



United Nations

Statistical Commission

**Report on the fiftieth session
(5–8 March 2019)**

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 2019

Supplement No. 4



Statistical Commission

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United Nations • New York, 2019

Note

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its fiftieth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fiftieth session;
- (b) Decides that the fifty-first session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2020;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session

3. Demographic and social statistics:

- (a) Demographic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (b) Disability statistics;

Documentation

Joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

- (c) Gender statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (d) Refugee statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons
Statistics

- (e) Civil registration and vital statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (f) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data;

Documentation

Report of the Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and
age-disaggregated data

- (g) Health statistics.

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

4. Economic statistics:

- (a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

- (b) Agricultural and rural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- (c) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (d) Business and trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

- (e) Service statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

- (f) Information and communications technology statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication
Technology for Development

- (g) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

- (h) International Comparison Programme;
Documentation
Report of the World Bank
- (i) Short-term economic indicators;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
- (j) Finance statistics;
Documentation
Report of the International Monetary Fund
- (k) Price statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics
Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Statistics
- (l) Future of economic statistics.
Documentation
Report of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics
- 5. Natural resources and environment statistics:
 - (a) Environment statistics;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Environmental-economic accounting.
Documentation
Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
- 6. Activities not classified by field:
 - (a) Coordination of statistical programmes;
Documentation
Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
 - (b) International statistical classifications;
Documentation
Report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications
 - (c) Dissemination of statistics by the Statistics Division;
Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General

- (d) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Documentation

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

- (f) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

- (g) Big data;

Documentation

Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

- (h) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

- (i) Governance, peace and security statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics

- (j) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

- (k) Open data;

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Open Data

- (l) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;

Documentation

Report of the Bureau on working methods: streamlining the governance of groups

- (m) Management and modernization of statistical systems.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
8. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-second session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

9. Report of the Commission on its fifty-first session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council.

50/101

Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators,¹ and expressed its appreciation to the Group for its quality work and the progress made in the implementation of its mandate;

(b) Agreed on the proposed annual refinements, as presented in annex II to the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made towards finalizing the methodologies for many tier III indicators, and stressed the urgent need to complete the methodological development of the indicators remaining in tier III to ensure that the review of all Sustainable Development Goals and targets is not delayed;

(d) Also expressed its appreciation to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group for its work on identifying proxies for immediate use to monitor targets while tier III indicators for those targets are being finalized, and welcomed the list of global proxy indicators available on the website of the Group;

(e) Further expressed its appreciation for the ongoing work to improve data flows and global reporting, especially the collaborative work that took place between the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, and endorsed the criteria for the implementation of the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals, contained in annex I to the report;

(f) Welcomed the background document entitled “Best practices in data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals” as a useful compilation of case studies on data flows from countries to international agencies,

¹ E/CN.3/2019/2.

and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to continue to regularly update the document as additional best practices are identified;

(g) Took note of the request that non-response by countries should not be considered as consent to publish;

(h) Encouraged the continuous sharing of best practices with regard to the automation of data flows from countries to international agencies, using national data platforms and databases that contain sufficiently detailed information, including metadata, with a view to reducing the reporting burden for countries and supporting country ownership of data;

(i) Welcomed the background document entitled “Data disaggregation and Sustainable Development Goal indicators: policy priorities and current and future disaggregation plans” as a useful reference on the categories and dimensions of data disaggregation and on policy priorities for the most vulnerable population groups, and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to continue its work on data disaggregation to fulfil the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² of leaving no one behind;

(j) Recognized that the 2020 comprehensive review provides an opportunity to improve the global indicator framework, endorsed the proposed guiding principles, criteria and timeline for the review, and encouraged the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to consider the existing standards and framework, including the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, in the review, to improve Sustainable Development Goal monitoring;

(k) Took note of the suggestions on some indicators that might be considered by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group during the comprehensive reviews, including total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD);

(l) Welcomed the background document prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group working group on interlinkages;

(m) Stressed that many countries still face challenges in addressing the data needs for the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterated the urgent need for increased resources and coordinated statistical and analytical capacity-building, in particular for African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(n) Approved the proposed work programme of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, as described in section VI of its report.

