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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 2020/211 and past practices, the present report sets out the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Council adopted in 2020, 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.3/2021/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/211 and past practices. It provides an overview of the policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2020, 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. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

2. In its resolution [74/306](#) on a comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the General Assembly called for the development of new interoperable data tools and the strengthening of platforms to inform mitigation and response actions and continuously monitor the impact of the pandemic, especially to assist people in vulnerable situations and the poorest and most vulnerable countries, to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient future and to get back on track to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon Member States to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to inform COVID-19 responses, while respecting the right to privacy, and urged Member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role of digital technologies in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to take concerted action to further new data sources and to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems, under the leadership of national statistical offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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 Development Data Group of the World Bank have conducted a multi-round survey of national statistical offices during COVID-19, in cooperation with the statistics divisions of the United Nations regional commissions. The survey questionnaires have included inputs from the International Committee on Census Coordination, the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics and members of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, and the results are made available on the COVID-19 response website of the Division and on the World Bank's COVID-19 data website at the aggregated level. Data tabulations are also made available to countries and partners at the more disaggregated level, conditional on the consent of individual countries.

5. In March 2020, the Division launched a survey to assess the impact of the pandemic on the conduct of population and housing censuses planned for or started in 2020, followed by a second survey conducted in November 2020. The results of the surveys are presented in a background paper to the report of the Secretary-General

on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2021/18), which provides an overview of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the functioning of national civil registration systems and the production of accurate and reliable vital statistics. In addition, the Division is planning an expert group meeting in December 2020 or January 2021 to document in a more comprehensive manner the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the censuses in the 2020 round and will report thereon in a background paper to be submitted to the Commission. It also continues to monitor, document and report on the impact of COVID-19 on the conduct of the population and housing censuses in the 2020 round as well as on its effects on the quality of the resulting census statistics.

6. After March 2020, the Development Account tenth tranche statistics and data programme was refocused to allow for a quick and effective programmatic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the development of collaborative data platforms, techniques and methodologies for the handling of non-traditional data sources to compile statistics and indicators to monitor and help to mitigate the impact of the crisis on people, society and the economy. Similarly, the Division has continued to implement the project on Sustainable Development Goal monitoring funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (formerly by the Department for International Development) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which covers 20 countries in Africa and Asia, refocusing the activities to address some of the data demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, the Division provided training and guidance on how to set up COVID-19 data hubs as one of the project activities to support national statistical offices in taking an active role in responding to the pandemic with official statistics.

7. In May 2020, the Division and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data established a collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes as a response to the urgent need for more timely and disaggregated data to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic effects, and to inform progress on the 2030 Agenda. A key objective of the collaborative is to address both urgent and longer-term needs to access and use administrative data for statistical purposes in a coherent and cross-cutting manner, building on advances made in various sectors and by different partners. The collaborative has members from over 20 countries and from regional and international agencies.

8. In response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption of statistical operations, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys established a task force on COVID-19, led by the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Division and the World Bank, to enhance coordination and improve efficiencies in the current data collection system; to promote and disseminate best practices and lessons learned; and to lead strategic thinking in preparing and adjusting to a post-pandemic “new normal”. The COVID-19 task force also prepared a vision paper to help countries to prepare for a new scenario in which face-to-face surveys will have to evolve and adjust to meet the challenges posed by the “new normal”. Details are contained in a background paper submitted to the Commission.

III. International cooperation in statistics

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

9. In the annex to 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 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.

10. In its resolution [2020/5](#) on strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system, the Council took note of Statistical Commission decision 50/103 of 8 March 2019 (see [E/2019/24](#), chap. I, sect. B) and recognized that coordination between the statistical programmes of the United Nations system required streamlining and improving in order to better support the efficiency of the United Nations statistical system and that the Commission remained the primary body for the coordination of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system.

