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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 2022/324 and past practices, the present report presents the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Council adopted in 2022, or earlier, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. 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.3/2023/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2022/324 and past practices. It provides an overview of the policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2022, 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. Geospatial information

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

2. In its resolution [2021/16](#) on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the Institute to continue to develop training programming in the use of geospatial technologies and knowledge derived from satellite imagery.

3. In its resolution [2022/3](#) on ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem, the Economic and Social Council recognized the importance for national statistical and data systems to integrate statistical and geospatial information.

4. In its resolution [2022/24](#) on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, the Economic and Social Council recognized the sustained efforts of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability, and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

5. The report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2023/19](#)) provides information on the outcomes of its seventh meeting in Santiago, including on expanding the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain. The report also contains discussions of the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/3](#) and of the Statistical Commission's response to growing demands for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

6. At its fifty-third session and further to its decision 53/101 (see [E/2022/24](#)), the Statistical Commission adopted the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap for statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework, which is aimed at guiding and enhancing the awareness of geospatial information and related data sources, tools and methods for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2023/2) contains a description of the ongoing and planned activities of its working group on geospatial information to support countries in implementing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, including guidance to disaggregate Sustainable Development Goal indicators by geographical location.

III. Humanitarian and disaster preparedness and response data

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

8. In General Assembly resolution 76/3 entitled “the ‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development”, Member States emphasized that the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 requires improved access to space-based data, and committed themselves to promote space open data policies and the sharing of disaster monitoring data.

9. In its resolution 76/124 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the General Assembly emphasized that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, through the use of open and disaggregated data, are crucial for a more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon Member States and relevant organizations to ensure that humanitarian relief makes greater use of sex- and age-disaggregated data beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response. The Assembly also called upon the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations organizations to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible, disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response.

10. In its resolution 76/128 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of disaggregated data regarding displacement in the context of natural disasters, as well as the sharing of best practices in that regard, and to increase efforts to improve the availability and use of data on food security and nutrition risks and impacts, the use of remote-sensing technologies and the sharing of geographical data for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged Member States to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach; and encouraged the United Nations system and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis. The Assembly 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.

11. In its resolution [76/204](#) on disaster risk reduction, the General Assembly 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.

12. In its resolution [2022/10](#) on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council requested Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all stages of humanitarian response through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of disaggregated data, and taking into account information provided by affected States.

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

13. The report of the core group of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/28](#)) contains a description of recent progress in implementing decision 50/116 (see [E/2019/24](#)) to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics and outlines planned work of the Expert Group during the period 2023–2024.

14. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group aims to submit recommendations for a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics to the Statistical Commission in 2024, following the organization of the third expert forum for producers and users of disaster-related statistics (hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) in 2023 and a consultation with experts from the statistical and disaster risk reduction communities.

15. The final Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators was adopted at the fifty-third session of the Statistical Commission as the statistical framework for preparing national sets of climate change statistics and indicators. As emphasized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, this Global Set can assist countries in identifying indicators and statistics for monitoring the Sendai Framework.

16. The Statistics Division is supporting the development by the Pacific Community of a survey module on climate change and disasters for the Pacific islands, aimed at implementing the Global Set, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals using data at a disaggregated level.

IV. Poverty statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

17. In its resolution [76/218](#) on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), the General Assembly stressed the importance of using multidimensional indicators and developing transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that complemented gross domestic product (GDP). In the same resolution, the Assembly recognized the importance of strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to data that are of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated, and encouraged the United Nations system to continue to support developing countries in capacity development in such areas as building national statistical systems, data analysis and disaggregation.

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

18. The report of the Network of Economic Statisticians ([E/CN.3/2023/7](#)) includes a description of the progress made by the Network and an overview of proposed activities and deliverables in the work programme for 2023, including on the topic “Beyond GDP”, which is focused on exploring the feasibility of a research agenda for a new integrated statistical system for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being.

19. In November 2022, the Statistics Division jointly organized an international seminar with the National Bureau of Statistics of China on measuring shared prosperity for exchanging experience on innovations in the measurement of poverty and prosperity.

V. Education and culture statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

20. In its resolution [76/134](#) on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of its twenty-fourth special session, the General Assembly encouraged all States to measure progress in the realization of the right to education, such as by developing national indicators as an important tool for the realization of the right to education and for policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency.

21. In its resolution [76/214](#) on culture and sustainable development, the General Assembly invited the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to continue to provide support, to facilitate financing and to assist countries, in consultation with them and upon their request, in developing their national capacities to optimize and assess the contribution of culture to sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative and qualitative indicators and statistics.