50/102

Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,³ and expressed its appreciation for the work of the Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations system, in support of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ including the preparation of *The Sustainable*

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³ E/CN.3/2019/3.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Development Goals Report 2018 and the updating of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database;

(b) Stressed, in line with General Assembly resolution 70/1, the importance of national data for the review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals based on the official indicators developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the critical role of the annual report on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in this respect, compiled with data produced by national statistical systems;

(c) Requested the Statistics Division to continue to lead the work of coordination with the United Nations statistical system in the preparation of the report to be presented as one of the key inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to provide the strong objective information base for the political discussion, clearly distinct from other analytical pieces that the forum will consider;

(d) Recognized that national data and statistics are the most important element for the review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomed the launch of the electronic handbook as a tool to assist countries in the compilation of indicators at the national level;

(e) Welcomed the extensive development cooperation and technical assistance activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and its partners to assist Member States in making Sustainable Development Goal data available, and stressed the need for the coordination and integration of those activities;

(f) Endorsed the draft principles and guidelines for national reporting and dissemination platforms, except for the references that they contain to the principle of “open by default”;

(g) Welcomed the progress in the implementation of the federated information system of national and global data hubs to facilitate the integration of different data sources, promote data interoperability and foster collaboration among partners from different stakeholder groups, and stressed the need to mobilize resources and provide the necessary technical support to all countries wishing to join the federated system;

(h) Reiterated the importance of statistical training and capacity-building, welcomed the efforts of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training, and requested the Network to continue its work as an important contribution to the improvement of data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals.

50/103

Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ and expressed appreciation for the work of the Group over the past year and its strategic leadership in providing guidance on strengthening data and statistical systems;

(b) Expressed appreciation for the role of the High-level Group in steering and supporting the organization of the second United Nations World Data Forum, thanked the United Arab Emirates for hosting the second United Nations World Data Forum,

⁵ E/CN.3/2019/4.

and thanked Switzerland for taking on the responsibility of hosting the third United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in 2020;

(c) Endorsed the Dubai Declaration, and recognized the urgent need to mobilize sufficient resources to assist countries with the strengthening of data and statistical systems, including for the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

(d) Supported the establishment of an innovative funding mechanism, as called for in the Dubai Declaration, to respond in an efficient manner to the priorities of national data and statistical systems, with the goal of mobilizing both domestic and international funds to support strengthening the capacity of national data and statistical systems;

(e) Recognized the urgent need for a better coordinated and more efficient United Nations statistical system, to reduce the reporting burden and to raise the standing of official statistics within the United Nations system, and, to that end, supported the following recommendations: (i) to immediately strengthen the existing coordination mechanisms, (ii) to then take the issue of official statistics to the higher political level, including the Economic and Social Council and (iii) to ensure the active involvement of the statistical community, as presented in the background document prepared by the High-level Group, as appropriate;

(f) Noted that before taking a clear message to the higher political level, including the Economic and Social Council, further inclusive, efficient and transparent consultations, among Member States and entities of the United Nations system and members of other international statistical systems, would be necessary;

(g) Approved the proposed programme of work of the High-level Group, and requested the High-level Group to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-first session.

50/104 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data,⁶ and expressed appreciation for the work of the group;

(b) Took note of the results of the 2018 global survey presented in the background document, including the progress made overall in the implementation of the Fundamental Principles, recognized that more work is needed by national statistical offices and national statistical systems in order to achieve compliance with the Principles, and noted that the survey results also highlight areas in which capacity-building and skills development are needed;

(c) Welcomed the work by the group on the preparation of two supplementary chapters to the implementation guide for the Fundamental Principles, and requested the group to complete its work and submit the two chapters to the Commission at its fifty-first session in 2020 with guidance on: (i) evaluation criteria and recommended actions to assist countries in transitioning their official statistical systems towards compliance, and (ii) implementation of the Fundamental Principles when using new data sources for the production of official statistics;

⁶ E/CN.3/2019/5.

(d) Recognized that there is a need to provide support and guidance to countries to help them identify when they may be at risk of non-compliance with the Fundamental Principles, and requested the Friends of the Chair group to continue its work on this topic and provide guidance based on existing examples of codes of practice and protocols;

(e) Agreed that the group should continue its work for another year and report to the Commission at its fifty-first session;

(f) Also agreed that, after the fifty-first session, the work on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics would be resumed in time for the next appraisal, in 2024.

50/105

Open data

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data,⁷ and expressed appreciation for the work of the group on the implementation of open data, especially considering the important contribution of open data to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁸

(b) Took note of the results of the 2018 global survey presented in the background document, in particular with regard to open data practices, acknowledging the challenges that some countries face;

(c) Welcomed the background document on open data practices in official statistics and their correspondence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(d) Also welcomed the guidelines on data interoperability, except for the principle of “open by default”, as defined in the background document, and, recognizing the importance of countries having access to interoperability tools, requested the group to continue its work and further develop the guidelines;

(e) Recommended that the group provide guidance to national statistical offices on how to deliver official statistics and open data at the local level to the benefit of policymakers and citizens, ensuring a user-centric approach;

(f) Welcomed the work by the group on the mapping of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to the Open Data Charter principles;

(g) Stressed the need to strengthen the relationship between the statistical community and all relevant partners from the open data community, and approved the proposal for a working group to be established in order to continue the work on open data, including the development of guidance for the assessment and practical application of open data in the context of official statistics, which would present its work at the fifty-first session of the Commission and every two years thereafter.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