11. In the same resolution, the Council 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 and requested the Division to provide adequate support to the coordination function of the Commission as well as related activities of the Committee, by considering pursuing, inter alia: a road map and action plan for the United Nations statistical programme, to be considered by the Commission; improved coordination in the area of data collection; modernized statistical processes at the United Nations as well as in Member States, upon their request; improved dialogue with the statistical community and decision makers to review the relevance of the current data requests; improved coordination in the area of capacity-building; support to United Nations regional commissions and country offices in facilitating the coordination of statistical systems at both the national and regional levels; improved knowledge-sharing and the establishment of common practices in adopting new data sources; the establishment of policies and standards for achieving open data, with required data protection for sensitive data, in conformity with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (General Assembly resolution [68/261](#)) and national laws and regulations; implementation of the United Nations Statistical Quality Assurance Framework by members of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System; collaboration and cooperation between the Committee and the United Nations Geospatial Network in the area of statistical and geospatial integration; and improved knowledge-sharing among members of the Committee in the area of the use of geospatial information in the collection, processing and dissemination of data.

12. In its resolution [74/231](#) on development cooperation with middle-income countries, the General Assembly reiterated the commitment to intensifying efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, including middle-income countries.

13. In its resolution [74/301](#) 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. In addition, in its resolution [2020/6](#) on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, 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.

14. In the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [74/15](#), Heads of State and Government, Ministers and High Representatives underscored the need to capture data to monitor the specific objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action and committed to providing landlocked developing countries with capacity-building support to strengthen their national statistical systems.

15. In the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [74/3](#), Heads of State and Government, Ministers and High Representatives, as well as the Assembly in its resolution [74/217](#) on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, called upon the Secretary-General to identify the Samoa Pathway priority areas not covered by the Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and, if any were identified, to develop forthwith targets and indicators for those priority areas while ensuring complementarities and synergies and avoiding duplication. In resolution [74/217](#), the Assembly also noted the work being done by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to provide recommendations as part of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session.

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

16. The report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on regional cooperation for development of official statistics (see [E/CN.3/2021/12](#)) draws attention to the coordination and harmonization efforts among the five statistics divisions of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as the achievements of that cooperation, in particular with respect to the harmonized presentation and interpretation of Sustainable Development Goal statistics and indicators. The report also includes a description of a coordination mechanism among the five statistics divisions and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

17. The report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development ([E/CN.3/2021/24](#)) 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 provides an overview of the capacity development activities undertaken by the Division in cooperation with other partners, including ongoing Development Account and donor-funded projects, aimed at addressing priority and emerging needs of national statistical organizations to adapt and develop, as stressed in the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. The report also describes other coordination efforts for capacity development, including through the Global Network

of Institutions for Statistical Training and the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians, and joint activities between the Division and the regional commissions.

18. The report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see [E/CN.3/2021/4](#)) provides a summary of the recent activities of the High-level Group relating to its organization of the first virtual United Nations World Data Forum, held from 19 to 21 October 2020, the preparations of a stocktaking on approaches to data stewardship and updates on the financing and implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

19. The report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (see [E/CN.3/2021/2](#)), contains a description of the activities undertaken in 2020 by the Division, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda, including the development of practical guidelines on small area estimation for the Sustainable Development Goals; a practical guide on data disaggregation; the updating of the Global Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Database; and the launch of the official Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange metadata structure definition and application programming interface for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. In addition, recent activities undertaken by the Division in support of the efforts of countries to strengthen their national statistical capacity to address the data challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda are highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2021/3](#)), including the launch of a collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, as well as joint statistical capacity development efforts with the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network within the framework of the Data For Now initiative.

20. The report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (see [E/CN.3/2021/16](#)) provides a summary of activities undertaken and outputs produced by the various task forces within the Working Group in the following main areas: coordination, methodological development, and advocacy and communication. In particular, to foster the coordination of household survey operations, the Working Group has established a task force on collecting information on retrospective and prospective national and international household surveys, led by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and a task force on developing recommendations on a comprehensive national household survey programme, led by the Division.

21. The report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (see [E/CN.3/2021/26](#)) 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 and 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.