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

22. The report of the Institute for Statistics of UNESCO on statistics on science, technology and innovation ([E/CN.3/2023/26](#)) provides information on recent developments in the measurement of international science, technology and innovation statistics. It contains information on the current science, technology and innovation statistics programme strategies, directions and priorities of the Institute, covering the areas of data collection, methodological developments and capacity-development activities, and placing specific emphasis on current and future challenges.

VI. Social inclusion statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

23. In its resolution [76/136](#) 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.

24. In its resolution [76/148](#) on the rights of indigenous peoples, the General Assembly encouraged States to collect and disseminate data disaggregated by ethnicity, race, migratory status and other factors, as appropriate, 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 forms of discrimination against them.

25. In its resolution [76/130](#) 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.

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

26. In its decision 53/119 (see [E/2022/24](#)), the Statistical Commission underscored the importance of a horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics and identified emerging priority areas, including, inter alia, well-being and social inclusion, and requested the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics to coordinate with relevant committees and groups of experts to avoid duplication of work and strengthen coordination with other statistical domains. In that context, a task team on well-being and sustainability includes in its work programme the development of recommendations for the measurement of selected key aspects concerning the effect of the enterprise sector on equality and social inclusion, including with regard to gender, vulnerable groups and social enterprises.

27. On 10 and 11 November 2022, the Statistics Division held an Expert Group meeting on the topic “Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework”, in Bangkok,¹ at which participants discussed: (a) how citizens can contribute to data for advocacy, research and/or public policy; (b) challenges and opportunities in collaboration between civil society and national statistical systems; and (c) mechanisms to harness citizens’ contribution to data, including to fill critical gaps in data about groups suffering from social exclusion and to advance fairness, inclusiveness, openness and transparency in statistics.

VII. Ageing-related statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

28. In its resolution [76/138](#) on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the General Assembly, recalling the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data, encouraged Member States to strengthen data collection and analysis in the field of ageing and recommended them to enhance their capacity to collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons. In the same resolution, the Assembly 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.

¹ See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/harnessing-data-by-citizens-for-public-policy-and-SDG-monitoring>.

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

29. As part of the proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for the period 2023–2027, the Commission is expected to discuss the topic of ageing statistics and age-disaggregated data, including the work of the Titchfield Group, at its fifty-fifth session in 2024.

30. In 2021, a survey carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data helped to identify challenges faced in collecting data on older persons during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to ensure that the adoption of remote data collection methods did not inadvertently exclude or harm vulnerable groups. Similarly, at the Expert Group meeting on the topic “Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework”, participants highlighted that active engagement with communities and civil society organizations representing older persons was crucial to ensuring that their voices were heard and their needs were reflected in official statistics.

VIII. Statistics on persons with disabilities

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

31. In its resolution [76/154](#) entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: participation”, the General Assembly expressed concern at the continuing lack of high-quality, timely and reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities and recognized the need to intensify efforts to build the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse and use data disaggregated by disability, sex and age using appropriate measurement tools, including, inter alia, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)/Washington Group module on child functioning and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon States to improve data-collection systems for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals for all persons with disabilities.

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

32. As part of the proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for the period 2023–2027, the Commission is expected to discuss the topic of disability statistics, including the work of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement, at its fifty-fifth session in 2024.

33. At the Expert Group meeting on the topic “Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework”, participants highlighted the critical need to engage with communities and civil society organizations representing persons with disabilities to ensure that their voices and needs were fully reflected in official statistics.

IX. Gender statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

34. In its resolution [76/142](#) on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of its twenty-third special session, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the creation of the United Nations system-wide dashboard on gender parity by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in support of the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity, and called upon UN-Women and the United Nations system to continue to support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through the monitoring of progress with data. In the same resolution, the Assembly urged Member States and encouraged stakeholders to improve regular collection, analysis and use of gender statistics, including through strengthening national statistical capacities, while encouraging Member States, with the support of United Nations entities and other relevant actors, to prioritize 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.

35. In its resolution [76/146](#) on the girl child, the General Assembly called upon States to strengthen disaggregated data collection on the girl child and improve gender statistics on time use, unpaid care work and water and sanitation in order to better understand the situations of girls and the multiple forms of discrimination they face.

36. In its resolution [76/140](#) 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 address the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated statistics on disabilities; intensify efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics; and strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate gender statistics.