50/106 National quality assurance frameworks

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks,⁹ and expressed its appreciation to the Expert Group for its work over the last two years;

(b) Took note of the results of the survey on the implementation of national quality assurance frameworks and the fact that many countries have yet to implement a national quality assurance framework;

(c) Welcomed and adopted the United Nations national quality assurance frameworks manual for official statistics and the recommendations contained therein;

(d) Also welcomed the manual as an important contribution in guiding countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework, including for new data sources, new data providers and for data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(e) Requested that the manual be made available in all United Nations official languages as soon as possible;

(f) Also requested the Expert Group to finalize the implementation guidance, taking into consideration the need for countries to conduct self-assessment;

(g) Recognized the need for coordination of the work on national quality assurance frameworks with related work on the Handbook of Statistical Organization, the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and open data;

(h) Also recognized the need for capacity-building and training for the implementation of a national quality assurance framework, and welcomed the planned initiatives to support countries, through means such as the establishment of an expert forum, advocacy and the sharing of good practices, training materials and tools;

(i) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group for the next two years and its updated terms of reference, and requested it to expand its membership.

50/107 Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on statistical development in Asia and the Pacific,¹⁰ and commended the Asia-Pacific countries, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, regional bodies and other development partners, funds and agencies on the significant work undertaken in support of statistical coordination and development in the region;

(b) Noted the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in providing statistical training to strengthen regional statistical capacity development;

(c) Expressed appreciation for the leading role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in support of tools and methodological

⁹ E/CN.3/2019/6.

¹⁰ E/CN.3/2019/7.

development to integrate data from various sources in national data systems in an effort to close data gaps, in particular the work undertaken on Sustainable Development Goal indicators, civil registration and vital statistics, disaster-related statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;

(d) Recognized the important contribution and global relevance of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind issued by the Asia-Pacific statistical community as a critical means for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and recommended the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to coordinate with the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to continue to communicate the global relevance of the Declaration as it prepares for the third United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in Switzerland in 2020;

(e) Welcomed the collaborative approaches undertaken by the Asia-Pacific statistical community to exploit a range of data sources and methods for official statistics to address the challenges relating to the availability of data for the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators and to realize the collective vision and framework for action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Supported the call by Member States in Asia and the Pacific for regional and global organizations to provide coordinated technical, financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to strengthen and modernize national statistical systems and to support and facilitate full access to data held by regional and global organizations and other relevant data, including geospatial, mobile and other data from emerging and non-traditional sources;

(g) Also supported the call by Member States in Asia and the Pacific for regional and global organizations to consult the national statistical office or national statistical system concerned before conducting statistical studies or surveys;

(h) Further supported the call by Member States in Asia and the Pacific for regional and global organizations to continue to develop and strengthen international statistical standards and to provide technical support for their implementation.

50/108

National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,¹² expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Working Group, the regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2019 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;

(b) Also welcomed the establishment of dedicated work streams to review the relevance of the 2008 SNA for measuring new economic and social developments (digitalization, globalization and well-being and sustainability), expressed support for a broad user-centred consultation on the development of SNA, and requested the Working Group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-first session and to

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹² E/CN.3/2019/8.

submit, for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-first session, a way forward in updating SNA;

(c) Requested the Working Group to continue to develop practical guidance on such issues as the informal economy, Islamic finance and facilitating the implementation of the 2008 SNA through manuals, handbooks and guidelines, and welcomed the progress with the programme of work to create a collaborative environment of trusted tools, methods, learning materials and partners for statistical capacity-building targeting the least developed countries, small island developing States and fragile States with the aim of ensuring that no country is left behind;

(d) Expressed concern that there are still a relatively large number of Member States that do not comply with the minimum required scope and detail of national accounts data, and urged those countries with a low level of compliance to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts;

(e) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts and recognized that the implementation of the SDMX protocols by countries will facilitate data transmission and thereby significantly reduce the response burden in submitting data to international organizations.

50/109

Finance statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the International Monetary Fund on the review of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics and its substructures,¹³ and expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the Task Force;

(b) Agreed with the proposal that the responsibilities of the Task Force related to conceptual and methodological issues concerning external debt statistics be transferred to the Committee on Balance of Payment Statistics of the International Monetary Fund and that those concerning public sector debt statistics be transferred to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee of the International Monetary Fund;

(c) Expressed support for establishing a new operational body, focused on data management issues, called the inter-agency working group on debt statistics, to take over the non-methodological responsibilities of the Task Force and the data management work;

(d) Agreed that the work of the Task Force be put on hold until it has been determined that the new simplified structure and the migration of the programme of work of the Task Force have been successful, and requested the International Monetary Fund to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the progress made on the new simplified structure and the migration of the work programme on finance statistics.

