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**Items for information: follow-up to the policy decisions of
the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council**

Policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices, the present report sets out the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Council adopted in 2019, or earlier, that are relevant to the Statistical Commission's work. It also indicates the actions that were taken or are proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in an effort to respond to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council. The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

* E/CN.3/2020/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices. It provides an overview of the policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2019, or earlier, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The action taken or proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in response to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council is also highlighted.

II. Migration statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

2. In the annex to General Assembly resolution [73/195](#) on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives committed to drawing from the following actions: elaborating and implementing a comprehensive strategy for improving migration data at all levels under the guidance of the Statistical Commission; improving international comparability and compatibility of migration statistics and national data systems; developing a global programme to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination to share data, address data gaps and assess key migration trends, to be reviewed by the Commission on a regular basis; collecting, analysing and using data on the effects and benefits of migration, as well as the contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development; supporting further development of collaboration between existing global and regional databases and depositories to consolidate migration-relevant data and avoid duplication; establishing and strengthening regional centres for research and training on migration or migration observatories; improving national data collection by integrating migration-related topics into national censuses; conducting household, labour force and other surveys to collect information on the social and economic integration of migrants or adding standard migration modules to existing household surveys to improve national, regional and international comparability, and making collected data available through public use of statistical microdata files; enhancing collaboration between State units responsible for migration data and national statistical offices to produce migration-related statistics; and developing and using country-specific migration profiles, which include disaggregated data on all migration-relevant aspects in a national context.

3. Furthermore, pledges were made in the Global Compact to ensure that all migrants had proof of legal identity and adequate documentation by improving civil registry systems, with a focus on reaching unregistered persons and nationals residing in other countries, including by providing relevant identity and civil registry documents, strengthening capacities and investing in information and communications technology (ICT) solutions, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

4. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics are revising the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration to guide data

collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data, considering the status of national implementation of the current set of recommendations. In 2019 and 2020 the focus will be on further harmonizing concepts and definitions related to international migration, taking into account changing patterns of migration, and ensuring that those concepts fit the needs of national policymaking while promoting international comparability.

5. The Division, under the guidance of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, developed the note on standardized migration questions for censuses and surveys and a toolkit to assess national capacities on migration data. These are intended to assist countries in integrating migration-related topics into national censuses and existing household surveys and help to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination of migration statistics. Both outputs are linked to the United Nations Network on Migration working group on thematic workstream 1: “Developing and implementing a global programme to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination”.

III. Gender equality

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

6. In its resolution [2019/2](#) on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the Council called upon the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to promote more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring and reporting on progress on gender equality, the impact of the promotion of gender equality and the use of common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. It also called them to enhance standards and methodologies at the global, regional and country levels to improve the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and use of accurate, reliable, transparent and comparable data and statistics and, where applicable and with due respect for confidentiality, open and disaggregated data and statistics related to achieving gender equality.

7. In its resolution [73/139](#) on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the General Assembly called upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity to ensure that humanitarian relief, inter alia, made greater use of sex- and age-disaggregated data. It also encouraged efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

8. At its fifty-first session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics, summarizing recent activities by the Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme, to strengthen gender data in support of progress towards gender equality and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. The Division, in collaboration with key partners and with guidance from the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, is preparing the forthcoming issue of the flagship report entitled *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*. The report will provide statistics and an analysis on the status of women and men at the global, regional, national and subnational levels according to the latest available data. It will also serve to highlight progress since 1995 and focus on selected policy areas in line with the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

10. In 2018, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics formed an Advisory Group on strengthening administrative data systems to close gender data gaps, with an overall objective of providing guidance on the use of administrative data systems to produce sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators.

11. The Division, in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland and relevant international agencies and development partners, and under the guidance of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, will convene the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics on 15 and 16 October 2020 in Bern, Switzerland, on the margins of the United Nations World Data Forum.

