



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2017

Original: English

Statistical Commission

Forty-ninth session

6–9 March 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
 - (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Handbook of Statistical Organization;
 - (c) Open data;
 - (d) Household surveys;
 - (e) Big data for official statistics;
 - (f) Regional statistical development;
 - (g) National accounts;
 - (h) Environmental-economic accounting;
 - (i) Statistics for economies based on natural resources;
 - (j) Agricultural and rural statistics;
 - (k) Climate change statistics;
 - (l) Statistical classifications;
 - (m) Refugee statistics;
 - (n) Disability statistics;
 - (o) Work and employment statistics;
 - (p) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data;
 - (q) Working methods of the Statistical Commission.



4. Items for information:
 - (a) Demographic statistics;
 - (b) Gender statistics;
 - (c) Poverty statistics;
 - (d) Energy statistics;
 - (e) Service statistics;
 - (f) Information and communications technology statistics;
 - (g) International Comparison Programme and price statistics;
 - (h) Digital trade and e-commerce statistics;
 - (i) Statistics on science, technology and innovation;
 - (j) Informal sector statistics;
 - (k) Environment statistics;
 - (l) Coordination of statistical programmes;
 - (m) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
 - (n) Governance, peace and security statistics;
 - (o) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
5. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission.
7. Report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, elects, from among the representatives of its members, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

The Bureau is elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with one member of the Bureau elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. That duration is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing the members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-eighth session (New York, 7–10 March 2017) and were adopted by the Council in its decision 2017/228. The Bureau has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed provisional programme of work and timetable for the session is also before the Commission. The Commission is invited to adopt the agenda and the provisional programme of work and timetable for its forty-ninth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.3/2018/1](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session ([E/CN.3/2018/L.1](#))

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on the ongoing work of implementing a global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including: (a) guidelines and best practices on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) updates to the tier classification of the global indicator framework; (c) annual refinements of some indicators in the global indicator framework; (d) development of tier III indicators; and (e) work carried out on the data disaggregation work stream and by the working groups on interlinkages, the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange and geospatial information, respectively. The Commission will also have before it the background documents on the guidelines and best practices on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals and on the work on data disaggregation and by the respective working groups.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (a) the work on the guidelines and best practices on data flows and global data reporting for Sustainable Development Goals; (b) annual refinements of some indicators in the global indicator framework; and (c) the programme of work of the Group for the following year.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda. The report details the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/2017/66](#)), as mandated by the General Assembly (see resolution [70/1](#), para. 83), as well as the work undertaken to update the database on the global indicators, including a data and metadata repository, and to support countries in the implementation of the indicators at the national level. In addition, the report sets out the outcomes of a conference on national reporting platforms, the research exercise on the piloting of a federated system of national and global data hubs and the establishment of a global network of institutions for statistical training. The Commission is invited to take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations system and to comment on the outcomes of the said conference, research exercise and establishment of such a global network and its proposed programme of work.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report provides a summary of the recent activities of the High-level Group related to the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, the work on statistical capacity needs by the joint subgroup of the High-level Group and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, preparations for the second United Nations World Data Forum, to be held from 22 to 24 October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and recommendations regarding establishing the position of Chief Statistician of the United Nations.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (a) reviewing and expressing its views on the creation of the position of Chief Statistician of the United Nations; (b) approval of the proposed revision to the terms of reference of the joint subgroup, as contained in annex III to the report of the High-level Group; (c) expressing its views on the mechanism for contribution of the Commission to the high-level political forum on sustainable development; and (d) expressing its views on and approval of the proposed workplan of the High-level Group for 2018.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([E/CN.3/2018/2](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2018/3](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.3/2018/4](#))

(b) Handbook of Statistical Organization

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Handbook of Statistical Organization. In the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data and the final report of the series of conferences on a transformative agenda for official statistics, the need for statistical organizations to adapt and develop was stressed. The 2030 Agenda demands high-quality, timely and disaggregated statistics to respond to new data needs and emerging challenges. The report includes a commented outline for the fourth edition of the Handbook of Statistical Organization that considers the strategic development areas proposed by these initiatives, based on consultations with chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposed content and structure of the fourth edition of the Handbook.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Handbook of Statistical Organization ([E/CN.3/2018/5](#))

