of additional aspects, such as data capability, data quality assessment, and increased attention to issues related to protection of privacy of data while ensuring its full utilization;
- (c) Recommended the development of a framework outlining the definition and application of the data stewardship concept, the advantages of assigning the role of data steward to the National Statistical Office, a glossary of terms related to the data stewardship concept, and maturity models covering different national circumstances;
- (d) Encouraged further experience sharing and the absorption of outstanding work from the Working Group on Open Data;
- (e) Recommended the Working Group on Data Stewardship (WGDS) to maintain links and collaborate with other international and regional groups with a related or common focus;

- (f) Welcomed additional requests from National Statistical Offices to join the WGDS and its workstreams, to ensure all regional practices and circumstances are taken into account when developing approaches to data stewardship;
- (g) Agreed with the work programme and the new terms of reference of the WGDS, albeit the addition of maintaining a dialogue with other regional groups working on data stewardship, and asked the WGDS to report back to the Commission at its 54<sup>th</sup> session on progress.

### **Decision 5: Working methods of the Statistical Commission (Item 3c)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Bureau on working methods and thanked the Bureau for their work carried out in the inter-sessional period;
- (b) [Supported the revision of the terms of reference of the Statistical Commission as a draft resolution to be recommended for adoption to ECOSOC;] (subject to the conclusions of the ongoing negotiations)
- (c) Appreciated the initial scoping exercise on normative work of the Commission, and invited the Bureau to continue this workstream;
- (d) Welcomed the initial work on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Commission and agreed with the proposal that the Bureau should work closely with the Inter-agency and expert group on gender statistics on this topic;
- (e) Called upon the Bureau to initiate the review of the social and demographic statistics pillar through a Friends of the Chair mechanism and to report back on progress made at the next session;
- (f) Requested the Bureau to revisit the review of the multi-year programme taking into consideration the updated Classification of Statistical Activities;
- (g) Took note of the request to the Bureau made by Suriname on behalf of CARICOM countries to also revisit the issue of equitable geographic distribution used for the composition of the 24 Members of the Commission, reckoning with proper sub-regional representation and /or representation of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed countries;
- (g) Entrusted the Bureau to continue all its inter-sessional activities in support of the Statistical Commission.

### **Decision 6: Regional statistical development (Item 3d)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic Commission for Europe and commended the significant collaborative work undertaken, under the leadership of the Statistical Division of the ECE, by countries, international organisations, and the United Nations system to advance statistical development in the region;
- (b) Recognized the valuable methodological work, development of practical tools and the exchange of experiences done in the ECE region, including in areas such as the sharing of economic

data in official statistics, statistics for climate change and for disaster risk reduction, measuring circular economy, the road map on statistics for SDGs, and stressed the relevance of this work at the regional and global levels;

(c) Welcomed the report on the work of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics and stressed the importance of the work of the Group, emphasizing its relevance to the global level;

(d) Noted that many ECE methodological guidelines and frameworks can be applied in countries with varying levels of statistical capacity, and appreciated, in that context, the coordination within the regional United Nations system, under the leadership of the UN regional commissions, acknowledging the importance of international collaboration and sharing of experience and knowledge at the global level.

### **Decision 7: Population and housing censuses (Item 3e)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report.

(b) Reiterated its concern regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, resulting in postponements of national censuses and difficulties in ensuring the quality of census planning and operations as well as the overall quality of the resulting census statistics;

(c) Urged the undertaking of national censuses in the current round, or otherwise the production of census-like small area statistics, as soon as circumstances allow and to continue to secure financial and human resources to that end;

(d) Supported the initiative to encourage national statistical authorities to consider the establishment of national statistical population registers based on the census master file produced in the 2020 round of censuses. Establishment of such registers should be undertaken only in full compliance with the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, including the requirement to protect the confidentiality and privacy of individual records, and under clear and unambiguous legal provisions which include permission to exploit the national statistical population register solely for the purposes of compiling aggregate statistics;

(e) Encouraged modernization in conducting population and housing censuses through ICT and digitization;

(f) Highlighted the importance of implementing the UN recommendation for the 2020 round of censuses regarding the need to geo-reference housing units during census operations, thus enabling a comprehensive merging of geospatial data and census statistics;

(g) Requested the Statistics Division, in its role as the secretariat of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to continue to monitor the implementation of the Programme; to continue to develop platforms for exchanging national experiences, practices and lessons learned in conducting population and housing censuses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and to continue to develop the components of the methodological framework for population and housing censuses.