22. The report of the Secretary-General on data and metadata presentation and dissemination ([E/CN.3/2021/17](#)) contains an overview of the arrangements, technical infrastructure and skills required for a holistic and integrated approach to the presentation and dissemination of statistical data, metadata and other related data to different user groups, and provides a vision and way forward for the implementation of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere in relation to statistical data, metadata and related visualizations.

23. The report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (see [E/CN.3/2021/15](#)) provides information on progress in the coordination of work on statistical classifications in response to the revision of the working methods of the

Commission, including plans for the implementation of innovative approaches in an effort to rationalize and reduce the time and cost associated with the cyclical review process for international statistical classifications.

24. The report of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics (see [E/CN.3/2021/7](#)) provides a description of the activities of the Friends of the Chair group, including the development of recommendations for improved working methods among statistical groups and for an agile and more responsive system of economic statistics.

IV. Gender equality

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

25. In its resolution [74/128](#), the General Assembly urged Member States to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of its twenty-third special session through enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation and encouraged Member States, with the support of United Nations entities, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through multisectoral efforts and partnerships. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon the entities of the United Nations system to annually provide up-to-date statistics, including on the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance.

26. In its resolution [74/235](#) on women in development, the General Assembly encouraged Governments, in cooperation with the United Nations system, including the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System and other relevant international organizations, upon the request of Governments, to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and statistics and to assess the impact of associated policy measures on women's: (a) employment, entrepreneurship and access to decent work and social protection; (b) unpaid care and domestic work through regular time-use surveys and the establishment of satellite accounts to assess the contribution of such work to national income; (c) informal employment, including agricultural work, disaggregated by sex, income, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location.

27. In its resolution [74/126](#) on improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas, the General Assembly urged Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support and monitor the implementation of policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls.

28. In its resolution [74/134](#) on the girl child, the General Assembly called upon States to strengthen data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status, economic situation, marital status and geographical location, and to improve gender statistics on time use, unpaid care work and water and sanitation.

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

29. The Division, in an unprecedented collaboration with 30 entities, including 14 States members of the United Nations, and in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, undertook a comprehensive assessment of progress in advancing women's rights and empowering women and girls, presented in the Secretary-General's flagship report entitled *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*. Consisting of an online interactive portal and a collection of 100 gender data stories built on a geospatially enabled data hub, the report covers progress towards gender equality in the following six critical areas, including, under each area, the impact of COVID-19 on women: (a) population and families; (b) health; (c) education; (d) economic empowerment and asset ownership; (e) power and decision-making; and (f) violence against women and the girl child.

30. Since 2018, the Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics have been working on the modernization of time-use statistics in line with international standards and using the latest technologies. The work programme is aimed at improving the availability, quality and timeliness of time-use data, including data on time spent on productive activities such as unpaid care and domestic work, on non-market production and on work-life balance, to better inform policies and research related to gender equality, including under Sustainable Development Goal 5. An initial conceptual framework to improve time-use data was developed by the Group and adopted by the Commission in 2020. The Group is also currently developing a rapid assessment instrument for countries to use in crisis situations, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

31. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, through its Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps, is assessing the use of administrative systems to derive gender data. In particular, the Group is reviewing challenges faced by countries when generating statistics for 21 gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators that can be sourced from administrative data. The Group will also identify recommendations for targeted investments in administrative systems in order to prioritize cross-tabulations complementing data from household surveys, for intersectional analysis.

32. The Division, in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland and international agencies and development partners, and under the guidance of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, will organize and convene the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics in 2021 in Bern to take stock of the state of gender statistics, identify related best practices and challenges and, overall, to advance a shared global strategy to strengthen gender data in countries.

V. Statistics on social inclusion, families, youth and ageing

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

33. In its resolution [74/120](#) on promoting social integration through social inclusion, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to improve the collection and use of high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics for the formulation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving social inclusion.

34. In its resolution [74/135](#) on the rights of indigenous peoples, the General Assembly encouraged States to collect and disseminate data disaggregated by

ethnicity, income, gender, age, race, migratory status, disability, geographic location or other factors, as appropriate, in order to monitor and improve the impact of development policies, strategies and programmes aimed at improving the well-being of indigenous peoples and individuals and to combat and eliminate violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against them.