37. In its resolution [76/141](#) on violence against women migrant workers, the General Assembly emphasized the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics on violence against women migrant workers.

38. In its resolution [76/252](#) on addressing the situation of widows, the General Assembly noted with regret the absence of high-quality, reliable, timely and disaggregated data and gender statistics on the estimates of widowhood and the needs and roles of widows, and called upon Member States to collect and analyse high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated and globally comparable data on the status of widows and ensure that future surveys and censuses accurately report on household composition and the relationships of household members and female heads of households and correctly designate widowhood status. In that regard, the Assembly also called upon Member States to provide support for developing countries for capacity-building on data collection

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

39. At its fifth-third session, the Statistical Commission supported the establishment of an advisory group on mainstreaming a gender perspective to develop a plan for the implementation and monitoring of its decision 51/115 (see [E/2020/24](#)), in

collaboration with other experts on the subject matter. In 2022, to support that work, the Statistics Division facilitated and contributed to discussions among international experts on gender, environment and trade statistics, to identify synergies between relevant groups working under the auspices of the Commission.

40. A publication entitled “Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: the gender snapshot 2022”, which was prepared jointly by UN-Women and the Statistics Division, contains the most recent data on gender equality across all 17 Goals and shows how women and girls are disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

41. The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa framework was endorsed at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa. The framework is aligned with the minimum set of gender indicators agreed by the Commission in 2013 and comprises indicators on: economic structures; participation in productive activities and access to resources, health and related services; education; the human rights of women and the girl child; public life and decision-making; and the environment and climate change.

X. Statistics on children

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

42. In its resolution [76/146](#) on the girl child, the General Assembly expressed deep concern about the continuing lack of recent information and disaggregated statistics on the status of children, including girls, and their socioeconomic conditions, including those in rural and remote areas.

43. In its resolution [76/147](#) on the rights of the child, the General Assembly called upon States to generate statistical information on violence and bullying against children, urging them to ensure a comprehensive approach to data collection, compilation and storage methods; strengthen child age-sensitive indicators; increase the disaggregation of data; strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships between national statistical offices, national human rights institutions and local civil society organizations; allocate adequate resources to national statistical offices and appoint child rights focal points in those institutions; ensure adequate investments in data ecosystems; and provide political and institutional support to data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and use.

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

44. Following several expert group meetings and a global consultation between May and October 2022, UNICEF submitted the international classification on violence against children to the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications for endorsement. After reviewing it, the Committee recommended that the classification be approved as an international standard by the Statistical Commission.

XI. Migration statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

45. In its resolution [76/172](#) on 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 migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in that regard.

46. In its resolution [76/141](#) on violence against women migrant workers, the General Assembly invited the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of disaggregated data and information for the formulation of gender-responsive migration and labour policies that protect human rights. In the same resolution, it encouraged Governments to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division, the International Labour Organization and UN-Women, to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process. Moreover, the Assembly encouraged Governments to support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation.

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

47. The report of the Secretary-General on social statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/5](#)) summarizes the work undertaken by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics to identify a set of core and additional indicators on international migration and temporary mobility as part of the upcoming revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics for International Migration* and in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

48. In 2023 and 2024, the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics will finalize the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, bringing together the revised conceptual framework and corresponding operational guidelines, the set of core and additional indicators, a review of data sources and other material on data integration for the production of migration statistics. The revised Recommendations will include advice on communication issues concerning the production and dissemination of statistics on international migration and migrants.

49. The third International Forum on Migration Statistics² is being organized by the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and is to be hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago from 24 to 26 January 2023. The forum will bring together producers and users of migration statistics and mobilize expertise in the fields of statistics, economics, demography, sociology, geospatial science and information technology to identify ways to improve the collection, analysis and use of migration data.

² See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migrationstat-forum-2023>.

XII. Statistics on internally displaced persons

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

50. In its resolution [76/167](#) on protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, the General Assembly recognized the need for increased coverage, quality, reliability, timeliness and availability of data on internally displaced persons and the impact of new and protracted displacement on host communities and noted the adoption by the Statistical Commission of *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics*. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged Member States, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams to contribute to the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations and encouraged States to take into account the *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics* through their national statistics offices, where applicable.

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

51. Pursuant to decision 53/109 of the Statistical Commission (see [E/2022/24](#)), the report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/22](#)) provides an overview of progress related to the implementation of the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* and the *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics*. In the report, 102 concrete examples of implementation are identified at the country and institutional levels, which demonstrates the progress made to incorporate data on forcibly displaced populations into national data collection activities.