IV. Violence against women and harmful practices against girls and women

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

12. In its resolution [73/148](#) on intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment, the General Assembly encouraged States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant parameters, including, where appropriate, administrative data, to monitor all forms of violence against women and girls, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors. The Assembly also urged the international community to fulfil its commitment to supporting developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data on violence against women and girls. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the Global Database on Violence against Women among all relevant stakeholders.

13. In its resolution [2019/14](#) on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the Council, in the context of promoting improved sex-disaggregated data, encouraged Member States to make better use of existing data collection mechanisms on sexual and gender-based violence.

14. In its resolution [73/149](#) on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation, the General Assembly called upon States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data, where appropriate, and to collaborate with existing data collection systems, on female genital mutilation. It also called upon States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on female genital mutilation, to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating that practice and to reinforce the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation at the subregional, regional and global levels. Moreover, the Assembly

urged the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to inform policy and programming, as well as to monitor progress in the elimination of female genital mutilation. In that context, the Assembly renewed its request to the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-fifth session, an in-depth, multidisciplinary, evidence-based report, with accurate and updated data, an analysis of root causes, progress made to date, challenges and needs and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating that practice, on the basis of updated information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

15. In its resolution [73/153](#) on child, early and forced marriage, the General Assembly recognized that existing gaps in the collection and use of reliable data and evidence on that issue remained a major challenge and encouraged relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, the international financial institutions, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate with Member States and national statistical agencies in order to assist in strengthening and building capacity for data and reporting systems for analysing, monitoring and publicly reporting on progress to end child, early and forced marriage based on evidence.

16. In the same resolution, the General Assembly affirmed the need for States to improve the collection and use of quantitative, qualitative and comparable data on violence against women and harmful practices, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, civil status, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geographical location, socioeconomic status, education level and other key factors, as appropriate, to enhance research and dissemination of evidence-based and good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage and to strengthen monitoring and impact assessment of existing policies and programmes as a means of ensuring their effectiveness and implementation.

17. In that context, the General Assembly encouraged the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, including in the context of child, early and forced marriage. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report, based on evidence, before the end of its seventy-fourth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide, best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married girls and women affected by that practice, including girls' and women's empowerment programmes, gaps in funding, research and data collection, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

18. The Division has developed and maintains an online data portal, the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, with data and detailed metadata on intimate partner violence and on non-intimate partner sexual violence against women, respectively.¹

¹ Available at genderstats.un.org/#/home.

19. The Division will assess the progress towards eliminating violence against women and girls in the flagship report entitled *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*.

V. Crime statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

20. In its resolution [73/185](#) on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, and noted the application of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

21. In its resolution [73/186](#) on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly invited Member States to start the gradual adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice, requested UNODC, within its existing mandate, to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, timely and comparable data and information, including, as appropriate, data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant criteria, and strongly encouraged Member States to share such data and information with UNODC. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited UNODC to systematically collect data and information from Member States on migrant smuggling routes, the modus operandi of migrant smugglers and the role of transnational organized crime, and invited Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for that purpose.

22. In its resolution [73/146](#) on trafficking in women and girls, the General Assembly called upon Governments to continue improving the collection and use of reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, geographical location and other characteristics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls. It also invited Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, underlying causes, factors and trends in human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and girls.

23. In its resolution [73/189](#) on strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs, the General Assembly requested UNODC to engage in a dialogue with members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and other relevant intergovernmental international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO), in close consultation with Member States, so as to enable UNODC to improve data collection and analysis on instances of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, while bearing in mind that data on trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal were being gathered for the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, in accordance with the provisions set out in Assembly resolution [70/179](#) of 17 December 2015.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

24. In its decision 50/119, the Commission endorsed the updated road map to support countries in their production of high-quality data needed to monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and supported the proposed revised workplan featuring a broader set of activities for the period 2019–2022. It also encouraged national statistical offices to lead the assessment of the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, and supported the establishment of an advisory group on crime and criminal justice to foster broader partnerships to better coordinate international statistical programmes and to strengthen activities for better national data used in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals with regard to crime and criminal justice.