¹³ E/CN.3/2019/9.

50/110

The future of economic statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics;¹⁴

(b) Commended the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics on the work carried out, as detailed in its report;

(c) Took note of the “Handbook on accounting for global value chains: global value chain satellite accounts and integrated business statistics”, and encouraged countries to implement the global value chain satellite accounts;

(d) Requested assistance in the implementation of the recommendations of the handbook and that it be translated into the United Nations official languages;

(e) Agreed that the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics will be dissolved when the handbook is completed;

(f) Noted the proposal to create a high-level group on economic statistics, and agreed to create a Friends of the Chair group consisting of economists and statisticians to consider the merit of the proposal;

(g) Requested that the Friends of the Chair group be established for a period of not more than two years to undertake an assessment on the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the governance of the current system of economic statistics, without creating more bureaucracy or adding undue burden on national statistical offices and international organizations;

(h) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to take stock of existing initiatives and make a recommendation to take these forward in an update of the system of economic statistics through a broad user consultation;

(i) Also requested the Friends of Chair group to take forward issues of the statistical update that have already reached a high level of maturity;

(j) Further requested the Friends of the Chair group to report back to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session with a clear plan on how to move forward;

(k) Noted the interest from members of the Commission to participate in the Friends of the Chair group.

50/111

International trade and business statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Taskforce on International Trade Statistics,¹⁵ and commended all parties on the efforts made to facilitate a combined discussion on the interrelated topics of international trade and business statistics;

¹⁴ E/CN.3/2019/10.

¹⁵ E/CN.3/2019/11.

(b) Congratulated the Wiesbaden Group on the progress made on a number of emerging issues and supported its workplan;

(c) Endorsed the name of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, and supported the proposed work streams of the task teams of the Committee on: globalization and digitalization; well-being and sustainability; business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship; exhaustive business registers; and capacity-building;

(d) Requested the Committee to consider small amendments to the mandate and governance of the Committee, as contained in annex I to the report, including a periodical update to the mandate and governance;

(e) Endorsed the United Nations guidelines for statistical business registers, encouraged countries to use the guidelines when establishing and maintaining their statistical business registers, and requested the Committee to develop a capacity-building programme on statistical business registers;

(f) Requested the Committee to report on the progress made in its work to the Commission at its fifty-first session;

(g) Endorsed the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures for data collection across countries and for reporting on internationally comparable data on non-tariff measures;

(h) Noted the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics.

50/112

Industrial statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial statistics,¹⁶ and commended that Organization on its efforts to disseminate global industrial data, especially those related to monitoring the progress of Member States towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Endorsed the transfer of responsibility on industrial statistics from the Statistics Division to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the context of the role of that Organization in global industrial development and its designation as a custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to industrialization;

(c) Requested Member States, in that regard, to report to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization the data on commodity production and production indices, in addition to the general industrial statistics that they are already reporting to it;

(d) Called upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to complete the preparatory work and allocate the resources necessary for timely data production and dissemination activities, while continuing to provide open access to global industrial data;

(e) Reiterated the need for enhanced technical assistance to countries in the field of industrial statistics, including statistics on small-scale industrial enterprises;

¹⁶ [E/CN.3/2019/12](#).

(f) Requested international development partners to increase assistance for developing countries through capacity-building programmes on industrial statistics.

50/113

Price statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics;¹⁷

(b) Commended the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics for the work carried out, as detailed in its report;

(c) Noted the imminent global consultation on the updated Consumer Price Index Manual and encouraged a timely response from Member States;

(d) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics to submit the updated Consumer Price Index Manual to the Commission for its endorsement at its fifty-first session, to be held in 2020, and to publish the Manual subsequently in all the United Nations official languages.

50/114

International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme;¹⁸

(b) Commended the World Bank on the work carried out through the International Comparison Programme, as detailed in its report;

(c) Noted the importance of the International Comparison Programme, and encouraged all implementing agencies and countries to complete the 2017 cycle without further delay and to ensure the quality and timeliness of the results;

(d) Advised implementing agencies and countries to initiate preparations for the 2020 cycle of the International Comparison Programme;

(e) Noted the need for implementing agencies and countries to incorporate the International Comparison Programme into their regular statistical work;

(f) Reiterated the need for increased research regarding synergies between the consumer price index and the International Comparison Programme;

(g) Also reiterated the need for appropriate funding to support International Comparison Programme activities, especially to strengthen statistical capacity.

¹⁷ E/CN.3/2019/13.

¹⁸ E/CN.3/2019/14.