### **Decision 8: Civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics (Item 3f)**

#### **Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda: civil registration and vital statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and took note of the proposed work and activities;

(b) Reiterated its call from its fifty-first session to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda, namely, universal registration of all vital events, the production of regular, accurate and comprehensive vital statistics and ensuring legal identity for all from birth to death, as a matter of high priority, especially in the light of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) Expressed concern regarding the negative impact of the pandemic on the availability and quality of vital statistics owing to interruptions in the functioning of national civil registration systems, and urged designating civil registration as an essential service and conforming to international standards;

(d) Expressed its support for the work and activities of the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, welcomed its findings and outputs, encouraged the Group to continue its work and continue to report to the Commission;

(e) Requested the Statistics Division, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP as Co-Chairs, under the auspices of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda task force, to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic, to document the availability of reliable vital statistics, to monitor and report on the overall implementation of the Agenda and to continue to develop the methodological framework in that respect.

### **Decision 9: Civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics (Item 3f)**

#### **Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report; commended the work undertaken so far and approved the overall structure of the draft international recommendations on statelessness statistics.
- (b) Highlighted that these recommendations present an opportunity to enhance the quality, availability, coordination, sharing and dissemination of statelessness statistics for better use of data to inform policies.
- (c) Noted the challenges in the collection of data on stateless populations including due to countries' specificities related to national laws, policies and regulations determining citizenship and emphasized that the operationalization of concepts and definitions will require further work, including on identifying stateless populations based on the proposed criteria.
- (d) Concerning operationalization through data sources, requested the Expert Group to identify or develop guidance on the integration of data from different sources; encouraged the Expert Group to place greater emphasis on quality issues associated with the data sources; stressed the need to ensure that the recommended data sources enable the measurement and analysis of the characteristics of stateless populations; and highlighted the importance of establishing and maintaining a good administrative system, preferably, and where feasible, a population register that integrates information on civil registration, migration, and citizenship.
- (e) Stressed the need to provide statistical capacity-building for harmonized reporting on statelessness statistics given the diversity of statistical capacity in countries; and emphasized the critical importance of national coordination to effectively implement the recommendations.
- (f) Requested the Expert Group to further develop the recommendations by conducting the necessary consultations and report back to the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission in March 2023 and present the international recommendations on statelessness statistics in their entirety.

#### **Decision 10: Human settlements statistics (Item 3g)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report; took note of the achievements and approved the planned human settlements statistics activities of UN-Habitat for the next four years, including the ongoing work on regional capacity-building activities, the global urban monitoring framework, the New Urban Agenda framework, the national sample of cities approach, urban observatories, voluntary local reviews, spatial analysis, and slum and non-slum areas demarcations;
- (b) Took note of the progress made on rolling out the global urban/city definition and the capacity development plan following its earlier endorsement of the Degree of Urbanization methodology in 2020;
- (c) Endorsed the global urban monitoring framework and its further implementation as part of a harmonized global urban United Nations system-wide strategy;



(d) Requested UN-Habitat to develop technical assistance programs and instruments to build human settlements statistics capacities in Member States, with emphasis on ascertaining consistency of data at national, regional and city levels.

### **Decision 11: Gender statistics (Item 3h)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report, and expressed appreciation to the Statistics Division, and its many partners, for the work undertaken to strengthen gender statistics in support of monitoring progress towards gender equality and Sustainable Development;

(b) Endorsed the work of the Statistics Division and the *Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics*, including the minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection, quality considerations for time-use surveys and options to modernize time-use data production, as the core components of the upcoming revision of the *United Nations Guidelines for Producing Time-use statistics*; took note of and welcomed the interest expressed by many countries in contributing to the guidelines and in using and further validating the proposed instruments and methods to assess their performance, particularly in low-income settings; and approved the work plan of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group;

(c) Reiterated the need to build capacity in national statistical offices in the area of time-use statistics, and to allow for countries' adaptations of the proposed solutions, to ensure the production of data that are relevant at national level;

(d) Noted the timeliness of these solutions to produce high-quality data to inform and monitor policies on unpaid household service work, non-market production, gender equality and people's well-being;

(e) Reaffirmed the central role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) on all matters related to gender statistics; and committed to continue supporting the Global Gender Statistics Programme;

(f) Supported the proposal of the IAEG-GS to implement and monitor the Commission's decision 51/115, working in collaboration with other subject-matter experts and building on related ongoing work in the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as appropriate; emphasized the need for statistical offices' commitment at all levels and stages in the process of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Commission; and took note of countries interested in actively participating and contributing in the upcoming discussions on this topic;

(g) Approved the work priorities of the Statistics Division and the IAEG-GS under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including a second global survey of national gender statistics programmes, guidance on the use of administrative registers and non-traditional data sources for gender equality analysis, and the organization of the ninth Global Forum on Gender Statistics.