25. The Commission welcomed the UNODC global programme for capacity-building, expressed appreciation to the UNODC-National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice for the implementation of capacity-building activities and the development of methodological standards, and welcomed the new Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)-UNODC Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific, which was launched during a related symposium on 20 and 21 August 2019 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

26. The Commission further expressed appreciation for the development of the multiple systems estimation methodology to measure the number of undetected victims of trafficking in persons.

VI. Drug statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

27. In its resolution [73/192](#) on international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, the General Assembly requested UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States and pertinent United Nations entities, intergovernmental and regional organizations and, when appropriate, the scientific community and civil society, to continue to support Member States, upon request, in strengthening their capacity to develop their reporting mechanisms, including by identifying gaps in the current drug statistics and by exploring possibilities to strengthen existing data-collection and analysis tools at the national level. It further invited UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities for strengthening and streamlining its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving and strengthening the quality, response rate and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire, and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on possible ways to enhance those, for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-second session, and invited Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources for those purposes.

28. In the same resolution, the General Assembly, recalling Statistical Commission decision 48/110 of 10 March 2017 on statistics on drugs and drug use, encouraged collaboration between the Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, within their mandates, to exchange information on the latest data trends on the world drug problem. In that context, it also stressed the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of drug statistics and to respond effectively to data-collection requests from UNODC, and invited international and regional organizations to support Member States in that regard, upon their request.

29. In addition, the General Assembly invited Member States to consider the need to review the set of national drug policy metrics and tools for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable, disaggregated, comprehensive and comparable data to measure the effectiveness of programmes to address all relevant aspects of the world drug problem, and reiterated the commitment of Member States to improve the availability and quality of statistical information and analysis of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufacturing, drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including for appropriate reflection in reports of UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

30. In its decision 50/120, the Commission supported the proposal of UNODC, in partnership with other international agencies, to conduct a survey to better understand the functioning, capacities and outputs of national statistical systems on drugs, and the availability and quality of drugs statistics, to inform national and international reporting of drugs-related data and for more targeted capacity building activities, and welcomed the global consultations organized by UNODC to review and finalize its revision. It also encouraged international and regional organizations to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration in the field of drugs statistics with a view to harmonizing related concepts, increasing the consistency of data and minimizing the reporting burden on Member States through joint data collection.

VII. National accounts

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

31. In its resolution [73/271](#) on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Committee on Contributions as a technical body was required to prepare the scale of assessments strictly on the basis of reliable, verifiable and comparable data, and encouraged Member States to submit national accounts data under the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) on a timely basis. It supported the efforts of the Division in supporting statistics at the national level and in providing support to countries and regional organizations to enhance coordination, advocacy and resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

32. At its fifty-first session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report sets out progress made in addressing conceptual issues related to the implementation of SNA, the finalization of publications supporting the 2008 SNA and resolving issues on the research agenda for the three priority areas: globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability. The report further provides information on the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and a proposed way forward for updating SNA to ensure its relevance in a changing economic environment. It also contains the programme of work of the members 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.

VIII. Information and communication technology indicators

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

33. In its resolution [2019/24](#) on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Council reiterated the importance of ICT indicators in open data format, emphasized the importance of the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators, and stressed the value of gender-disaggregated data to contribute to the bridging of the digital gender divide. In the same resolution, the Council called upon United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for ICT indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances. In that context, the Council noted with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*, and encouraged the Partnership to continue the follow-up on the relevant decisions of the Statistical Commission on ICT statistics for the purposes of producing high-quality and timely ICT statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

34. At its fifty-first session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development. In the report, the Partnership presents an overview of the recent work undertaken by the Partnership, including the revision of the methodological manuals of ICT indicators which include new indicators that reflect latest developments in ICT adoption and use by households and individuals, and recent progress on the use of big data for measuring the information society. The report also provides an update of the Partnership thematic list of ICT indicators for monitoring progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goal-related thematic list of ICT indicators is now available for use by countries and will be shared with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Partnership also highlights challenges for national statistical offices in producing ICT statistics, including related to capacity-building.

IX. Humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

35. In its resolution [73/136](#) on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data on displacements in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change, disaggregated by sex, age and disability. It also

encouraged the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, and invited Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of United Nations capability in satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery.