(c) Open data

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the initial work undertaken on open data for the Sustainable Development Goals, including the outcomes of the international seminar on open data for the Sustainable Development Goals, held in the Republic of Korea in September 2017, and initiatives at the country level on open data platforms. The report highlights ideas and proposed open data principles for national statistical offices. The Commission is invited to review the proposed principles and discuss the way forward.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on open data ([E/CN.3/2018/6](#))

(d) Household surveys

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. The report provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group. The report also presents: (a) an analysis of mapping of Sustainable Development Goal indicators and household

surveys; and (b) the status of work of three task forces established under the Group. Furthermore, the report details the ongoing work and priorities for future activities to be undertaken by the Group and proposals for the way forward. The Commission is invited to review the proposed priorities for future work and the proposal for the way forward.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys ([E/CN.3/2018/7](#))

(e) Big data for official statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. As requested, the Global Working Group provides in its report the business case for a global platform for data, services and applications with proofs of concept. It describes global data collaboratives with technology companies, data providers and academia, giving due attention to the formulation of standards and guidelines for data governance and information management, addressing issues of trust, privacy, confidentiality and security of data. These global data collaboratives address the need to exchange ideas and methods for processing, analysing and visualizing big data among official statisticians, data scientists and domain experts from the public and private sectors; to store, share and exchange big data, related processing, analytical and visualization methodologies, and services and applications for continuous development and reuse; and to share resources for training materials and workshops on big data for official statistics. The Global Working Group also reports on several training workshops that it has developed on the use of satellite data for crop statistics, mobile phone data for tourism statistics, social media data for sentiment analysis and scanner data for price statistics. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposal for global data collaboratives facilitated by a global platform for data, services and applications.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/8](#))

(f) Regional statistical development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa. The report highlights activities being undertaken in Africa on statistical development, including the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, and methodological work in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. Key areas of focus for statistical development are presented and include national accounts, environmental statistics and accounting, civil registrations and vital statistics, gender statistics and other initiatives such as open data and data revolution. The Commission is invited to comment on strategic initiatives and actions undertaken in the African region, which are aimed at boosting statistical development in the continent. The Commission is also invited to consider calling upon development partners to scale up their support for statistical development initiatives in Africa.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa ([E/CN.3/2018/9](#))

(g) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), the Working Group, in its report, takes stock of the work done so far and reflects on the challenges and opportunities still ahead. In this respect, the report provides information on issues emerging from the implementation of SNA, in particular the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, progress with the research agenda on practical issues of implementation of the 2008 SNA and an update on the finalization of publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA. It also contains the programme of work of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level and an update on the international coordination of regional and global data collection and data exchange activities. The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Working Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts ([E/CN.3/2018/10](#))

(h) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. In its report, the Committee of Experts reports the progress made in advancing the following areas of work: (a) coordination; (b) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research, consisting of (i) the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and (ii) SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (c) development of databases; (d) implementation and statistical capacity-building; and (e) formulation of a statistical response to emerging policy issues, consisting of (i) communication and (ii) SEEA and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The Committee of Experts presents the revision process of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including the financing of the project, the results of the global assessment and progress made in the implementation of SEEA, a proposal for the development of global databases compliant with SEEA, and the communication strategy. The Commission is invited to provide its views on the progress of work of the Committee and its programme of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting ([E/CN.3/2018/11](#))

(i) Statistics for economies based on natural resources

The Commission will have before it the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources. The report provides a summary of the recent operations of the Ulaanbaatar Group and information on the Group's programme of work. The Ulaanbaatar Group will also provide, in a background document, a draft of the handbook that it has prepared on statistics for economies based on natural resources. The Commission is invited to comment on the draft handbook.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies based on Natural Resources ([E/CN.3/2018/12](#))

