



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 December 2020

Original: English

Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021*

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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) Coordination of statistical programmes;
 - (c) Economic statistics;
 - (d) National accounts;
 - (e) Business and trade statistics;
 - (f) Environmental-economic accounting;
 - (g) Migration statistics;
 - (h) Regional statistical development;
 - (i) Management and modernization of statistical systems;
 - (j) Big data;
 - (k) International statistical classifications;
 - (l) Household surveys;
 - (m) Data and metadata presentation and dissemination.
4. Items for information:
 - (a) Demographic statistics;
 - (b) Culture statistics;
 - (c) Climate change statistics;
 - (d) Disaster-related statistics;

* The dates of the session have been adjusted from those mandated in Economic and Social Council decision 2020/211 as a result of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



- (e) International Comparison Programme;
 - (f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
 - (g) Statistical capacity development;
 - (h) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
 - (i) National Quality Assurance Frameworks;
 - (j) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
 - (k) World Statistics Day.
5. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
 6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-third session of the Commission.
 7. Report of the Commission on its fifty-second 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, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, three Vice-Chair and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution – one member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those 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 fifty-first session, held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2020 (see [E/2020/24](#), chap. I, draft decision) and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2020/211. The Bureau of the Commission 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 provisional programme of work and timetable for its fifty-second session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.3/2021/1](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable ([E/CN.3/2021/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 for the implementation of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development

Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its report, the Group describes the activities undertaken in 2020, including: (a) methodology review of the indicator framework and tier classification updates; (b) activities within the work stream on data disaggregation; (c) coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and Sustainable Development Goals; (d) indicator refinements; and (e) work carried out by the three working groups on measurement of development support; statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX); and geospatial information, respectively.

The Commission will also have before it three background documents, on COVID-19 and the global indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals; a practical guide on data disaggregation for the Goals; and a compilation of tools/guidance of existing materials for data disaggregation.

The Commission is invited to approve the annual refinements of the indicators and the programme of work of the Group for the 2021.

The Commission will 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. In the report, the Secretary-General describes the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2020/57); the work undertaken to update the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicator Database; and the release of the official Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) metadata structure definition and application interface for the indicators.

In the report, the Secretary-General also provides information on: (a) the Data for Now initiative, jointly convened by the United Nations, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the World Bank and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network; (b) an update on the project of the Statistics Division funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to support countries in monitoring implementation of the Goals; (c) the establishment of a collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes; (d) an update on work undertaken regarding the federated information system of national and global data hubs for the Goals; (e) the launch of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians; and (f) the launch of a global online survey by the Statistics Division and the World Bank's Development Data Group, in coordination with the five regional commissions to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on national statistical offices.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents, on guidance materials and tools to improve efficiency and coordination of statistical training; and on an inventory of resources on the use of alternative data sources.

The Commission is invited: (a) to take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations system and its proposed programme of work; (b) to endorse the launch of a collaborative on use of administrative data for statistical purposes; and (c) to express its view on the Data for Now initiative, the continuation of the implementation of the federated system of national and global data hubs, the launch of the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians and the survey to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on national statistical offices.

The Commission will 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, which provides a summary of recent activities, including: (a) highlights from the first virtual United Nations World Data Forum, held from 19 to 21 October 2020, and details of the outcome statement adopted by Forum on the data community's response to COVID-19; (b) the results of the stocktaking

exercise on data stewardship; and (c) an update on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents, on approaches to data stewardship and on the data community's response to COVID-19 and the way forward.

The Commission is invited to approve the background document on the data community's response to COVID-19; review and approve the stocktaking exercise on data stewardship; and express its views on and approve of the proposed workplan of the High-level Group for 2021.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([E/CN.3/2021/2](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2021/3](#))

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.3/2021/4](#))

(b) Coordination of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System, which was formally established by the Commission in its decision 45/112.

In the report, the Committee describes its work in the area of coordination within the United Nations system, in particular its activities in follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/5](#), in which the Council, inter alia, requested the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System to more effectively strengthen coordination of statistical programmes within the United Nations system, guided by and in support of the work of the Statistical Commission. The report contains proposals on how to further improve coordination. The Commission is invited to provide guidance on the content and priorities of the Committee's programme of work.