36. Moreover, the General Assembly encouraged Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that addressed the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of disaggregated data and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that would result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments. It also encouraged Member States to develop or improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, and encouraged the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis.

37. Further, in its resolution [73/139](#) on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the General Assembly called upon the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations organizations to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible, disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs to improve preparedness and humanitarian response.

38. In its resolution [73/231](#), the General Assembly encouraged States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of disaggregated data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets in reporting on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and encouraged States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk. In the same resolution, the Assembly welcomed the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (Council resolution [2018/14](#), annex), and reaffirmed that the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 was an important contribution to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, the collection of data and reporting.

39. Furthermore, in its resolution [73/91](#) on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the General Assembly stated that it was desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries. In that context, it emphasized the need to strengthen sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and encouraged Member States to promote the use of space-derived geospatial data, and in general, space-based data and infrastructures.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

40. Following Statistical Commission decision 49/115, the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics has developed international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and a compilers' manual with hands-on guidance and a refined methodology in collecting and disseminating statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons.

41. In its decision 50/116 on disaster-related statistics, the Commission requested the Division, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in consultation with members of the existing regional expert groups and task forces, to consider options and modalities for the establishment and coordination of a formal mechanism under the purview of the Commission to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics and a network across the expert communities to sustain cooperation, coordination and fundraising for enhancing statistics related to hazardous events and disasters, and requested that they report back to the Commission at a suitable time. It further urged the international statistical community to expand its capacity-building efforts in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters to assist countries in strengthening capacities for disaster management agencies, national statistical offices and other related contributors of official data to meet reporting requirements for evidence-based approaches to achieving national development policies, plans and programmes, and the goals and targets in the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

42. At its fifty-first session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on its recent activities. In its report, the Expert Group outlines progress towards the finalization of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and its subsequent adoption by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its ninth session.

43. In its report on geospatial information and services for disasters (see [E/C.20/2020/12](#)), submitted to the Committee of Experts, the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters described its progress on the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters to fulfil the needs of Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/14](#). This included its work on a survey tool for Member States to develop national implementation plans for geospatial information and services in support of disaster risk reduction and management.

44. In their jointly prepared report on geospatial information for sustainable development (see [E/C.20/2020/8](#)), submitted to the Committee of Experts, the secretariat and the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators detailed efforts to develop and provide guidance on data disaggregation by geographic location, the aggregation of geocoded unit-level data and approaches to leverage production-ready Earth observation time series data sets made available by space agencies, for the production of indicators.

X. Ageing and persons with disabilities

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

45. In its resolution [73/142](#) on inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities, the General Assembly stressed the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics, such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, and their updates, and underlined the need for internationally comparable data, including the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the tools and materials produced by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, to assess progress on development policies that were inclusive of persons with disabilities.

46. In that connection, the General Assembly requested the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, for the collection and compilation of national data and statistics on persons with disabilities, and the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing international guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities.

47. Moreover, the General Assembly encouraged the Statistical Commission, within existing resources, to update guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and also encouraged the United Nations system, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data and qualitative facts on disability, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development.

48. The General Assembly also encouraged Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics. In addition, the Assembly requested that data collection and analysis continue, with a view to informing policymaking; and decided to discuss, at its seventy-fifth session, how best to present those data and findings, including through a flagship report.

49. In its resolution [73/143](#) on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to devise strategies to strengthen data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing, and recommended that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons. In that context, the Assembly welcomed the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data.

50. The General Assembly also encouraged the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, as well as to include indicators that provided an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective

monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and national policymaking.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

51. At its fifty-first session, the Commission will have before it the joint report on disability statistics by relevant international agencies and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, with an update on their recent work to strengthen evidence for disability policies and programmes.

52. In 2019, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators continued its work on data disaggregation, including to measure aspects of vulnerable groups, and developed an updated workplan for the coming years on data disaggregation, including for persons with disabilities (see [E/CN.3/2020/2](#)).