### **Decision 12: Health statistics (Item 3i)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report;

- (b) Supported the roll out of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) and called for coordinated capacity building and training to assist Member States' transition from the 10<sup>th</sup> edition;
- (c) Acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for robust and timely health statistics; while also noting the lack of available, comparable and reliable health data in many countries; and further reiterated the importance of strengthening CRVS systems for accurate deaths statistics;
- (d) Expressed appreciation for the contribution of WHO and the *Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment* on estimating excess mortality associated with the Coronavirus disease; urged WHO to publish these global estimates in March 2022 as a matter of priority and noted the reservations expressed by India;
- (e) Stressed the importance of the COVID-19 excess mortality global estimates as a valuable set of comparable country estimates to better understand the impact of the COVID pandemic, and as input to population estimates, particularly where systems for generating timely information on deaths are lacking or weak;
- (f) Expressed support for new areas of work in WHO, particularly on Health and Geographic Information Systems which will assist Member States in developing and harnessing administrative data systems as well as in integrating statistical and geospatial data;
- (g) Welcomed planned improvements to the calculation of the Universal Health Coverage, and the launch of the World Health Data Hub as a tool to support the dissemination of health statistics as global public goods; while calling on WHO to institute appropriate protections to safeguard data privacy and confidentiality;
- (h) Endorsed the decision to dissolve the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics; and welcomed the organization of the International Conference on Health Statistics as a mechanism to develop international standards for health statistics, while promoting continued coordination and harmonization among different relevant stakeholders.

### **Decision 13: Crime statistics (Item 3j)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report, expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in improving the quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics under the road map, previously adopted by this Commission, and approved the proposed workplan to continue its implementation;
- (b) Reiterated the importance of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes; and requested further guidance for its implementation, including by fostering collaboration among data producers for better crime and criminal justice statistics at national level and improved comparability across regions and countries.
- (c) Endorsed the conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of illicit financial flows; and recalled the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into estimates of those flows;
- (d) Endorsed the statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls; requested further age disaggregation to accurately reflect the situation of older women; noted the need

for national adaptations to reflect different data ecosystems and capacity; and requested UNODC to prepare a global report on countries' experience in implementing the framework by 2025.

- (e) Stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of the national statistical systems for the modernization of compiling crime and criminal justice statistics, including to monitor progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;
- (f) Welcomed the Sustainable Development Goal 16 Survey, particularly for countries that have limited availability of data to assess progress on indicators under this goal; while acknowledging that such survey does not replace stand-alone national surveys, and inviting countries to implement national surveys dedicated to Victimization, Corruption and Violence Against Women;
- (g) Invited UNODC to review the annual data collection on crime and criminal justice (United Nations Crime Trends Survey);
- (h) Recognized with appreciation the success of the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence in Mexico and in the UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence in the Republic of Korea in supporting Member States to improve crime and criminal justice statistics, and invited UNODC to consider a new partnership for the establishment of such a centre in support of countries in Africa;
- (i) Welcomed the sixth International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2022;
- (j) Invited Member States and donors to support the financing of capacity building activities included in the workplan and in promoting the implementation of the new methodological tools
- (k) Requested UNODC and its partners to report back to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-sixth session in 2025 on the progress made in the implementation of the road map.

#### **Decision 14: Education statistics (Item 3k)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report;
- (b) Welcomed the work of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on *Monitoring Impacts on Learning Outcomes* to assess long-term effects of the Coronavirus disease on learning and the effectiveness of distance learning mechanisms associated with school closures;
- (c) Commended the Institute and relevant partners for the development of standards and methodological guidelines for the collection and classification of education statistics as well as for providing technical support to Member States in their implementation;
- (d) Supported the work undertaken by the Institute and the Global Education Monitoring Report team in setting regional and national benchmarks for selected Goal 4 indicators; supported the update and revision mechanisms proposed by the Institute for keeping the benchmarks relevant; and appreciated the potential of the benchmarking approach in identifying data gaps, in encouraging

Member States to collect relevant education statistics, and in promoting interregional and intraregional statistical cooperation in education.