The Commission will also 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 2020, including the main conclusions of its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, held in 2020, as well as two extraordinary sessions held between these formal sessions. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System on coordination within the United Nations statistical system ([E/CN.3/2021/5](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities ([E/CN.3/2021/6](#))

(c) Economic statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics. The report provides a description of the activities of the group on its global and regional meetings and other consultations. It contains the group's

recommendations on ways to improve networking for a user-centric approach and advance partnerships in creating global data assets; challenging the system through use cases in coproduction and co-investment; enabling the system through improved working methods among statistical groups; and better documenting conceptual and practical guidance at the international level on methodological standards, through regular experimentation and testing to meet rapidly evolving user demand. It also contains recommendations for an agile and more responsive system of economic statistics based on four pillars: collaboration and user consultation; statistical infrastructure, operations and data solutions; institutional arrangements and governance; and statistical frameworks and methods.

The Commission is invited to approve the recommendations in the report, including the establishment of a new committee for the coordination of economic statistics, and to dissolve the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/7](#))

(d) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. In the report, the Working Group sets out a work programme for updating the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) to ensure its relevance in a changing economic environment. The work programme contains details on the elements and phases of the updating process, including on the issues for review, governance, the timetable, resource implications and the decision-making process. The Working Group also provides information on the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts. In addition, the report contains the programme of work of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, and an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level.

The Commission is invited to express its views on the programmes of work and progress described in the report and to provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work for updating the 2008 SNA as well as 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.3/2021/8](#))

(e) Business and trade statistics

The Commission will have before the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics. In the report, the Committee of Experts describes the progress made in advancing the work of the task teams in the following areas: (a) globalization and digitalization, (b) business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship; (c) well-being and sustainability; (d) exhaustive business registers; and (e) capacity-building on statistical business registers. The Committee also describes its workplan for the period 2021–2022, which includes the work of the current task teams and the new tasks teams on communication and international trade statistics. The workplan reflects the contribution to the research agenda for the revision process of SNA and the manuals on international trade statistics, and the development of guidance on the impact of COVID-19 on business and trade statistics programmes.

The Commission is invited to provide its views on the progress of work of the Committee and to provide guidance on the proposed workplan of the Committee for the period 2021–2022.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/9](#))

(f) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report contains the Committee's final draft of the revised ecosystem accounting framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and its development process, including broad consultation and involvement with different communities. The reports also provides information on progress in the development of practical guidance documents on biophysical modelling, valuation and scenario modelling, and the programme of work on ocean accounting. With regard to global SEEA implementation, the report includes the results of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics, progress in meeting the Committee's global implementation targets, developments in regional capacity-building initiatives and progress towards creating global databases that are compliant with the SEEA. The Committee also describes the collaboration with the Convention on Biodiversity in the development of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the development of policy documents on the value added of the SEEA for policy and decision-making, in particular for biodiversity, climate change and macroeconomic policies. In addition, the Committee reports on progress made in the implementation of the European Union-funded project, Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services.

The Commission is invited to comment on and consider the adoption of the final draft of the SEEA ecosystem accounting framework and encourage its implementation in countries; provide its views on the proposal to advance ocean accounting, the collaboration with the Convention on Biodiversity in the development and implementation of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, progress made in the development of databases compliant with SEEA and the communication activities of SEEA, including development of policy documents.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting ([E/CN.3/2021/10](#))

(g) Migration statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics. The report provides information on recent work on a global consultation questionnaire to gauge concepts, definitions and data sources used by countries; and the formulation of a revised overarching conceptual framework, concepts and definitions on international migration. Furthermore, the report serves to describe other ongoing work, including capacity-building, data integration, an initiative to develop a global programme to strengthen national statistical systems on migration, and early preparations for the third International Forum on Migration Statistics. The report also provides information on the plans and future priorities for the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics.

The following are related background documents: the final report of the United Nations expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in July 2019; the conclusions of the United Nations expert group meeting on international migration statistics: concepts, definitions, data and indicators, held in June 2020; and the revised overarching conceptual framework, concepts and definitions on international migration produced by the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics.

The Commission is invited to endorse the revised overarching conceptual framework, concepts and definitions on international migration, as the core of the upcoming revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*. The Commission is also invited to comment and provide guidance on the ongoing work and priorities of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/11](#))

(h) Regional statistical development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on regional cooperation for the development of official statistics. In the report, ESCWA highlights the priorities, strategic goals, challenges and achievements of cooperation between statistical offices and regional and international organizations in the Arab region. Specific sections of the report highlight discussions on inter-agency and intergovernmental statistical coordination and cooperation in the Arab region; data dissemination platforms; data and statistics on the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on leaving no one behind; the integration of geospatial information and technology in official statistics; the results of the pilot projects on utilization of non-traditional data sources, including remote sensing, big data and register based data; and the increased use of advanced technology for official statistics in the Arab region.