53. The Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys established a workstream on data disaggregation to develop guidance in the following areas: (a) sampling strategies to reach vulnerable population groups, including persons with disabilities and older persons, in household surveys; (b) integrating household survey data with other sources to provide more disaggregated data; and (c) establishing a platform to provide resources related to data disaggregation to countries.

54. The Titchfield Group continued its work towards developing standardized tools and methods to produce data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data. In 2019, progress was made on: (a) the assessment of current evidence and identification of gaps; (b) development of an analytical and conceptual framework for information on older adults; and (c) the production of harmonization and standardization guidelines. The steering group, which includes representation from national statistical offices in all world regions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, WHO, HelpAge International and academic expertise, continues to hold monthly meetings to maintain momentum and monitor progress.

XI. Broader measures of progress

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

55. In its resolution [73/235](#) on harmony with nature, the General Assembly encouraged all countries to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic national statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invited the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support. Further, the Assembly recognized the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product (GDP) in order to better inform policy decisions, and in that regard noted the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress (see [E/2013/24](#), decision 44/114).

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

56. The task team on well-being and sustainability of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics focuses on the measurement of decent work and

informality and on the contributions of businesses to sustainability as set out in the 2030 Agenda. The task team develops a core set of indicators to provide information on the quality of jobs and the contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals, working closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

57. The work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics, all guided by the Commission, support the work to define and compile broader measures of progress to better inform policy decisions.

XII. International cooperation in statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

58. In its resolution [73/330](#) on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, the General Assembly encouraged the Division to consider extending technical and financial support to the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of statistics, as appropriate.

59. In its resolution [73/335](#) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support, the General Assembly reiterated the need to support developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. Moreover, in its resolution [2019/5](#) on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Council encouraged African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, the Council urged donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development.

60. In the annex to General Assembly resolution [74/4](#) on the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives committed to strengthen national statistical capacities to address data gaps on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to allow countries to provide high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics and to fully integrate the Goals in their monitoring and reporting systems. They also encouraged international cooperation supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries, which faced the greatest challenges in collecting, analysing and using reliable data and statistics.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

61. The Division, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes have continued their collaboration in the area of statistical capacity development, including through the joint United Nations Development Account

Programme on Statistics and Data and a project on Sustainable Development Goal monitoring funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see [E/CN.3/2020/3](#)). A comprehensive overview of the Division's activities on technical capacity-building, including those relating to the implementation of the Goal indicators, was provided by the Secretary in his report on statistical capacity development ([E/CN.3/2019/28](#)). In addition, in its report, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see [E/CN.3/2020/4](#)), summarizes the work on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data and the third United Nations World Data Forum. In its report, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (see [E/CN.3/2020/2](#)) provides information about the work to implement the global indicator framework, such as methodological work on the indicators, and efforts by the three working groups on interlinkages, the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standard and geospatial information.

62. The Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training has established a task teams to: (a) address specific data needs for the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) establish an e-learning community of practice and online gateway for training courses; and (c) promote statistical literacy in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

XIII. Sustainable fisheries

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

63. In its resolution [73/125](#), the General Assembly called upon States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, and to ensure that fisheries and other ecosystem data collection was performed in a coordinated and integrated manner, facilitating incorporation into global observation initiatives. It also reaffirmed its request that FAO initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas and revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch was taken.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

64. The FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics provides a mechanism to coordinate the statistical programmes of intergovernmental organizations, including regional fishery bodies with a remit for fishery statistics. At its twenty-sixth session, the Coordinating Working Party considered best practices for streamlining data workflow among international and regional institutions in charge of statistical data collection. The session also reviewed and approved updated structure and sections of the Coordinating Working Party's handbook on statistics. The session endorsed the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels, approved the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants, and developed a classification for aquaculture farming systems.

XIV. Human settlements and urban development

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

65. In its resolution [73/239](#) on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly urged UN-Habitat to continue to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation, with the objective of supporting Member States, especially developing countries, when needed, in dealing with emerging urban challenges and opportunities.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

66. In its report on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information (see [E/C.20/2020/9](#)), submitted to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information described the finalized Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, which was adopted by the Committee of Experts at its ninth session. The Framework details the importance of a common set of geographies to ensure that statistical data are geospatially enabled in a consistent manner and are integrable at the aggregate level; and also ensures that users can discover, access, integrate, analyse and visualize statistical information seamlessly into geographies of interest.