50/115 Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting,¹⁹ expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee, agreed with its work programme, as detailed in its report, noted with interest the increased uptake and growing demand for the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in countries, and urged the Committee to continue to scale up its work on the implementation and mainstreaming of SEEA;

(b) Welcomed the collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to identify the best ways to use SEEA to improve the global indicator framework in view of the 2020 comprehensive review;

(c) Requested the Committee of Experts to continue its work on mainstreaming the use of SEEA for policy processes, in particular with regard to biodiversity, in view of the adoption of the post-2020 biodiversity agenda, and climate change, circular economy, beyond gross domestic product (GDP) and green growth initiatives;

(d) Noted the progress made in advancing the SEEA Central Framework research agenda, agreed with the need to examine the possible revision of the SEEA Central Framework, and requested that the SEEA and SNA research agendas be coordinated, in view of the upcoming revision of SNA, the current revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and potential future revision of the SEEA Central Framework;

(e) Welcomed the finalization of the global economy-wide material flow accounting manual, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Statistics Division, and encouraged its implementation in countries;

(f) Commended the Committee of Experts on setting up a transparent and inclusive revision process for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and expressed appreciation for the contribution of experts from different disciplines, including scientists, national accountants, environmental economists and geospatial experts, in addressing the issues on the research agenda, including cross-cutting issues such as ocean accounts, led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme;

(g) Took note of the contribution of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project funded by the European Union in advancing the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in the partner countries, namely Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, and in supporting the development of methodologies and practical guidelines on ecosystem accounting;

(h) Recognized the importance of drawing attention to existing SEEA databases, official national SEEA statistics and estimated SEEA accounts through the SEEA website, welcomed the progress made in developing global SEEA databases, requested the scaling-up of efforts to develop global SEEA databases for water, and reiterated the importance of country communication and approval before disseminating information;

¹⁹ E/CN.3/2019/15.

(i) Requested the Committee of Experts to continue its work in strengthening capacity in countries through increased coordination, workshops and e-learning, technical notes, South-South cooperation and in-country technical assistance;

(j) Welcomed the efforts of the Committee of Experts to engage different stakeholders through its newsletter and website, and also welcomed the development of a series of policy issues papers to encourage usage of SEEA for policymaking and decision-making;

(k) Also welcomed the technical note on linking SEEA and the Tourism Satellite Accounts prepared by the World Tourism Organization, in collaboration with the Statistics Division, under the auspices of the Committee of Experts and the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account of the World Tourism Organization, and requested the World Tourism Organization to continue to work on the development of the statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism, with the objective of submitting the framework to the Commission for its endorsement in 2020.

50/116

Disaster-related statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the joint report of the Secretary-General, 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 on disaster-related statistics,²⁰ and commended them on the significant work that they have undertaken in this emerging field;

(b) Recognized the urgency of integrating both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into national development policies, plans and programmes at all levels and the need to incorporate social, economic and environment statistics into disaster information, as well as the need for better, disaggregated and comparable data and for statistical measurement to capture the impacts of disasters on people in order to improve the understanding of disaster risk reduction, including strengthening resilience and preparedness;

(c) Noted the growing relevance of and greater focus on statistics related to both hazardous events and disasters, acknowledged the already considerable coordination and cooperation in that regard, and emphasized the need for further capacity-building and training on this important topic;

(d) Expressed appreciation for the leading role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in advancing the initial methodological development of this work through the disaster-related statistics framework, which contains technical guidelines that serve as a good starting point for a universally applicable tool with global relevance, building upon the principles and priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;²¹

(e) Supported the continuing work under the leadership of the international and regional organizations, towards progressing a common statistical framework and a network of experts for disaster-related statistics among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved, in particular statisticians, disaster risk reduction experts

²⁰ E/CN.3/2019/16.

²¹ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

and geospatial information experts, in order to meet the emerging needs of the statistical community;

(f) Requested the Statistics Division, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in consultation with members of the existing regional expert groups and task forces, to consider options and modalities for the establishment and coordination of a formal mechanism under the purview of the 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, and requested that they report back to the Commission at a suitable time;

(g) Urged the international statistical community to expand its capacity-building efforts in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters to assist countries in strengthening capacities for disaster management agencies, national statistical offices and other related contributors of official data to meet reporting requirements for evidence-based approaches to achieving national development policies, plans and programmes, and the goals and targets in the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²²

50/117

International migration statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics,²³ expressed appreciation to the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics for the work undertaken to strengthen migration data, and approved the terms of reference of the Expert Group;

(b) Commended the Bureau of the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division for their contribution to the negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,²⁴ and welcomed the recognition of the importance of data for evidence-based policies and the new mandate given to the Commission under objective 1 of the Global Compact;

(c) Stressed the importance of adopting an approach that integrates policy and data processes in the field of international migration, in which the data needed to address policy questions are clearly defined and used to guide priorities at the national and international levels in this area of work;

(d) Took note of the comprehensive programme of work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, supported its implementation, and welcomed the expression of interest by many countries and partners to contribute to its implementation, and in particular:

(i) Requested the finalization of the revised *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, to guide data collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data, taking into account the status of national implementation of the current set of recommendations;

²² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²³ E/CN.3/2019/17.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 73/195.