52. The task team on use of mobile phone data for official statistics, led by the International Telecommunication Union, released several methodological guides on the use of mobile phone data for displacement and disaster statistics, dynamic population mapping, measuring the information society, migration statistics and tourism statistics.³

XIII. Crime and criminal justice statistics

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

53. In its resolution [76/187](#) on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly took note of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UNDP *Manual on Corruption Surveys*, the development of methodological tools, standards and guidelines for the production of statistics on corruption, and the launch of the first UNODC *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants*. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Office to continue to support Member States, upon request, in addressing the links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, improved data collection and analysis and strengthened national statistical systems, and in that respect invited Member States to provide the Office with relevant information and suitably disaggregated data. Moreover, the Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States

³ See <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/MPDTS>.

to gradually adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice and requested the Office to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, timely and comparable data and information in that context.

54. In its resolution [76/149](#) on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the General Assembly underlined the importance of reliable disaggregated data and statistics on racist and xenophobic crimes.

55. In its resolution [76/173](#) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, the General Assembly called upon States to collect and analyse disaggregated data on online and offline attacks or violence against journalists, and to strengthen national collection of disaggregated data, analysis and reporting on the number of verified harmful acts against journalists and associated media personnel, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1, and to do their utmost to make those data available to the relevant entities, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO.

56. In its resolution [76/174](#) on implementing the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms through providing a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and ensuring their protection, including in the context of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly called upon States to strengthen national disaggregated data collection, analysis and reporting on the number of verified cases of harmful acts against human rights advocates, as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1, and to do their utmost to make those data available to the relevant entities.

57. In its resolution [76/185](#) on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment, the General Assembly strongly encouraged Member States to improve and enhance the collection, quality, availability and analysis of data on crimes that affect the environment, consider undertaking national statistical capacity-building in that regard and share such data on a voluntary basis with UNODC. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Office to strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate and reliable data and information on trends in crimes that affect the environment, and to report to Member States thereon on a periodic basis.

58. In its resolution [76/196](#) on the promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development, the General Assembly recognized the importance of enhanced capacity for data collection and analysis to combat illicit financial flows and, in that context, emphasized the need to increase the exchange of data within national government institutions as well as from international institutions.

59. In its resolution [2021/25](#) on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Economic and Social Council recalled the need to strengthen efforts to prevent, counter and combat trafficking in persons, including by supporting data collection and sharing as appropriate, through relevant technical assistance by UNODC.

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

60. The report of UNODC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on corruption measurement (E/CN.3/2023/21) provides information on the statistical framework to support Member States in measuring corruption, its impact and all aspects relevant to preventing and combating it. The report is a follow-up to the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption (see Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex), in which it was outlined that a comprehensive, scientifically sound and objective statistical framework, grounded in methodological work and reliable data sources, needed to be developed in coordination with the Statistical Commission.

61. Since May 2021, IOM and UNODC have been leading the development of the international classification standard for administrative data on trafficking in persons, aimed at improving the harmonization and comparability of data related to trafficking in persons. The work has included a consultative workshop with Governments, academia, civil society and the private sector, as well as a series of online and in-person training sessions and workshops with 200 government officials, mostly from Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. The classification will be reviewed by the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications prior to its submission to the Statistical Commission.

XIV. Macroeconomic statistics

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

62. In its resolution 76/238 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to submit national accounts data under the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) on a timely basis, and supported the efforts of the Statistics Division in supporting statistics at the national level and in providing support to countries and regional organizations to enhance coordination, advocacy and resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

63. In its resolution 76/193 on external debt sustainability and development, the General Assembly stressed the need for the improved collection and quality of debt data, including on features such as level, composition, ownership, currency denomination and jurisdiction according to national priorities. In the same resolution, the Assembly called for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect and release data, welcomed the ongoing work on monitoring financial stress in developing countries and efforts to create a central data registry, and called for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation to increase the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard. The Assembly also encouraged Member States, the United Nations system, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other relevant stakeholders and international financial institutions to scale up technical assistance in debt data recording and reporting, while inviting the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation and inclusive dialogue with international financial institutions and relevant international stakeholders, to continue its statistical work on debt issues.

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

64. The report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts ([E/CN.3/2023/8](#)) provides information on progress made in updating the 2008 SNA, including the development of guidance notes on the research issues identified for the 2008 SNA update, the outreach initiative to inform national accounts compilers and users about the update process and to collect feedback from them, and coordination with the update of other economic statistical standards. In addition, the report contains the programme of work of the Group and of the regional commissions, as well as an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level.