(j) Agricultural and rural statistics

The Commission will have before it a report on new methodological developments in food, agricultural and rural statistics covering: (a) the report of the Global Strategy Steering Committee, presenting the key activities undertaken to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the plans for preparing a second phase of implementation beyond 2018; (b) the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics, containing a summary of the work undertaken to date and presenting the new proposed guidelines on measuring food consumption and expenditures in household consumption and expenditure surveys; and (c) the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), introducing the second volume of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020, covering the period 2016–2025. The Commission is invited to comment on the described methodological developments and to provide further guidance to the Steering Committee, to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and to FAO on the implementation of global efforts to strengthen the capacity of national agricultural statistical systems.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agricultural and rural statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/13](#))

(k) Climate change statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics. The report was prepared by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The report contains an update of the work of the Statistics Division in climate change statistics, in particular with regard to the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators. The report includes a workplan prepared by the Division outlining the way forward. It details the progress made in ECE work on climate change-related statistics and indicators, as well as the current work and future plans of the Convention secretariat on the policy and statistics interface. In this regard, ways to strengthen the relationship between these institutions and better engage the wider statistical community are also explored in the report. The Commission is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the way forward.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/14](#))

(l) Statistical classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications. The report provides updated information on work related to the development and implementation of international statistical classifications in various fields. In particular, the report presents the outcome of the work on revising the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose. The report also

details the work carried out by the Expert Group on the coordination of classifications work and the international family of statistical classifications.

The Commission is requested to comment on the issues described in this report and to endorse the revised version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications ([E/CN.3/2018/15](#))

(m) Refugee statistics

The Commission will have before it the report on refugee statistics prepared by the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics. In its report, the Group highlights the work leading to the development of the international recommendations on refugee statistics and a technical report on internally displaced persons, including the organization of global meetings in Copenhagen, Oslo and Geneva and a global consultation on the draft recommendations to solicit comments widely prior to submission to the Commission.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents of the Expert Group: the international recommendations on refugee statistics and a technical report on internally displaced persons. While there are many parallels between refugees and internally displaced persons and the statistical challenges in measuring and reporting on these populations are often similar, they do have different statuses; hence, statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons are considered and presented in two different documents.

The Commission is invited to adopt the refugee recommendations and support the technical report on internally displaced persons. The Commission is also invited to provide guidance on the next phase of the work of the Expert Group, namely the development of a refugee statistics compilers manual and more concrete recommendations with regard to statistics on internally displaced persons.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/16](#))

(n) Disability statistics

The Commission will have before it the joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics on disability statistics. The report highlights the experiences of countries in the measurement of disability and presents key findings from a series of regional meetings that were organized in 2016 and 2017. The report also presents current and planned activities on disability statistics by the Statistics Division, the regional commissions, the World Health Organization and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The report is aimed at linking planned activities to strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to produce quality statistics on disability for evidence-based policies and programmes on disability.

The Commission is invited to express its views on the report, to approve the proposed programmes of work of the Statistics Division and the Washington Group and to provide guidance on future activities for strengthening national capacity to produce quality and fit-for-purpose disability statistics.

Documentation

Joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/17](#))

(o) Work and employment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on recent advances in the area of work and employment statistics. The report sets out the new framework for work statistics and measures of labour underutilization adopted by the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in 2013, their implications for national systems of work and labour force statistics, and their significance for meeting data requirements to monitor achievements towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It also highlights the ILO programme of methodological tests, guidance development, capacity-building, technical assistance and inter-agency coordination activities undertaken to support the wide adaptation and adoption of the new standards. Recent developments in preparation for the twentieth Conference, to be held in October 2018, are also presented, including the main proposals for a suite of international standards for statistics on work relationships to be considered for adoption by the Conference, in replacement of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93). The Commission is invited to express its views on the progress achieved and provide guidance on the outlined programme of work of ILO to support the wide implementation of the latest standards.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on recent developments in work and employment statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/18](#))

(p) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data. As the proportion of the world's population in the older ages continues to increase, the need for improved information to support analysis of population ageing becomes pressing. Furthermore, implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the pledge to leave no one behind requires timely and reliable data across all ages.