- (ii) Welcomed the finalization of the technical report on measuring migration-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators, to support monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁵ the set of standard questions on international migration for population censuses and surveys, including the question on reasons for migration; and urged the Statistics Division and partner agencies to promote their wide distribution and adaptation in countries;
- (iii) Also welcomed the proposed work on special sampling strategies to cover international migrants in integrated household surveys, on integration of multiple data sources and on the use of new data sources;
- (e) Recognized the urgent need for statistical capacity-building and resources to support countries in their efforts to strengthen their migration data, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and in particular:
 - (i) Welcomed the proposed national migration data infrastructure, as a comprehensive framework for capacity development on international migration statistics;
 - (ii) Emphasized the importance of administrative data sources in producing migration statistics and recognized the need to provide support to countries to enhance access to administrative data, integration of multiple data sources and collaboration among relevant stakeholders within the country;
 - (iii) Requested the development by the Statistics Division and the Expert Group of a global programme to support national capacity-building efforts, including estimates of resources needed for its implementation, and encouraged Member States and the donor community to provide adequate resources for its funding;
 - (iv) Requested that capacity-building on migration data be in line with national needs and work with existing regional approaches;
- (f) Requested the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics to work jointly with relevant partners:
 - (i) To provide support to the newly established African Observatory on Migration and Development, hosted by the Government of Morocco;
 - (ii) To collaborate with other United Nations mechanisms including the International Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics and the United Nations Network on Migration;
 - (iii) To further harmonize concepts and definitions related to international migration, taking into consideration changing patterns of migration, and to ensure that those concepts are flexible to fit the needs of national policymaking while promoting comparability of migration statistics at the international level;
- (g) Expressed its appreciation for the first International Forum on Migration Statistics as a platform to share best practices and national experiences and welcomed the organization of the second International Forum on Migration Statistics in 2020.

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

50/118 Human settlements statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics;²⁶

(b) Endorsed the adoption of the national sample of cities methodology for countries that are constrained in terms of the national monitoring of and reporting on all cities for which data are available;

(c) Supported the creation of a group of experts for the revision of the guidelines and principles for the implementation of the City Prosperity Index and a group of experts for identifying slum and non-slum enumeration areas;

(d) Welcomed the work on developing the methodology for the delineation of urban and rural areas and the definition of the city based on the degree of urbanization, and requested the submission of the final assessment, to be prepared in consultation with Member States, on the applicability of this methodology for international and regional comparison purposes to the Commission at its fifty-first session;

(e) Reiterated the critical significance of reliable and comprehensive human settlements statistics in terms of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁷ and the accompanying Sustainable Development Goals;

(f) Encouraged the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in cooperation with the Statistics Division and in close partnership with other agencies, to further work on the coordination of the work programme on human settlements statistics by making use of the existing coordination mechanisms, with an emphasis on continuing to strengthen statistical capacity;

(g) Requested that the progress report on the work on human settlements statistics be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-third session.

50/119 Crime statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime and criminal justice statistics,²⁸ and expressed its appreciation to the Office for the progress achieved in the implementation of the road map to improve the quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics at the national and international levels;

(b) Acknowledged the partnership with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(c) Endorsed the updated road map to support countries in their production of the high-quality data needed to monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁹ and supported the proposed revised workplan featuring a broader set

²⁶ E/CN.3/2019/18.

²⁷ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁸ E/CN.3/2019/19.

²⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

of activities for the period 2019–2022, for some of which additional funds need to be secured;

(d) Recognized that the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes is a priority for national statistical offices, encouraged national statistical offices to lead the assessment of its implementation and to facilitate collaboration among data producers at the national level, and welcomed the revision of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes implementation manual;

(e) Supported the establishment of an advisory group on crime and criminal justice to foster broader partnerships to better coordinate international statistical programmes and to strengthen activities for better national data used in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals with regard to crime and criminal justice;

(f) Welcomed the development of methodological tools, standards and guidelines that can support countries in producing comparable and up-to-date statistics, in particular in the context of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, and expressed appreciation for the development of the multiple systems estimation methodology to measure the number of undetected victims of trafficking in persons;

(g) Also welcomed the *Manual on Corruption Surveys*, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to widely disseminate the Manual;

(h) Acknowledged the growing demand among national mechanisms for technical support for the production and dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics, welcomed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime global programme for capacity-building, and encouraged donors to provide adequate resources for its funding;