65. The conceptual and methodological responsibilities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics concerning external debt statistics and public sector debt statistics have been successfully transferred to the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics, the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the IMF Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee. Several conceptual and methodological issues are being addressed in the context of the update of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual and the System of National Accounts, and data management activities concerning debt statistics across international organizations and national agencies have been significantly improved.

XV. Environment statistics

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

66. In its resolution [76/208](#) on the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the General Assembly invited the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and other relevant United Nations entities to support the Executive Director of UNEP in the development of a global environmental data strategy by 2025, as referred to in the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

67. In its resolution [2022/17](#) on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Economic and Social Council invited members of the Forum and the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to make use of the global core set of forest-related indicators, and invited the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to arrange further work on tier 3 indicators, including the improvement of concepts, definitions and voluntary testing in the field.

68. In its resolution [76/72](#) on oceans and the law of the sea, the General Assembly recalled that FAO has developed guidance for the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems through the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas and noted its ongoing work to support application of the Guidelines by States and to maintain a database of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

69. In its resolution [76/71](#) on sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and

related instruments, the General Assembly reaffirmed its request that FAO initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing on the high seas by vessels flying their flag at the subregional and regional levels where no such arrangements exist, and revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch is taken.

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

70. Following decision 53/115 of the Statistical Commission (see [E/2022/24](#)), the technical committee of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting established two working groups with the objective of advancing ecosystem accounts on forest ecosystems or oceans by identifying best practices, methods, models, data and tools, looking at biophysical and monetary aspects and examining policy entry points.

71. The report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting ([E/CN.3/2023/11](#)) provides an overview of progress on the global implementation of the central framework and ecosystem accounting of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. It also describes progress made on global data collection and databases and the engagement of the statistical community in the development of emerging business reporting and disclosure initiatives on the environment and ecosystems. In addition, the report provides a summary of the results of the international collection of environment statistics carried out by the Statistics Division from 1999 to 2020, as well as conclusions relevant to future work, especially with regard to several environment-related Sustainable Development Goals.

72. The Statistics Division, with the support of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics and Member States, has advanced a repository of national census and survey questionnaires covering a variety of themes relevant to environment and climate change statistics, including agriculture, air and climate, energy, environmental expenditure, fisheries, waste and water.⁴

XVI. Innovative data sources

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

73. In its resolution [76/200](#) on agricultural technology for sustainable development, the General Assembly 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.

74. In its resolution [2021/29](#) on science, technology and innovation for development, the Economic and Social Council recognized that citizen science can vastly expand data collection.

75. In its resolution [2022/3](#) on ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem, the Economic and Social Council emphasized the need for technological innovations to systematically modernize statistical offices and national statistical and data systems in response to

⁴ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/censuses>.

the wide range of new types of statistical and data sources that can be integrated, after quality assurance, to produce statistics.

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

76. The report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/17](#)) contains a summary of achievements, recent developments and activities planned by the task teams of the Committee and by its regional and sector hubs. The report also includes proposals on collaboration between the task teams and the hubs and between the Committee and the geospatial community, as well as on the role of privacy-enhancing technologies in facilitating access to privately held data and on the terms of reference for the network of data science leaders.

77. The Data for Now initiative supports countries in the use of innovative sources, technologies and methods for the streamlined production and dissemination of better, more timely and disaggregated data related to specific Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative is jointly led by the Statistics Division, the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics, in coordination with members of national statistical systems and other partners.

78. A collaborative group on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes was launched in May 2020 in response to the need for more timely and disaggregated data for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to the COVID-19 pandemic. The collaborative is jointly convened by the Statistics Division and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and expanded its membership to over 30 countries and 25 regional and international agencies in 2020.

79. Following an Expert Group meeting on the topic "Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework", which was held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 November 2022, the Statistics Division and partner organizations agreed to establish a collaborative group with national statistical offices, relevant entities within the national statistical systems, civil society organizations, academia and regional and international organizations to share knowledge and experiences in leveraging citizens' contribution to data and to inform further normative work required in that regard. In that context, the Statistics Division is collaborating with the International Civil Society Centre to test a draft quality assurance toolkit for producers of citizen-generated data in various countries.

XVII. Data stewardship

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

80. In its resolution [2022/3](#) on ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem, the Economic and Social Council emphasized the importance for Member States of seeking improved coordination across national statistical and data systems through an expanded role of the national statistical offices in the changing data landscape, where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national statistical and data systems.