### **Decision 15: Environmental-economic accounting (Item 3I)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Commended the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting and supported its proposed programme of work for the period 2022-25;
- (b) Adopted the Implementation Strategy for the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, welcoming the recommendations of a flexible and modular approach, multi-stakeholder engagement, tiered implementation, South-South collaboration and strengthened co-ordination between international organizations; encouraged all countries to implement the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting; stressed the importance of adequate funding to support the SEEA implementation in countries; and requested the translation of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting into all UN official languages;
- (c) Welcomed the Guidelines on Biophysical Modelling for Ecosystem Accounting and requested the Committee to develop compilation materials, E-learning, and tools such as the ARIES for SEEA, to support greater capacity building on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting;
- (d) Supported the establishment of multi-stakeholder subgroups under the Technical Committee of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, working on thematic accounts including for forest accounts and SEEA Ocean; welcomed pilot projects and engagement in international events such as the UN Ocean Conference;
- (e) Supported the close collaboration between the Committee, the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, and the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on the update of the 2008 SNA, noting the importance of taking into account the SEEA to reflect environmental issues within the updated 2008 SNA; and further supported the engagement of the Committee in a new working group on SNA valuation principles in order to address methodological issues on the research agenda of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, including to resolve the valuation issues in Chapters 8-11;
- (f) Welcomed the engagement of the Committee in the updates of the International Standard Industry Classification and Central Product Classification, noting the importance of ensuring that the updated classifications are fit for purpose for SEEA compilation and sufficiently forward looking in scope;
- (g) Welcomed the progress of the Committee in mainstreaming the use of the SEEA in policy, including climate change, circular economy, sustainable finance, and biodiversity policy, and supported the Committee's work in ensuring that the SEEA is recognized as the underlying methodological basis for the compilation of the relevant headline indicators of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity agenda;
- (h) Welcomed the involvement of the Committee in the proposal for a new *Group of 20 Data Gaps Initiative* to close climate change data gaps using SEEA accounts for all countries, particularly given the significant demand for climate change indicators;
- (i) Welcomed the progress of the working group on business accounting and the SEEA and supported the group's focus on alignment of private-sector methodology and standards with the SEEA

and on increased collaboration and awareness-raising between the statistical and business communities, noting the benefits to both the public and private sectors in this regard; and

(j) Encouraged the finalization of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism for future submission to the Commission and, noted the strong interest from countries in this work.

### **Decision 16: Climate change statistics (Item 3m)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General which presents the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.

(b) Adopted the Global Set as the framework for climate change statistics and indicators to be used by countries when preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators according to their individual concerns, priorities and resources; while noting the need for further methodological development for selected indicators, taking into account the 2030 Agenda.

(c) Recognized that while the Global Set is designed to meet the needs of all countries following a global consultation, it remains complementary to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) set of core climate change-related indicators, and to other regional sets, that may include more region-specific indicators, to encourage harmonization across all levels.

(d) Expressed its support to comprehensively review the global set in five years from its adoption as was done in the SDG indicators process and encouraged more regular reviews by the Expert Group of Environment Statistics in view of continuous harmonization with the ongoing development of related statistical areas, such as biodiversity, disasters, environmental-economic accounting and ecosystem accounting, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and related regional sets such as the CES set or thematic sets of climate change indicators. At the same time, it can also be considered to prioritize and explain the relationships between different indicators and develop a short list with recommended indicators out of the large number of 158 indicators.

(e) Urged the international statistical community to expand its capacity development efforts with regard to climate change statistics by fostering closer collaboration and coordination among the multiple agencies involved in the process.

(f) Encouraged national statistical systems to invest in the development of climate change statistics, and strengthen environment statistics and accounts, using the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the Systems of Environmental Economic accounts, as a complementary basis for developing climate change information, given their close interrelationship;

(g) Encouraged the enhancement of collaboration between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change-related information to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, given the increased and more diverse data requirements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as climate-related SDG indicators.

- (h) Expressed its support for the continuation of activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other key partners to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, such as joint capacity-building efforts and training with other partners.
- (i) Urged the donor community to mobilize resources to enable capacity-building in environment and climate change statistics in developing countries.
- (j) Approved the proposed workplan and requested the Statistics Division to update the Statistical Commission in two to three years.