The sectoral areas highlighted in the report include the population and housing census; civil registration and vital statistics; social indicators; integrated economic statistics; prices and financial statistics; transport statistics; gender statistics; statistics on persons with disabilities; development indicators; environment statistics; and environment economic accounting. ESCWA also provides information on the activities of the Statistical Committee of ESCWA as the leading intergovernmental body in the area of statistics and the Regional Working Group on Data and Statistics as the inter-agency coordination mechanism.

ESCWA also highlights the coordination and harmonization efforts among the five statistics divisions of the regional commissions, and achievements resulting from that cooperation, in particular with respect to the harmonized presentation and interpretation of the statistics and indicators on the Sustainable Development Goals. ESCWA also describes the coordination mechanism among the five statistics divisions and the Statistics Division of the Secretariat.

The Commission is invited to note the progress made in the Arab region on statistical development through the different modalities of collaborative work among countries and between countries and the United Nations system; comment on priority areas in sectors of official statistics in the Arab region; and comment on the recently established inter-agency coordination of statistics in the Arab region and the role of inter-agency coordination at the regional level in general.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ESCWA on regional cooperation for development of official statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/12](#))

(i) Management and modernization of statistical systems

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on management and modernization of statistical systems. The report provides information on progress made in drafting the updated *Handbook of Statistical Organization* and the work of the advisory group tasked with providing guidance in that regard. It also serves to highlight how the first thematic conferences have contributed to informing and enriching the fourth edition of the *Handbook* with regional initiatives and national good practices. The report provides further elaboration of the functionality and specifications of the user-friendly web solution that will host the next edition of the *Handbook*, and contains a proposal for flexible and ongoing updating mechanisms supported by the Advisory Group, as well as the organization of regular regional and subregional thematic conferences. The background document related to the report provides links to the 16 final chapters of the *Handbook* as endorsed by the Advisory Group.

The Commission is invited to endorse the revision process and the work of the Advisory Group and to support the new edition of the *Handbook*; support the delivery of the *Handbook* as a web-based solution; and endorse the proposed mechanisms to keep the *Handbook* relevant and up-to-date in the future.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on management and modernization of statistical systems ([E/CN.3/2021/13](#))

(j) Big data

The Commission will have before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. The report provides an overview of the activities of the various task teams, the developments regarding the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs, and the events organized by the Working Group. The report contains new guidance and data solutions for the use of earth observations, mobile phone data, automatic identification system vessel tracking data and scanner data, and on cross-cutting issues such as training, the Sustainable Development Goals and privacy-preserving techniques. It includes highlights of the sixth International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, and specific reference is made to the Seoul declaration.

The Commission is invited to express its views on the updated governance structure and the programme of work of the Global Working Group, on the direction and activities of the Global Platform and the regional hubs, and on the global training programme on the use of Big Data and data science.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/14](#))

(k) International statistical classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications. The Expert Group describes the work related to the

development and implementation of international statistical classifications in various fields and describes the work it has carried out on the coordination of classifications and the family of international statistical classifications. The report also contains the outcome of the work of the Technical Subgroup on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities on the review of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4.

The Commission is requested to comment on the issues contained in the report and to endorse the proposed revision process of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications ([E/CN.3/2021/15](#))

(l) Household surveys

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. The report provides a summary of recent developments of the Intersecretariat Working Group, including its revised terms of reference and new members from eight national statistical offices. The report also contains a summary of activities undertaken and outputs produced by the Working Group in three areas: coordination, methodological development and advocacy. Last, the Working Group presents the collective vision of the Group on the post-COVID “new normal” for household surveys and proposed future areas of work.

The Commission will also have before it the following background documents, on draft guidelines on spatial anonymization; on a technical guidance note on planning and carrying out a household survey under COVID-19; on moving towards a post-pandemic “new normal” for household surveys; and on better utilization of existing household surveys for more disaggregated gender statistics: a global toolkit.

The Commission is invited to endorse the terms of reference of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys; review the progress of work of the Group and provide guidance on its activities and outputs; and provide guidance on the proposed “new normal” for household surveys and the proposed future areas of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) ([E/CN.3/2021/16](#))

(m) Data and metadata presentation and dissemination

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on data and metadata presentation. The report provides information about the activities of the Statistics Division on the presentation and dissemination of data and metadata in collaboration with the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations. It provides an overview of the arrangements, technical infrastructure and skills required for a holistic and integrated approach to the presentation and dissemination of statistical data and metadata to different user groups. The report contains a recommendation for a vision and way forward with regard to the creation of a global United Nations data hub based on modern interoperability standards and a federated data governance architecture. It is also aimed at contributing statistical expertise and standards to the overall United Nations data strategy, the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere.

