

## MANAGEMENT SEGMENT, 8 – 9 JUNE 2022

10 a.m.

### **Item 18: Economic and environmental questions: (c) Statistics**

- *Action on the recommendation(s) contained in Chapter I of the report of the Commission (E/2021/24):*
- *Draft decision: Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-second session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-third session of the Commission*

*Introduction of the Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-second session (E/2021/24) by the Vice-Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Georges Simon Ulrich, Switzerland*

Dear Mrs. 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 Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to present the work of the Statistical Commission as well as update you on the implementation of the decisions made by the Commission during its last session and plans for the months ahead.

For over 70 years, the Statistical Commission has been the premier gathering of the global statistical community with the aim of producing better data. Government experts from every corner of our planet come together to develop the common language of statistics and to serve the global community with their technical knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, the Statistical Commission was identified as the primary body for the coordination of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system. As such, it seeks to strengthen coordination of the various organs and agencies' statistical programmes to increase synergies and provide reliable statistics and data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With this in mind, we value the commitment of UN organs and agencies on the topic of data and are ready to make an active professional contribution in initiatives such as the United Nations Data Strategy.

For the second time, the annual session of the Statistical Commission was held as remote informal meetings.

The virtual platform allowed for over 1,000 delegates, coming from 133 countries and around 40 international agencies to join the 53rd session. Over 720 written statements on all agenda items were submitted and uploaded to the Commission's website.

Despite the very compressed time schedule, we successfully discussed the full agenda and adopted our report, containing 30 technical decisions, via a silence procedure. These technical decisions guide the global statistical system as well as the future work of the Statistics Division of DESA.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to draw your attention to three important decisions by the Commission:

First, as mandated at its 52nd session of the Statistical Commission and aligned with the ECOSOC review of the work of its subsidiary bodies, the Commission recognized the need to update its 1971 terms of reference, by successfully negotiating the Draft resolution, "Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem," which is included in the report for consideration by the Council for adoption. Through open global consultations and informal meetings, the views of Member states were included in the draft resolution. The resolution and its agreement were very much driven by the urgent need for the work of the Commission to reflect the changing data landscape and developments made in the field of statistics and data, in particular to meet the data demands of the 2030 Agenda and beyond. As such, the scope of the Commission is extended to include data in addition to statistics. It also seeks to strengthen dialogue with further stakeholders such as the private sector to access new sources of data that could benefit the 2030 Agenda.

Secondly, the Commission successfully adopted the framework for climate change statistics and indicators to be used by countries when preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators. Furthermore, the adopted framework will support international climate change reporting to the Paris Agreement as well as the climate-related SDG indicators.

Thirdly, the Commission recommended that the remaining SDG methodological work be accelerated and adopted the SDG Geospatial Roadmap for statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework.

Distinguished delegates,

You will also find in the Commission's report decisions on such relevant cross-cutting topics as data stewardship, open data, and the integration of statistical and geospatial information. Moreover, you will find decisions upon such important topics as national accounts, economic statistics, population and housing censuses, health statistics, gender statistics, statelessness statistics, and governance statistics, to name only a few.

Distinguished delegates,

The Statistical Commission is fully dedicated to the process of the ECOSOC assessment of its functionary 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.

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