### **Decision 17: National accounts (Item n)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report, expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken to facilitate the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2022 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation for the considerable progress that has been made on investigating the issues for the updating of the 2008 SNA and the subsequent global consultations on the guidance notes;
- (c) Welcomed the coordination and cooperation between the various economic statistics expert groups in order to ensure that substantive discrepancies are avoided, and that consistent terminology is used across manuals, to reduce duplication of effort and lead to optimal outcomes;
- (d) Expressed support for the outreach, experimentation and testing to facilitate the consultation process of new guidance, encouraged Member States to participate in the evaluation process and experimentation and testing of the feasibility of the recommendations of guidance notes, and stressed the importance of providing financial and in-kind support to countries with limited resources;
- (e) Took note of the appointment of the Lead editor to facilitate the drafting of the update of the 2008 SNA and a Project manager to assist the working Group in coordinating the update process;
- (f) Welcomed the introduction of supplemental measures that go beyond GDP by developing a broader framework of accounts, based on agreed methodology, which can be used to monitor and analyse well-being and sustainability, including a closer linkage with the System of Environmental Economic Accounting and measures of people's well-being and the sustainability of societal developments to inform various policy goals, including those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to address the call by the Secretary-General for new measures of progress to complement GDP.
- (g) Emphasised the need for continued attention devoted to capacity building and funding for Member States with limited resources to facilitate the implementation of the SNA; and

(h) Encouraged the continued reporting and evaluation of the availability and scope of official national accounts data reported by Members States and noted the importance of quality information in support of international comparisons and a global understanding of the World economy.

### **Decision 18: Network of Economic Statisticians (Item 3o)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the first report of the Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) and commended the Network for the progress achieved in developing its terms of reference and work plan, and organizing the three sprints on organization, data access, and beyond GDP;

(b) Welcomed the proposal of the Network to adopt sprints as its preferred working method to increase its ability to be agile and expedite the formulation of statistical responses to fast-evolving and emerging socioeconomic and environmental circumstances in a short time frame;

(c) Commended the Network for enabling North-South and South-South collaboration and dialogue in its activities;

(d) Recognized the efforts of the Network to connect the work of existing committees of experts, for example, the current work of the data access sprint with the work of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics in global value chains;

(e) Requested the data access sprint to actively communicate with the private sector and develop collaborative frameworks and strategies to enable access to privately-held data;

(f) Requested the beyond GDP sprint to increase the analytical value of methodological guidance on integrated well-being indicators and the harmonization of economic statistics with socio-demographic and environmental statistics, for example, through related regional training workshops and seminars;

(g) Approved the terms of reference of the Network and supported the proposal to include in the Network's report to the Commission in 2023 a synthesis note summarizing the Commission's reports on economic statistics to promote dialogue with and between the relevant statistical committees to determine shared priorities and actions while avoiding duplication of efforts;

(h) Approved the proposed activities and deliverables of the work programme of the Network for 2022, including the Global Forum on Economic Statistics and related series of regional consultation sessions with users and stakeholders of the system of economic statistics.

### **Decision 19: Business and trade statistics (Item 3p)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee.

(b) Endorsed the update of the strategic view underscoring the importance of a horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics and identifying emerging priority areas, namely digitalization, productivity and innovation, wellbeing and social inclusion, and green economy;

welcomed the new work programme; and requested to coordinate with relevant committees and groups of experts to avoid duplication of work and strengthen the coordination with other statistical domains.

(c) Encouraged the Committee to share practices on micro-data linking and on the development of an Integrated Data Infrastructure to link micro data on people and businesses.

(d) Took note of the Manual on the *Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers (SBR)*; encouraged the development of a toolkit and endorsed the launching of a regular global assessment on the status of implementation of SBR in countries; encouraged close coordination with the Wiesbaden group and other relevant groups, welcomed the proposed capacity-building activities for SBR, and suggested developing guidelines for the integration of geospatial information into SBR.

(e) Took note of Volume 1 of the *Manual on the Principal Indicators on Business and Trade Statistics*; encouraged the preparation of Volume 2 of the Manual to further elaborate on the international trade indicators; encouraged the Committee to prioritize the indicators and to assess the possibility of developing global databases for these indicators building on existing initiatives and based on the capacity of countries in producing this information.

(f) Welcomed the work programme, terms of reference and research agenda of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics, including the development of a maturity model for statistics on international trade in services and data tools for international merchandise trade statistics; and appreciated the progress made in identifying the list of issues for the revision of the trade statistics manuals.

(g) Supported the development of a global initiative aimed at improving the availability of unique business identifiers in administrative data sources, considered essential to help countries strengthening the statistical business registers and better understanding globalization; and requested the Committee to further elaborate the initiative and report back to the Commission at its next session in 2023.

