

MANAGEMENT SEGMENT, 10 – 11 JUNE 2025

10 June 2025, 3PM Eastern

Item 18 (c) Statistics

Introduction of the Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-sixth session (E/2025/24-E/CN.3/2025/37) by the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Georges Simon Ulrich, Switzerland

Word count: 721 words

Version 10.6.2025

Dear Mr. Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council,

Ambassadors, distinguished colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the Economic and Social Council in my capacity as Chairperson of the Statistical Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to present the work of the Statistical Commission.

The Statistical Commission held its 56th session from 4 to 7 March 2025. The main session was attended by 585 delegates from 116 countries, 48 observers including international agencies and civil society organizations. The high level of attendance continues to reflect a strong professional commitment to support the important role that the Commission is playing for global data and statistics. The Commission prides itself of reaching consensus on technical issues and topics discussed.

The Commission examined 38 official documents, supported by 63 technical background documents. These documents covered a broad range of technical statistical fields, including SDG indicators, national accounts, demographic statistics, environment and climate change statistics, modernization of statistical systems, big

data, quality assurance, environmental-economic accounting and international migration statistics. The Commission also organized 89 side events and, thus, affirmed itself as a vibrant global professional community.

The report before you today contains 24 decisions, which will guide the global statistical system as well as the future work of the Statistics Division of DESA.

Distinguished Delegates,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has given the Commission a framework for its work since 2015. During the 56th session, we have delved into the complexities of data collection, analysis, and dissemination to ensure that our statistical systems are robust and reliable. I would like to draw your attention to some important decisions by the Commission:

First, with regards to the **SDG indicator framework**, the Commission approved the final technical review of the SDG indicators as mandated by the General Assembly, which had called for a 2020 and 2025 technical review. This technical review confirmed the majority of the indicators, allowing continuity in monitoring. It adjusted a small number of indicators, taking into account new methodologies and new technologies.

Second, the Commission adopted two draft resolutions which are before you today for consideration: one calling for the implementation of the **System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA)** and the other launching the **2030 World Population and Housing**

Census Round, urging each country to conduct a census during the 2025-2034 decade.

The new SNA updates the previous global standard from 2008 in the areas of digitalization and globalization and contains chapters on sustainability and measurement of well-being.

The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (rev.4) will guide demographic and social data collection all over the world for the next 10 years.

Another important milestone is the Commission's decision to establish a **working group on data governance**, which will closely cooperate with a related working group under the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, supporting follow-up to the Global Digital Compact.

The Commission reiterated that capacity building at the country level is key to meet the ever-increasing data demands, in particular those related to the 2030 Agenda. It called for innovative and sustainable investments to strengthen data and statistical systems.

In addition, the Commission's Bureau is following the work of the **“High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP”**. We are convinced that much work has been done both within and outside the UN (for example, at the OECD) to develop the instruments needed to meet these requirements. We look forward to working with the high-level experts so that these issues can be incorporated into the monitoring of the SDGs, including after 2030.

Distinguished delegates,

By working together, we can make sure that we are able to improve our common standards, so that data and statistics can continue to play their key role in supporting fact-based democratic decision-making processes.

Distinguished delegates,

The United Nations faces numerous global challenges, including geopolitical tensions, climate change, and economic disparities. These issues require comprehensive and accurate data to inform policy decisions and drive sustainable development. The Statistical Commission must continue to support the UN's efforts in addressing these challenges through reliable statistical data. The Statistical Commission is fully dedicated to supporting ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present the Statistical Commission's report and decisions to you and look forward to your continued and strong support in the Commission's work.

Thank you.