35. In its resolution [74/123](#) on persons with albinism, the General Assembly encouraged Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, compile and disseminate disaggregated data on persons with albinism, where applicable, to identify patterns of discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of their status.

36. In its resolution [74/121](#) on policies and programmes involving youth, the General Assembly called upon Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on a proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth ([E/CN.5/2013/8](#)) for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action, and stressed the need to strengthen and support the capacity of national statistical offices to design, collect and analyse data disaggregated by sex and age so as to contribute effectively to follow-up, reporting and accountability for the achievement of the youth dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

37. In its resolution [74/125](#) on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the General Assembly recalled the establishment by the Commission of the Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data, encouraged Member States to strengthen their efforts to foster data collection and analysis in the field of ageing and recommended that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons. In the same resolution, the Assembly recognized the existence of new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in aspects of relevance to older persons, called upon Member States to collect and use data disaggregated by age, sex and disability to support the design and implementation of policies aimed at minimizing the risk to older women of all forms of violence in humanitarian emergencies, and encouraged the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to support national efforts to provide funding for data-collection initiatives on ageing.

38. In its resolution [2020/8](#) on modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the Council recalled the establishment by the Commission of the Titchfield Group and invited Member States to consider collecting and utilizing, in their national review and appraisal exercises, a combination of quantitative and participatory qualitative data gathering and analysis, disaggregated by age and also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, and, where appropriate, sharing of best practices in such data collection.

39. In its resolution [74/124](#) on follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to improve the collection and use of data, disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria, for the formulation and evaluation of family-oriented policies and programmes.

40. In its resolution [74/134](#) on the girl child, the General Assembly expressed deep concern about the continuing lack of recent information and statistics, disaggregated by sex, on the status of children in child-headed households and, in its resolution [74/133](#) on the rights of the child, it urged States to take action to improve data

collection, information management and reporting systems related to children without parental care, including by investing in quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data through capacity-building, financial support and technical assistance and ensuring that quality data guided policymaking.

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

41. The Division accelerated the work on the draft technical report on measuring Sustainable Development Goals indicators through population and housing censuses and civil registration and vital statistics data¹ and conducted a series of webinars introducing the report at the regional level. The webinars provided an opportunity to discuss the important role of population and housing censuses and civil registration and vital statistics data in estimating Sustainable Development Goal indicators for small geographic areas and in producing data disaggregated by a wide range of factors such as age, sex, ethnicity, education level and migratory and disability status. The webinars stressed the value of such censuses and data in monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicators at the subnational level and analysing them in relation to small population groups to examine disparities and identify vulnerable population groups.

42. The Division hosted the Expert Group meeting on the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* System in a virtual format from 9 to 12 November 2020, at which it was concluded that the current metadata classifications needed to be updated, given the number of examples worldwide regarding the use of different approaches for producing small-area census-like population statistics, which are of particular importance for the coverage of specific population groups.

43. Since November 2019, the Titchfield Group has continued to hold monthly steering group meetings and to regularly review its plan in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on progress. The pandemic has had a negative impact on the pace of work and availability of key members. Key achievements have therefore been focused on three related priority work strands, namely, the assessment of current evidence on ageing, the conceptual analytical framework, and standardization and harmonization.

44. With respect to the assessment of current evidence on ageing, the Titchfield Group has identified a list of countries that will be approached for a stocktaking exercise focused on how ageing- and age-related data are collected, analysed and disseminated. The countries have been chosen to be representative of different situations with respect to: world regions and subregions; life expectancy; old-age dependency ratios; and the proportion of the population aged over 65. They will be asked to provide information according to a set of themes and indicators, consistent with the conceptual and analytical framework. The framework supports the process of establishing definitions of ageing and ageing processes that are inclusive of all people, taking into account policy priorities and the needs and expectations of older adults themselves. The Group has also drafted an initial guide on the importance of harmonized principles for better international measurement of ageing-related concepts, in particular those set out in the Sustainable Development Goals.