### **Decision 20: Information and communications technology statistics (Item 3q)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report; acknowledged and appreciated the work done by the Partnership on measuring ICT for development;

(b) Endorsed the revised core list of ICT indicators;

(c) Expressed the need to improve the availability and quality of ICT indicators. Specifically, requested that more information be collected on access to and use of ICTs by households and individuals, domestic and cross-border e-commerce, on business use of ICT, and on the ICT sector, including services and internet platforms in education, health, housing, travel and tourism sectors;

(d) Supported the collection of e-waste indicators and requested the Partnership to identify the possibilities of using available data sources without conducting a new survey;

(e) Recommended the use of guidelines and training resources produced by the Partnership to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems for improving the availability and quality of ICT Statistics, and for assessing the country's digital readiness in times of crisis, like the current COVID-19 pandemic, given the importance of ICT in e-learning, working from home and e-business; and called



for more collaboration between national statistics offices and other public and private ICT stakeholders;

(f) Supported the further exploration of use of alternative data, including administrative data, big data, and data-sharing agreements, for measuring ICT statistics in a timely manner; and requested the preparation of methodological guidance on the use of big data for ICT statistics, and the organization of events for sharing of experiences in this regard.

### **Decision 21: International Comparison Programme (Item 3r)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and noted the significant progress made in the implementation of the ICP 2021 cycle, despite COVID-19-related challenges;

(b) Took note of the extension of ICP surveys into 2022, as needed, to mitigate pandemic-related disruptions, and of persistent delays in initiating surveys in some countries and regions;

(c) Urged all ICP participating countries to complete ICP 2021 cycle activities in a timely manner to ensure a timely release of 2021 results, which will provide a unique and vital analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the size and structure of the global economy;

(d) Welcomed the advocacy publication titled “Purchasing Power Parities for Policy Making: A Visual Guide to Using Data from the International Comparison Programme”, recommending it to ICP stakeholders, policy makers and other users;

(e) Reiterated the need for national, regional and global agencies to incorporate the ICP into their regular statistical work programmes to sustain the ICP as a permanent programme, and noted the publication of two country guides on integrating CPI and ICP activities and on producing subnational PPPs to facilitate this.

### **Decision 22: Agricultural and rural statistics (Item 3s)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and supported its content and recommendations;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for FAO’s efforts in implementing an integrated governance structure for data and statistics, inspired by the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, and in modernizing its statistical production processes to improve efficiency in data flows and data users’ experience;

(c) Encouraged the FAO to develop an integrated quality assurance framework for statistics, big data and geospatial data, in close collaboration with other UN agencies and in line with already established recommended international methods and standards;

(d) Took note of the establishment of FAO’s Data Lab for Statistical Innovation and encouraged FAO to accelerate the development, testing and knowledge transfer to countries of innovative methods and tools for using alternative data sources;

(e) Appreciated the progress made by the three task teams of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics (UN-CEAG) and encouraged the

Committee to pursue the implementation of its programme of work, including by reaching out to the countries who have expressed their interest in participating in its work;

- (f) Encouraged FAO, the UN-CEAG and its partners to pursue the overall improvement of the quality of data produced by countries, by providing sectoral guidelines and hands-on technical assistance for the compilation of high quality agricultural statistics;
- (g) Reiterated the importance of developing methodological guidelines and technical expertise on the use of big data, earth observation and remote sensing for agricultural statistics;
- (h) Called on countries to use internationally agreed SDG indicators to monitor targets related to food and agriculture;
- (i) Commended FAO and its partners for their work on strengthening the statistical capacity of countries in producing food and agriculture statistics and in monitoring the SDG indicators, and for the role played by FAO in the implementation of the World Programme for Census of Agriculture 2020, the “50 x 2030” initiative and the second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
- (j) Agreed with the recommendations recently formulated by the FAO regional commissions on agricultural statistics.

### **Decision 23: Informal economy statistics (Item 3t)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and expressed appreciation to the ILO Working Group for the Revision of the standards for statistics on informality and the proposal for the new statistical framework on the Informal Economy being developed by the working group;
- (b) Expressed the continued support for the development of a comprehensive set of statistical standards on the informal economy that are more aligned to the System of National Accounts as well as the latest statistical labour standards;
- (c) Highlighted the importance of the development of a statistical framework on the informal economy that strives towards increased harmonization between countries by the introduction of improved definitions while ensuring sufficient flexibility to reflect the different conditions of the informal economy across countries;
- (d) Supported the proposal to include all forms of paid and unpaid work as defined in resolution I of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS, including own use production of goods and services, within the boundaries of the informal economy, and to distinguish the part of informal productive activities that falls within the SNA production boundary and the part that is outside the SNA production boundary;
- (e) Supported the proposal to recommend that agricultural activities should be included in the informal sector if fulfilling the conditions for being considered an informal market producing unit;
- (f) Supported the identification of three mutually exclusive sectors (i.e.: formal, informal, and households own-use & community sectors) as well as the shift of the threshold of market production to “mainly produced for the market” as part of defining the informal sector;

