• The 53rd session of the Statistical Commission will be held from 28 February to 2 March and 4 March 2022 on a virtual platform. Owing to the constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the continued risks and restrictions associated with international travel, the Commission could not organize its formal session this year. The Member States, therefore, endorsed the Bureau’s proposed modalities\(^1\) on convening the informal virtual meetings to go forward with the work of the Commission while ensuring business continuity and the fulfilment of the responsibilities attributed to it.

• As reflected in the programme of work (E/CN.3/2022/L.1/REV.1), there will be eight informal virtual meetings of the Commission. Each virtual meeting will be held for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. EST on the virtual platform of Zoom, with remote simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the UN. Participants may select the preferred language to hear the interpretation or choose the “none” option to hear the original language of the speaker.

• Participants are kindly requested to adhere to the Required Set Up for Virtual Meetings with Interpretation (see Annex I).

• All participants should close other applications in order to improve audio and video qualities and keep their microphones muted when not speaking. In case of connection problems before connected to the meeting, please contact to unvc@un.org with reference to the meeting date and time or call a technician at +1 212 963 8649. If you face audio or video issues during the meeting, please reload your browser, or send a private message to the BCSS host through the chat box.

• So as not to overload the platform, please limit your participation on the virtual platform to no more than two representatives per delegation at any given time. Only those delegates intending to speak in a given meeting should log in to the Zoom platform. All other members of the delegation can watch the meetings live on UN Web TV at http://webtv.un.org. In case participation on the platform is close to capacity, the presiding officer may authorize the Secretariat to remove participants. There is no limit to the number of persons who can follow the discussions through UN Web TV, and the Webcast will be archived.

\(^1\) Decision of the Economic and Social Council 2022/313 of 16 February 2022.
• Please view the following tutorial videos to familiarize yourself with the Zoom platform:

➢ Before joining the virtual meetings, all participants must log in to their own Zoom account first. For those who do not have a Zoom account, please visit the following link to create your own account for free: https://explore.zoom.us/docs/en-us/freesignup.html
➢ Joining a Zoom Meeting: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193
➢ Using the interface including the different functions, tools and features: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/200941109
➢ Role definitions along with the attributes: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360040324512

• Delegations are requested to use the following naming convention when logging into the Zoom platform: **COUNTRY- FirstName LastName.** If participants do not clearly identify their delegation/affiliation on the platform, admission to the meeting may be delayed and they may be requested to leave the meeting temporarily and re-join with the correct naming convention above.

• The link to the virtual meetings held will be circulated to the registered delegates via e-deleGATE by 6 p.m. on Thursday, 24 February 2022.

• It is important that all representatives who intend to intervene in the virtual meetings (including those joining from capital) are registered by their respective Permanent Missions in New York to access the Statistical Commission’s module on the e-deleGATE portal. For technical questions, please contact missions-support@un.int.

• Due to the unique circumstances of convening the virtual meetings, the Bureau invited delegations to submit written statements\(^2\) ahead of the meetings, offering an opportunity for all delegations to contribute to the substantive discussions of the agenda items.

• In accordance with the established practice of the Commission, the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/2022/1) makes a distinction between documents “for discussion” and “for information”.

• Regarding items for decision and discussion, the Commission will hear a brief oral introduction by the respective authors of the reports before the Commission. Thereafter, the floor will be given to delegations who previously informed the Secretariat of their intention to speak in advance of this meeting, for very brief remarks. Once deliberations are concluded on each of these items, they will not be re-opened at a later stage.

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\(^2\) https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/#statements
• Should there be additional points to make towards consensus building, participants are encouraged to use the chat box of the virtual platform Zoom for making their comments. If you still wish to take the floor, please use the raise hands function by clicking on the reaction button toward the right on the bottom of your screen. However, we would not encourage you to do so since the written statements are already recorded.

• Speakers are requested to remain mindful of the time constraints, make only brief interventions and avoid in their interventions detailed expositions of methodology or the reporting of routine activities and national practices.

• The time limit to be observed when speaking on behalf of a group of States is three minutes and when speaking in national capacity is two minutes. This time limit could be further reduced to one minute or less depending on the time available for the discussion of specific agenda items. The Bureau has decided to strictly enforce the time limits for interventions, especially if the unplanned requests for the floor exceed the time available for the discussion of specific agenda items.

• Information items will not be introduced, and the Commission would normally be expected to take note of the information documents without further debate. In the interest of time, and in accordance with past practice, the Commission will take note of the large number of information items ‘en bloc’.

• Delegations intending to provide additional clarification on information sub-items can do so by putting their comments in the chat box.

• In the absence of formal in-person meetings during this session, the Commission will proceed with decision making on its draft report, as well formalizing the agreement on election of Bureau, provisional agenda and programme of work, and approval of participation of entities (IGOs), by silence procedure in accordance with ECOSOC decision 2022/312 of 16 February 2022. Accordingly, the Chair will circulate under silence procedure the draft report containing the draft decisions following the eighth and last virtual meeting on Friday, 4 March 2022.

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