(i) Expressed appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice for the implementation of capacity-building activities and the development of methodological standards and for facilitating the sharing of best practices, welcomed the new Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific, to be launched in 2019, which will also facilitate the implementation of the road map in the region;

(j) Noted the need for countries to improve data on gender-based violence, and welcomed the development of a statistical framework on gender-sensitive crime statistics, including on gender-related homicides, based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, aiming at providing operational guidelines on the production of data on victims, perpetrators and State responses;

(k) Welcomed the streamlining of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime data-collection activities through improved synergies among national focal points to simplify communication with national authorities, minimize the reporting burden on countries and ensure national ownership of the data reported at the global level, while improving both the coverage and the quality of collected data.

50/120 Drugs and drug use statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on its report on drugs and drug use statistics,³⁰ and expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken to improve drugs and drug use statistics;

(b) Recognized that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the United Nations policymaking body with the primary responsibility for drug control matters and reaffirmed its availability to collaborate with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on statistical matters relating to drugs;

(c) Supported the proposal of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in partnership with other international agencies, to conduct a survey to better understand the functioning, capacities and outputs of national statistical systems on drugs, and the availability and quality of drugs statistics, to inform national and international reporting of drugs-related data and to develop more targeted capacity-building activities;

(d) Acknowledged the value of the annual report questionnaire of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and welcomed the global consultations organized by the Office to review and finalize its revision;

(e) Encouraged international and regional organizations to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration in the field of drugs statistics with a view to harmonizing related concepts, increasing the consistency of data and minimizing the reporting burden on Member States through joint data collection.

50/121 Education statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization³¹ on progress made in the field of education statistics to respond to new data needs and emerging challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;³²

(b) Commended the Institute on the actions taken in collaboration with key partners in improving data availability and developing methodologies, guidelines and other supporting tools to produce indicators for the follow-up and review of Sustainable Development Goal 4, including frameworks to assess learning outcomes and literacy skills;

(c) Welcomed the development of the methodological guide on national education accounts, to be used as a framework for the analysis of education financing flows;

(d) Also welcomed the increased availability of education data at the country level, obtained from multiple data sources and in line with international standards, while taking note of the need to build capacity in some countries to produce high-quality statistics on education;

³⁰ E/CN.3/2019/20.

³¹ E/CN.3/2019/21.

³² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(e) Called for better coordination of activities and alignment of initiatives at the regional and international levels among all stakeholders working in the area of education statistics at the national and international levels, supported the proposal of the Institute to add a brokerage function to its mandate, and invited the Institute to facilitate information-sharing and coordination between data providers, data users and donors in order to produce more integrated, higher-quality, more cost-effective and timely statistics on education.

50/122

Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Bureau;³³
- (b) Acknowledged the excellent work done by all types of groups over the history of the Commission;
- (c) Recognized the complexity of this statistical machinery and the need to streamlining the current arrangements in order to achieve more coordinated and coherent working methods;
- (d) Agreed that more coordinated and coherent working methods, including naming conventions for groups, could also go a long way in terms of outreach to the broader international community;
- (e) Advised as preferred practices: transparency in terms of interlinkages and reporting lines to other groups, specific timelines, maintenance of updated webpages, specific expected products and tangible outcomes;
- (f) Requested the Bureau to work, in consultation with the Chairs of the groups currently active, on streamlining governance, including reporting lines within group families and cross-participation, with a view of reducing duplication of efforts; on streamlining naming conventions and guidelines for new and existing groups, according to mandates of individual groups; and to submit resulting conventions and guidelines to the Commission for consideration;
- (g) Also requested the Bureau to report back to the Commission at its fifty-first session.

50/123

Programme questions (Statistics Division)

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the work programme of the Division, including the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. It requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2020.

50/124

Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports and the pertinent comments on some of them:

³³ E/CN.3/2019/22.

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics³⁴

Report of the World Health Organization outlining current work on health statistics³⁵

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys³⁶

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices³⁷

Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics³⁸

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development³⁹

Progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors⁴⁰

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities⁴¹

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information⁴²

Report of the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission⁴³

³⁴ E/CN.3/2019/23.

³⁵ E/CN.3/2019/24.

³⁶ E/CN.3/2019/25.

³⁷ E/CN.3/2019/26.

³⁸ E/CN.3/2019/27.

³⁹ E/CN.3/2019/28.

⁴⁰ E/CN.3/2019/29.

⁴¹ E/CN.3/2019/30.

⁴² E/CN.3/2019/31.

⁴³ E/CN.3/2019/32.