- (g) Highlighted that the concept of informal economy has relevance for all countries independent of level of development and recognized the importance of integrating dependent contractors in the framework due to the increase in digital platform employment and gig employment;
- (h) Encouraged agencies to continue the work to develop improved practical recommendations relating to data sources, compilation methods, production and dissemination of relevant indicators as part of the implementation of the proposed standards and recognized the need for agencies to support countries in their implementation of the future standards.
- (i) Noted the commitment of countries and agencies to actively participate in the revision processes of developing a new set of standards for statistics on the informal economy to be presented at the 21st International Labour Conference of Statisticians in 2023.

### **Decision 24: Big data (Item 3u)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report; and acknowledged and supported the work done by the Committee's task teams, the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs.
- (b) Supported the proposed direction of future work of the Committee, in particular regarding mainstreaming big data and data science in the daily work of national statistical offices taking into account the local circumstances, prioritizing case studies on strategic issues related to main policy agendas, creating a network of data science leaders of national statistical offices, and strengthening the collaboration with the geospatial community.
- (c) Commended the work of the joint task team on the global facilitation of access to privately held data and its innovative ways of advancing access to new data sources on global value chains and e-commerce, while expanding the dialogue with stakeholders from the private sector, academia and policy makers, and creating a community of practice.
- (d) Supported the capacity development programme for big data and data science, especially the international mentoring program; and empowering the Regional Hubs as centers for training and project implementation for the statistical community, while encouraging a close collaboration with universities and other educational institutions and to acknowledge regional initiatives on Big Data collaborations;
- (e) Emphasized the importance of collaboration among the Regional Hubs as well as between the Hubs and the various task teams of the Committee; and urged to make relevant data sources in the regional hubs of the global platform interoperable, so as to realize the sharing and coordination of data sources in relevant statistical fields.
- (f) Supported the creation of the sector hub of ARIES for SEEA, as a means to advance the interoperability of data and models in the domain of environmental economic accounting and sustainability.
- (g) Supported the creation of the UN PET lab to demonstrate the value of the use of privacy-preserving techniques for official statistics, noting that this will increase the possibilities of accessing privately held data,

(h) Reiterated the importance of modernization of official statistics and encouraged all Member States to take part in the work of the various task teams under this Committee, especially small island developing states and other developing countries.

**Decision 25: International statistical classifications (Item 3v)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee and its task teams.
- (b) Endorsed the proposed revised structure of ISIC and encouraged the task team on ISIC to finalize the structure at the most detailed level (four-digit level) and its explanatory notes, taking into consideration the comments received during the global consultation.
- (c) Encouraged the task team on ISIC to continue its work as planned, namely, to finalize the revision of ISIC and conduct a global consultation prior to its submission for approval to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.
- (d) Took note of the progress on the revision of CPC and encouraged the task team on CPC to continue the planned activities in order to submit the revised CPC for approval by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.
- (e) Recommended the development of tools and programmes to support the implementation of the revised classifications once finalized. This includes the development of indexes and correspondences as well as implementation guides for ISIC and CPC.
- (f) Requested the Committee to revise the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) to improve harmonization between SIEC and the CPC, and to present a work programme for the update to be considered by the Commission at its 54<sup>th</sup> session; and encouraged countries to take part in the revision of SIEC.
- (g) Endorsed the Classification of Business Functions as an international statistical classification, while requesting the Committee to develop a maintenance and implementation plan that clarifies implementing issues and supports countries in its use.
- (h) Urged the finalization of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) 2018 and the development of the relevant correspondences to assist countries in its implementation.
- (i) Recommended the revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) and an assessment if changes are required in the other classifications of expenditure according to purpose and to present a proposed work programme for the update to be considered by the Commission at its 54<sup>th</sup> session.
- (j) Requested the Committee to engage with the International Labour Organization technical working group on the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations;
- (k) Requested the Committee to develop a proposal for more frequent and regular revision cycles for international statistical classifications to: (1) increase coordination among the relevant

classifications at the international and regional levels; (2) promote flexible and innovative approaches to classifications; and (3) respond to contemporary analytical, policy and data needs.