XV. Volunteer work

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

67. In its resolution [73/140](#), the General Assembly encouraged all Member States to invest in measuring the scale and contribution of people's voluntary efforts, in line with the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians standard on volunteer work and the ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*, and to collect and utilize high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to support and integrate volunteerism into national strategies and to measure its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

68. Since 2018, the Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics have been working towards the operationalization of the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (2016), and the modernization of time-use surveys, in the context of updating the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*. The Division organized the first meeting of the Expert Group, which was held in New York from 20 to 22 June 2018.

69. The Division, under the guidance of a consultative group of experts from national statistical offices, central banks, regional commissions, academic

associations and the Intersecretariat Working Group of National Accounts, and in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, issued the *Handbook of National Accounting: Satellite Account on Non-profit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work*. The handbook adheres to the methodological concepts of SNA while incorporating recommendations from other international economic accounting standards, including the ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*, country experiences in implementing the handbook on non-profit institutions in the System of National Accounts, and recent discussions on the need to go beyond GDP and assess trends in human well-being.

XVI. Health statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

70. In the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution [73/3](#), Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments called for strengthening of national capacity for the use and analysis of reliable, disaggregated data on incidence, prevalence and mortality, and for monitoring the level of and trends in the epidemic and its treatment outcomes. Furthermore, in its resolution [73/337](#) on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2030, the Assembly recognized the need to strengthen malaria surveillance and data quality in all regions where malaria was endemic.

71. In the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [74/2](#), Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments committed to strengthen public health surveillance and data systems, and data collection and analysis capacity, while respecting patient privacy and promoting data protection.

72. In its resolution [2019/5](#) on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Council invited development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing reliable health information and data.

73. In its resolution [73/147](#) on intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula, the General Assembly called to strengthen data collection to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report with specific updated statistics and disaggregated data on obstetric fistula and the challenges faced by Member States in implementing the present resolution to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

74. At its fifty-first session, the Commission will have before it the WHO report on health statistics and will consider strategic approaches to achieve target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals with regard to health data and to monitor progress towards the health and health-related Goals in partnership with national statistical

offices, ministries of health, other relevant United Nations agencies and technical experts.

XVII. Entrepreneurship

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

75. In its resolution [73/225](#) on entrepreneurship for sustainable development, the General Assembly recognized the importance of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for monitoring progress in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies and their direct and indirect contribution to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and addressing sex-disaggregated data gaps, to ensure that no one was left behind. It also stressed the importance of indicators that could be used to formulate targeted entrepreneurship policies and measure their impact on the Goals, and in that regard encouraged Member States, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to further identify and develop indicators at the national and regional levels as appropriate.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

76. The task team on business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics is tasked with formulating an internationally agreed core set of statistics and indicators on business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship. The guidelines will cover the policy and analytical framework for business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship, a list of core and desirable indicators and their metadata, and relevant collection and compilation practices.

XVIII. Poverty statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

77. In its resolution [73/246](#) on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), the General Assembly underlined the importance of drawing lessons from the implementation of the Second Decade and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to data which are of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, harnessing partnerships, fostering the global exchange of ideas and experiences and showcasing innovative and efficient initiatives and strategies to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities within and among countries and promote decent work for all. It also stressed the importance of using multidimensional indicators.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

78. In the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics 2020 annual work programme, the World Bank agreed to report on its progress on measuring poverty

gaps within the household. The Group will remain available to provide feedback on assumptions made for modelled data from a statistical perspective using a gender lens.

79. In the first technical workshop of the Data For Now initiative held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 13 and 14 November 2019, organized jointly by the Division, the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, participating countries and partners agreed on a road map to increase the use of robust methods and tools that improve the timeliness, coverage and quality of poverty estimates between survey rounds, focusing on small-area poverty and income estimates.