45. In collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys is producing a set of guidance notes on sampling for household surveys to help countries to produce more disaggregated survey data for vulnerable population groups. The guidance notes are focused specifically on sampling vulnerable

¹ Available at unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/documents/tr_on_sdg_in_phc_crvs.pdf.

population groups that were identified in the 2030 Agenda and producing data relating to those groups disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location; and on those groups that were prioritized by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in its consultations with major groups and international organizations with expertise on the above-mentioned disaggregation factors.

VI. Disability statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

46. In its resolution [74/144](#) on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility, the General Assembly expressed concern over the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels and called upon States to improve data-collection systems for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals for all persons with disabilities. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged States, United Nations entities and relevant international organizations to collect data and statistics on persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other international frameworks. In particular, it urged States and other relevant stakeholders to support the disaggregation of data by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data-collection methodologies.

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

47. The Commission, at its forty-ninth session, called upon the Division to compile and analyse national information in order to understand observed differences in national estimates of disability and called for the review of methodological instruments and the provision of guidance for the disaggregation of data by disability status, as well as for a harmonized and coordinated approach for national capacity-building that took into account the short-term and long-term statistical development needs of countries. The Division has collected data on disability from countries and is making them available through a dedicated portal, the United Nations Disability Statistics Database. The Division has also conducted six regional meetings on disability measurement and statistics² and has compiled a synoptic report of the main findings from the meetings.

VII. Statistics on migration

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

48. In its resolution [74/148](#) on the protection of migrants, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international

² See unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/.

migration and the situation of migrants and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in that regard.

49. Moreover, in its resolution [74/127](#) on violence against women migrant workers, the General Assembly emphasized the need for sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, and invited the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that were gender-responsive and that protected human rights. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged Governments to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Division, ILO and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that would generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process; to measure recruitment costs and fees; and to support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances.

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

50. The Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics are bringing to the fifty-second session of the Commission, for adoption, a revised conceptual framework on statistics of international migration and mobility, including definitions of the term “international migrant” and related phenomena, contained in the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/11](#)). The conceptual framework, based on the results of a global consultation to gauge national practices and data needs related to international migration, is the centrepiece of the ongoing revision of the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. Once finalized, the revised Recommendations will also cover (a) data needs for policymaking; (b) guidance on data collection and analyses; (c) new migration patterns and new data sources; and (d) relevant statistical frameworks, and harmonization thereof. The report also describes capacity-development activities related to migration statistics and the initial development of a global programme to strengthen national statistical systems on migration as well as early preparations for the third International Forum on Migration Statistics.

51. The Division is implementing a capacity-development project to improve the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In particular, the project, which will run until December 2021, is aimed at strengthening national capacity in producing internationally comparable basic migration data, as well as socioeconomic statistics disaggregated by migratory status, for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring.

VIII. Humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

52. In its resolution [74/115](#) on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, the General Assembly noted the importance of sharing best practices on the collection of data on persons

displaced in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change, and encouraged Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments and targeted and more effective assistance, as well as through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences. In that context, the Assembly encouraged the United Nations system and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis, and also encouraged Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies.

53. In its resolution [74/118](#) on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the General Assembly emphasized that the use of open and disaggregated data is crucial to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises, called upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity to use sex- and age-disaggregated data in humanitarian relief, and 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 disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, to develop common mechanisms and methodologies for improving the quality, transparency, reliability, compatibility and comparability of data on and analysis of humanitarian needs, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

54. In its resolution [74/160](#) on protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, the General Assembly recognized the need to collect reliable, timely, longitudinal and disaggregated data on internally displaced persons and the impact of new and protracted displacement on host communities, as well as the relevance of the Global Internal Displacement Database maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support available from the inter-agency Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service. In the same resolution, the Assembly noted the initiative of the Commission to develop international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics.