The Commission is invited to express its views on and endorse the vision and way forward for the creation of the new United Nations data hub; and to endorse the establishment of an inter-agency and expert mechanism for the regular review and update of the data contained in the United Nations data hub and its proposed terms of reference.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on data and metadata presentation and dissemination ([E/CN.3/2021/17](#))

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 on demographic statistics. The report provides a yearly summary of the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, with a focus on the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Programme. Furthermore, it contains information on the implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda and on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of national civil registration systems and the production of accurate and reliable vital statistics. It also includes information on the collection of demographic statistics through the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/18](#))

(b) Culture statistics

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) on cultural statistics. The report provides updated information on recent developments in international culture statistics. In particular, it provides information on the launch of the new survey of expenditure on cultural and natural heritage (indicator 11.4.1 of the Goals) and the UNESCO framework of thematic indicators for culture in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and serves to highlight progress in terms of other relevant activities. The report also includes information on the Institute's culture statistics programme strategy, with specific attention paid to current challenges. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on cultural statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/19](#))

(c) Climate change statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics. The report contains an update of the work of the Statistics Division in climate change statistics in response to the mandates of the Commission at its forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions, in particular with regard to

the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators and to what has been undertaken to strengthen policy and statistics cooperation on climate change at the international level. In addition, it serves to describe the current work of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including on the reporting processes under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. It also provides an update on progress made in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on climate change-related statistics and indicators. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/20](#))

(d) Disaster-related statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, a report on disaster-related statistics prepared by the core group (the Statistics Division, the regional commissions and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics. The report provides information on the establishment and terms of reference of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, as a formal mechanism under the purview of the Commission to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics involving a network across the expert communities to sustain cooperation, coordination and fundraising for enhancing statistics related to hazardous events and disasters. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the core group of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/21](#))

(e) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme. The report provides an outline of the activities undertaken in 2020 at the global, regional and national levels to complete the 2017 comparison cycle of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and to commence the 2021 comparison cycle. In the report, the World Bank describes the governance, capacity-building, research, knowledge and advocacy activities carried out in this regard. The Commission is invited to take note of the release of the ICP 2017 results in May 2020 and the postponement of the 2020 comparison to 2021, owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection and statistical processes, and to encourage ICP stakeholders to continue to support and incorporate ICP into their regular statistical work programmes.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on International Comparison Programme ([E/CN.3/2021/22](#))

(f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors. The report contains a summary of achievements, recent developments and planned activities by the initiative in such areas as the Sustainable Development Goals, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and macroeconomic statistics. It also includes an overview of capacity development in the area. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors ([E/CN.3/2021/23](#))

(g) Statistical capacity development

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development. The report provides an overview of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division in support of the efforts of countries to strengthen their national statistical capacity so as to better respond to the data challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The report also provides information on collaborative efforts for synchronizing initiatives and leveraging partnerships and coordination in the area of statistical capacity development, as well as emerging strategic frameworks. It serves to highlight efforts to develop a global training programme in the use of big data. The report includes an update on the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training. It also provides information on changes to the planned programme in 2020 owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development ([E/CN.3/2021/24](#))

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

The Commission will have before, for information, the report of 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 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

Report of 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.3/2021/25](#))

(i) National Quality Assurance Frameworks

The Commission will have before, for information, the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks. The report provides information on the activities of the Expert Group in support of the implementation of the *United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics*, which contains recommendations on quality assurance, an updated national quality assurance framework, practical guidance for its implementation and reference materials on quality assurance in the global statistical system. In the report, the Expert Group highlights the role of quality assurance in the use of new data sources and as an operational and strategic tool for statistical offices. In addition, the report contains the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group for the next two years to support countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks ([E/CN.3/2021/26](#))

(j) 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. In its report, the Expert Group provides information on its recent activities to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information, including the operationalization and implementation of the globally adopted Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, on progress made on its workplan for 2020–2022 and on other actions, including to promote and raise awareness of the work of the Expert Group in order to further strengthen the bridge between the statistical and geospatial communities. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2021/27](#))

(k) World Statistics Day

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken by the statistical community to mark the third World Statistics Day, held on 20 October 2020, on the theme “Connecting the world with data we can trust”. The report provides information on the coordination work undertaken by the Statistics Division and a summary of the activities undertaken around the world to commemorate the Day. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day ([E/CN.3/2021/28](#))

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 fifty-third 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 fifty-third 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 2021–2025. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-third session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2021/L.2](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2021–2025 ([E/CN.3/2021/29](#))

7. Report of the Commission on its fifty-second session

The Commission will have before it the procedural report of the fifty-second 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 fifty-second 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 fifty-second session

Informal paper with draft decisions