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

81. Pursuant to its decision 52/103 (see [E/2021/24](#)), the Statistical Commission established the Working Group on Data Stewardship to explore the development of guidance for national statistical offices on approaches to data stewardship. The report of the Working Group on Data Stewardship ([E/CN.3/2023/20](#)) provides information on its various workstreams and its workplan for 2023 and includes a proposal for the way forward and for a consultation mechanism to clarify the data stewardship role of national statistical offices.

82. In November 2022, the Statistics Division and Statistics Korea organized an international seminar on data stewardship and the secure sharing of data, which covered data governance, equity and inclusion, as well as data sharing and collaboration. Issues related to protecting the privacy of data while ensuring its full utilization were also covered during the seminar.

XVIII. Statistical capacity development

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

83. In its resolution [2022/3](#) on ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem, the Economic and Social Council emphasized the need to ensure data coherence, comparability, privacy and confidentiality, and to balance the privacy, protection, use, transparency and accessibility of data. In the same resolution, the Council recognized the need to strengthen the digital, technological and innovative capacities of the United Nations statistical system and of national statistical and data systems and requested the United Nations development system to support developing countries in strengthening their statistical and data systems adherent to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

84. In its resolution [76/203](#) on the 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, the General Assembly recognized the need for improved data collection and statistical analysis to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. In that regard, the Assembly welcomed the progress on the development of a monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, reiterated the call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist with strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, and further called upon the Secretary-General to continue to update the Assembly on that matter.

85. In its resolution [76/215](#) 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, and recognized that Governments will have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals through quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data.

86. In its resolution [76/297](#) entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, the General Assembly reiterated the need to support African countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data.

87. Similarly, in its resolution [2022/6](#) on social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, the Economic and Social Council encouraged African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and 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.

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

88. The report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development ([E/CN.3/2023/14](#)) contains a description of recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division in support of countries’ efforts to strengthen their national statistical capacity and to better respond to data challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It also provides information on changes enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also includes descriptions of collaborative efforts to synchronize initiatives and leverage partnerships, of coordination in statistical capacity development and of emerging strategic frameworks.

89. The report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development ([E/CN.3/2023/10](#)) includes thematic highlights on progress made on statistical development in the African region towards transforming and modernizing the data and statistics value chain. The report also contains an outline of activities undertaken to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African Statistical System and work done to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 of the Africa Union.

XIX. Work of the Statistical Commission

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

90. In its resolution [2022/3](#) on ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the Statistical Commission as the primary body for the coordination of the global statistical programmes, while recognizing its achievements and expressing support for its work in promoting the development of the national and international statistical and data systems by means of adopting international statistical standards and the frameworks for monitoring social, economic and environmental progress.

91. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council called upon the United Nations statistical and data-related system to report on work within all domains to the Statistical Commission to enable the latter to fulfil its function as the primary body responsible for the management of statistical information and governance of statistics and data. Moreover, the Council considered that the ultimate goal of the work of the Commission and that of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the

United Nations regional commissions in that respect should be the achievement of an integrated statistical and data system in adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Council resolution 2006/6, as well as the effective presentation, visualization and dissemination of international statistics and data by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system, particularly in the context of major United Nations development agendas and taking into account the needs of developing countries.

92. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council requested the Statistical Commission, with the support of the Statistics Division as its secretariat, to play the role as the apex forum for discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices on statistics and data across all domains, to develop and maintain international statistical standards and norms, tools and methodologies, to support and bolster the development of sustainable national statistical systems, to develop and build the capacity of national systems, to advocate for the professional community of official statistics, and to ensure continued innovations to adapt to the changing statistical and data system.

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

93. The report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Statistical Commission ([E/CN.3/2023/15](#)) provides information on the ongoing work on the review of Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/3](#), by which the Council updated the terms of reference of the Commission, and its applications to existing workstreams, and highlights areas for further work. The Bureau also highlights how the framework for groups adopted in 2020 is relevant to addressing the scope of the new terms of reference. Moreover, the Bureau provides a review of the multi-year programme of work in the light of the proposed revision to the Classification of Statistical Activities (under agenda item 3 (j), International statistical classifications). The report also contains updates on other initiatives undertaken by the Bureau during the intersessional period in 2022 and 2023.

94. The report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2023/12](#)) provides an overview of preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Principles and highlights possible tools to enhance the applicability of the Principles and to prevent violations of them.