(1) Welcomed the proposed future work programme of the Committee and encouraged sharing of national experiences in new and emerging issues facing statistical classifications.

**DRAFT DECISIONS**

**(text subject to editing)**

**Decision 26: Open data (Item 3w)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and commended the Working Group on Open Data for providing guidance to national statistical offices on open data practices in the production of official statistics;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made on developing an open by default model for the dissemination of statistics and approved the proposed guidance, while stressing the need to comply with national legal frameworks;
- (c) Further, took note of the reviews of best practices on data licensing and their harmonization with national laws;
- (d) Underlined the significance of interoperability as key to disclose open data potential and welcomed the joined-up data maturity model and accompanying guidance as a practical instrument for national statistical offices;
- (e) Appreciated the relevance given to local level open data and welcomed the review of use cases for local-level open statistics;
- (f) Agreed that, as open data issues become more relevant and in order to create innovative new value from data, open data issues should be incorporated in the discussions of the Working Group on Data Stewardship; and invited other members to join the dialogue fostered in that Group, recognizing that the plurality of perspectives will have a positive impact on the products to be developed;
- (g) Expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Working Group on Open Data for its years of dedicated efforts to provide guidance to national statistical offices on open data practices; and approved the proposal to dissolve the Group.

**Decision 27: Integration of statistical and geospatial information (Item 3x)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and noted the important role of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and other data sources, for making informed decision-making in response to COVID-19, climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at both national and local levels.

(b) Recognizing the many national experiences of how the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) has been implemented, endorsed the GSGF Implementation Guide as an excellent resource for supporting the implementation and operationalization of the GSGF for the production and dissemination of geospatially enabled statistical data, and encouraged statistical offices to collaborate with their national geospatial information agencies to ensure that the GSGF is implemented to its potential based on national circumstances.

(c) Urged to continue to implement and operationalize the GSGF and noted that several countries, especially developing countries, still lack adequate capacity to integrate statistical and geospatial information.

(d) Welcomed the increased focus on the coordinating role of the Expert Group and its efforts to strengthen interlinkages with relevant groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities, and encouraged the Expert Group to strengthen its collaboration with the regional committees of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders.

(e) Noted the execution and analysis emanating from the Global Survey on Readiness to Implement the GSGF and the Expert Group's workplan for the period 2022–2024, and welcomed its continuing efforts to provide guidance to Member States to support the adoption and implementation of the GSGF, including continuing the development of key statistical standards and processes to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

(f) Noted the suggestions for the Secretariat to provide more technical support to Member States in the implementation of the GSGF, to strengthen statistical and geospatial integration at the national level, and to facilitate this through the organization of workshops and other technical assistance mechanisms.

### **Decision 28: Governance, peace and security statistics (Item 3v)**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report; acknowledged and supported the work of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics; and appreciated the products developed, particularly the COVID-19 guidance note;

(b) Commended the Handbook on governance statistics to be used for producing national statistics on governance especially for monitoring and implementing SDG 16; noted that there are methodological elements in the production of governance statistics that require more attention; and noted that they should be consistent with the 2030 Agenda.

(c) Supported the workplan of the Praia Group for the period 2020–2025 and its three pillars:

- improving and standardizing methodologies to measure governance
- strengthening the capacities of statistical offices to produce reliable statistics on governance, and
- advocacy to increase the demand for governance statistics and to mobilize national and international resources to facilitate producing those statistics;

(d) Welcomed the establishment of the task teams on non-discrimination and equality, and on participation in political and public affairs, supported their workplans, encouraged broad participation, especially from African countries, in the work of these task teams, and supported the establishment of additional task teams on other dimensions of governance that require further methodological work while ensuring synergies and coordination with other relevant workstreams.

#### **Decision 29: Programme questions (Item 5)**

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the work programme of the Division, including the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. It requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2023.

#### **Decision 30: Information items (4a – 4i):**

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data

Joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics on disability statistics

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics

Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial statistics

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

Report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System on coordination within the United Nations statistical system

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

#### **Decision 31: Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (Item 6)**

The Statistical Commission decided to approve the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session, as outlined in document E/CN.3/2022/L.2, as orally revised at the 7th virtual meeting of the Statistical Commission on 4 March 2022, and authorize the Bureau to finalize it, in accordance with past practice, and approve the Commission's multi-year programme of work, as contained in document



E/CN.3/2022/40, as orally revised at the 7th virtual meeting of the Statistical Commission on 4 March 2022.

The Statistical Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fifty-fourth session be held from 28 February to 3 March 2023.