The report provides an overview of challenges with respect to data on older populations and includes a proposal to form a new city group, the Titchfield group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data, to address issues of conceptualization, methodology and instruments in the domains of ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data. The group would contribute to and build upon international standards and methods for the compilation of ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data, by reviewing and extending existing advances and by enlisting expertise from various countries, as well as the international, academic and non-profit sectors concerned with ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data. Harnessing private sector expertise in relation to innovative approaches, including big data, in the use and presentation of ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data will also be important.

The Commission is invited to express its views on the proposal to establish the group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data and its proposed terms of reference.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data ([E/CN.3/2018/19](#))

(q) Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Commission will have before it a report of the Bureau on the review of the mechanism of city groups. The report revisits the history of the city group mechanism, which was established in the 1990s, and its main characteristics. It explores the extent to which the initial goals of the mechanism have been met and poses central questions for the Commission to discuss.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau on working methods: review of the city group mechanism ([E/CN.3/2018/20](#))

4. Items for information

The following items are presented to the Commission for information. Limited time will be allocated for interventions under this item.

(a) Demographic statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General presenting activities carried out by the Statistics Division in the area of demographic statistics. It provides a yearly summary of the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, with a focus on the development and promotion of new guidelines on the use of electronic data collection technologies in population and housing censuses for the current population and housing census round. It provides information on activities relating to the promotion of the revised set of international statistical standards for civil registration and vital statistics and the handbook on operations and management of civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems. It provides information on the collection of demographic statistics through the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires. It presents the summary overview of an expert group meeting on migration statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/21](#))

(b) Gender statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics. The report provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including the revision of the minimum set of gender indicators to align it with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators framework, and the implementation of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality project. It also presents the results of capacity-building efforts to strengthen programmes on gender statistics in countries and an update on the organization of the eleventh meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the ongoing work and future priorities on gender statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/22](#))

(c) Poverty statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the World Bank on poverty statistics. Reducing poverty is a headline goal on both national and international development agendas. Poverty statistics are therefore central to monitoring national and international development progress. The objective of the report is fourfold. First, it provides an overview of common concepts, definitions, methods and data requirements used in national poverty measurement by Governments around the world, with a focus on monetary poverty measures. Second, it provides a summary of the history and foundation of international poverty measures and an explanation of how international poverty statistics rely on national data, methods and definitions. Third, it provides an assessment of the availability of poverty statistics, highlights data gaps and reviews challenges of comparability and disaggregation. Last, it outlines ways forward for improving national and international poverty statistics in the light of the reporting needs of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on poverty statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/23](#))

(d) Energy statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics. The report provides updated information on work related to the development and implementation of international methodological documents on energy statistics, as well as new developments and challenges. The report also details the activities of increased cooperation and coordination among agencies working on energy statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/24](#))

(e) Service statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. In its report, the Group describes its recent progress, including its development of a new five-year strategic plan, its best practices in new covered industries and its continuing discussion of several cross-cutting issues, such as bundling and e-commerce. The Group has revisited some industries since 2015, and revisited sector papers will be produced within engineering activities and telecommunication, for presentation at the session. The Group has developed a new content development framework, to be used when industry-specific papers concerning the measurement of output or prices are produced within over 85 service industries defined in the *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4*. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/25](#))

(f) Information and communications technology statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development. The report presents an overview of the recent work that the Partnership has undertaken, including updates to the core list of information and communications technology (ICT) indicators, recent developments on measuring the digital economy (such as e-commerce and international trade in ICT-enabled services), and recent progress on the use of big data for measuring the information society and measuring electronic waste. The report will also provide an overview of the availability of official ICT statistics and the Partnership's proposal to prepare a thematic list of ICT indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and will highlight challenges faced by national statistical offices in producing ICT statistics, including those related to capacity-building. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development ([E/CN.3/2018/26](#))

(g) International Comparison Programme and price statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The report outlines the activities undertaken in 2017 at the global and regional levels to complete interim comparisons, launch the implementation of the ICP 2017 comparison cycle and transform the ICP into a permanent programme. The report details the governance, technical, capacity-building and advocacy activities carried out in this regard. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress made to date.