55. In its resolution [74/218](#) on disaster risk reduction, the General Assembly urged States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to prioritize the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases to augment efforts to create or enhance systems for data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, and to work towards the collection and open exchange and dissemination of information disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability and on historical disaster losses. It also encouraged States to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, and invited Member States to mobilize national statistical and planning offices and other relevant authorities, and strengthen their capacity in the systemic collection, analysis and validation of disaster risk data to institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors. In the same resolution, the Assembly 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, and in that regard recognized the importance of prioritizing capacity-building support to developing countries.

56. In its resolution [74/82](#) on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the General Assembly expressed its desire to enhance 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 and to facilitate capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries.

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

57. Following Statistical Commission decision 50/116, 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, developed the terms of reference for the establishment and coordination of a formal mechanism under the purview of the Statistical 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, as described in the report of the core group of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (see [E/CN.3/2021/21](#)).

58. The report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics ([E/CN.3/2021/20](#)) contains an update on the work of the Division on climate change statistics, in particular with regard to the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators and the strengthening of policy and statistics cooperation on climate change at the international level. The report also provides information on the current work of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with regard to, inter alia, the reporting processes under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement. The report also covers the progress made by international and regional organizations on climate change-related statistics and indicators.

IX. Cooperatives and financial inclusion

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

59. In its resolution [74/119](#) on cooperatives in social development, the General Assembly encouraged Governments to develop a statistical framework for the systematic collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data on cooperative enterprises, taking into consideration available methodologies, such as the guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives.

60. In its resolution [74/205](#) on financial inclusion for sustainable development, the General Assembly recognized the growing importance of financial technology actors and new instruments and platforms, including mobile banking and peer-to-peer platforms, as well as the potential of big data and artificial intelligence, and invited

countries to exchange experiences and promote peer learning in that area and further enhance capacity-building in that regard.

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

61. The report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (see [E/CN.3/2021/9](#)) provides information on the work programme of the Committee's task team on well-being and sustainability, which includes working towards a definition of social enterprises and a common framework and terminology surrounding social enterprises, building on the guidance provided on the third or social economy in the recent United Nations handbook entitled *Satellite Account on Non-profit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work*.

X. Culture statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

62. In its resolution [74/230](#) on culture and sustainable development, the General Assembly invited UNESCO and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with countries, the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative data, including indicators and statistics.

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

63. The report of the Institute for Statistics of UNESCO on cultural statistics (see [E/CN.3/2021/19](#)) provides information on the launch of the new survey of expenditure on cultural and natural heritage (indicator 11.4.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals), the UNESCO framework of thematic indicators for culture in the 2030 Agenda, the purpose of which is to measure and monitor the progress of the enabling contribution of culture to the national and local implementation of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and the cultural statistics programme strategy of the Institute, with specific attention paid to current challenges.

XI. Agriculture statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

64. In its resolution [74/215](#) on agricultural technology for sustainable development, the General Assembly recognized that the development and open access to mega data and information would bring about profound changes in agricultural research, agricultural extension and rural development, and stressed the need to support and strengthen information systems and statistical systems for better disaggregated data collection and processing. It invited the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to consider ways to make available, on mutually agreed terms, data and information relating to agriculture and food systems, including meteorology, big data, the Internet of things, satellite imagery, early warning systems and other data-based technologies, that could help to build the resilience of family farmers and smallholder producers, optimize yields and support rural livelihoods. Moreover, the Assembly

stressed the importance of indicators that could be used to formulate targeted policies towards the adoption of agricultural technology and to measure their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, and in that regard encouraged Member States, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to continue to contribute to the ongoing work of the Commission on the global indicator framework.

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

65. Since April 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Division have collaborated on a joint project on the United Nations Global Platform, using the Sen2-Agri toolbox developed by the European Space Agency to develop in-country capacity in Senegal and Uganda to leverage earth observation data for the production of official crop statistics. Furthermore, in October 2020, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the task team on earth observation data of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics officially agreed to join forces in the use of earth observation for land cover mapping and agriculture statistics.