The Commission will also have before it, as a background document, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics presenting its recent work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on International Comparison Programme ([E/CN.3/2018/27](#))

(h) Digital trade and e-commerce statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics on digital trade and e-commerce statistics. The report presents an overview of the changing nature, patterns and actors in international trade driven by the movement of electronic data across borders. This trend raises important policy questions regarding the size and importance of these flows, the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises, and the barriers and regulations, including data protection. Digital trade is for now defined as all cross-border trade transactions that are either digitally ordered, platform enabled or digitally delivered. Many questions remain on measurement issues, which the report points out. Measurement guidelines in this area do not currently exist. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/28](#))

(i) Statistics on science, technology and innovation

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in which they describe their work on science, technology and innovation statistics. The report presents recent developments in the measurement of science, technology and innovation, with particular emphasis on the recent revision and ongoing implementation of the OECD Frascati Manual, which was published in 2015 and is the standard for measuring research and development recognized worldwide. Another key feature is the progress of work to revise the Oslo Manual, which provides guidelines for data about innovation in business and provides a pathway for extending the measurement of innovation to other sectors. Furthermore, it provides an overview of the revision process being carried out on the concept of scientific and technological activities, defined in the Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Statistics on Science and Technology, adopted by UNESCO in 1978. Among other things, the report also highlights efforts to develop a thematic set of science, technology and innovation indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to provide broader information on the science, technology and innovation components of the Goals and targets than currently included in the core set of Goals. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on statistics on science, technology and innovation ([E/CN.3/2018/29](#))

(j) Informal sector statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics. The report provides an update on recent activities and meetings and outlines the plans of the Delhi Group. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/30](#))

(k) Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics. The report contains a summary of activities carried out in 2017, including progress on the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics 2013, developments in methodological work, including the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool and the Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics, the fourth meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, and training and capacity-building provided to regions, subregions and countries. It also sets out the workplan for 2018–2019. As the programme of work includes the global collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics and indicators, the present report: (a) provides a summary of the results of the international collections of environment statistics carried out by the Statistics Division from 1999 to 2016, and conclusions with relevance to future work,

especially with regard to the environment-related Sustainable Development Goals; and (b) outlines a programme of work for the improvement of the regular collection, compilation and dissemination of international environment statistics. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/31](#))

(l) Coordination of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which contains a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee in 2017, including the main conclusions of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Committee, held in 2017. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities ([E/CN.3/2018/32](#))

(m) Integration of statistical and geospatial information

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on its recent activities. In its report, the Expert Group provides information on its focus on the consolidation and implementation of the five guiding principles of the global statistical-geospatial framework, including in the preparation of country-level examples. The Commission is invited to note the Group's progress on its work to consolidate and implement the framework, as well as the Group's views on coordinating activities in the area of integration of statistical and geospatial information.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2018/33](#))

(n) Governance, peace and security statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. The report details the progress in the implementation of the activities of the 2016–2020 road map and the actions taken to develop a handbook on governance statistics. It also includes the technical-methodological work developed with the seven tier III Sustainable Development Goal indicators assumed by the Praia Group. As defined in the road map, the Praia Group will submit the handbook to the Statistical Commission in March 2020. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics ([E/CN.3/2018/34](#))

(o) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

The Commission will have before it, for information, a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions adopted by the

General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken to date by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division and those suggested to be taken in response to the decisions and mandates of the parent bodies. The Commission may wish to take those actions into account in its discussions under relevant agenda items. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission ([E/CN.3/2018/35](#))

5. Programme questions (Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution [1999/51](#)), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2018–2022. The Commission is invited to approve the dates, provisional agenda and documentation for its fiftieth session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2018/L.2](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2018–2022 ([E/CN.3/2018/36](#))

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

The Commission will have before it the procedural report of the forty-ninth session of the Commission covering organizational matters relating to the Commission's work. The Commission will also have before it an informal paper containing the draft decisions submitted by the Rapporteur.

The Commission is invited to adopt the draft report on its forty-ninth session, including the draft decisions, which will be submitted to the Council, and to entrust the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

Informal paper with draft decisions