Chapter II

Items for discussion and decision

A. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 5 and 8 March 2019. At its 1st meeting, on 5 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2019/2), the report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2019/3) and the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2019/4). The Commission considered those reports in turn.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 5 March, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, who introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 15 States members of the Commission and 28 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 3 international organizations.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 March, the Commission continued its consideration of the sub-item and heard a statement by the Chief of the Development Data and Outreach Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of three States members of the Commission and nine observer States.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement under item 3 (a) by the observer for Hungary, who introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 11 States members of the Commission and 19 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (a). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/101).

6. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it another draft decision under item 3 (a), also contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur, which the Commission also adopted, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/102).

7. Also at the same meeting, and also under item 3 (a), the Commission had before it another draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/103).

B. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

8. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 5 and 8 March 2019. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data (E/CN.3/2019/5) and heard a statement by the observer for New Zealand, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 9 States members of the Commission and 16 observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

9. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (b). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/104).

C. Open data

10. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission again had before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data (E/CN.3/2019/5) and heard a statement by the observer for New Zealand, who introduced the relevant part of the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of one State member of the Commission and five observer States, as well as by the representative of one international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

11. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (c). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/105).

D. National quality assurance frameworks

12. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (E/CN.3/2019/6) and heard a statement by the observer from the Philippines, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 12 States members of the Commission and 21 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 2 international organizations.

Action taken by the Commission

13. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (d). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/106).

E. Regional statistical development

14. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before

it the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on statistical development in Asia and the Pacific ([E/CN.3/2019/7](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of ESCAP, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 6 States members of the Commission and 11 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

15. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (e). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/107).

F. National accounts

16. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts ([E/CN.3/2019/8](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of Eurostat, who introduced the report.

17. At the 4th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (f). At the two meetings, discussions on the sub-item were held by the representatives of 12 States members of the Commission and 19 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

18. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (f). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/108).

G. Finance statistics

19. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 4th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the review of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics and its substructures ([E/CN.3/2019/9](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of IMF, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of four States members of the Commission and five observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

20. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (g). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/109).

H. International trade and business statistics

21. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 4th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/10](#)) and the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business

Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/11](#)).

22. At the 4th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard a statement by the observer for Ireland, who introduced the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 10 States members of the Commission and 8 observer States.

23. At the same meeting, the Commission also heard a statement by the observer for Italy, who introduced the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission and four observer States, as well as by the representative of one international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

24. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (h). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/110).

25. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it another draft decision under item 3 (h), also contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur, which the Commission also adopted, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/111).

I. Industrial statistics

26. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 4th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on industrial statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/12](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of UNIDO, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 4 States members of the Commission and 10 observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

27. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (i). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/112).

J. Price statistics

28. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 2019. At its 4th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/13](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of the World Bank, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of four States members of the Commission and seven observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (j). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/113).

K. International Comparison Programme

30. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 5th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2019/14) and heard a statement by the representative of the World Bank, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission and eight observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

31. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (k). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/114).

L. Environmental-economic accounting

32. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 5th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2019/15) and heard a statement by the representative of the Netherlands, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 5 States members of the Commission and 15 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

33. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (l). The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/115).

M. Disaster-related statistics

34. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 5th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the joint report of the Secretary-General, ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (E/CN.3/2019/16). The Commission heard a statement by the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management of the Statistics Division, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 4 States members of the Commission and 13 observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (m). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/116).

N. International migration statistics

36. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 5th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2019/17) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Social and Gender Statistics Section of the Statistics Division, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 8 States members of the Commission and 15 observer States, as well as by the representatives of 4 international organizations.

Action taken by the Commission

37. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (n). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/117).

O. Human settlements statistics

38. The Commission considered item 3 (o) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (E/CN.3/2019/18) and heard a statement by the representative of the UN-Habitat, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of three States members of the Commission and seven observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

39. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (o). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/118).

P. Crime statistics

40. The Commission considered item 3 (p) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on crime and criminal justice statistics (E/CN.3/2019/19) and heard a statement by the representative of UNODC, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of five States members of the Commission and six observer States, as well as by the representative of one international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

41. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (p). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/119).

Q. Drugs and drug use statistics

42. The Commission considered item 3 (q) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on drugs and drug use statistics (E/CN.3/2019/20) and heard a statement by the representative

of UNODC, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of four States members of the Commission and four observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

43. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (q). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/120).

R. Education statistics

44. The Commission considered item 3 (r) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on education statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/21](#)) and heard a statement by the representative of UNESCO, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of one State member of the Commission and eight observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

45. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (r). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/121).

S. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

46. The Commission considered item 3 (s) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Statistical Commission: comprehensive review of the structure and functions of groups ([E/CN.3/2019/22](#)) and heard a statement by the Chair of the Commission, who introduced the report. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of six States members of the Commission and four observer States.

Action taken by the Commission

47. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (s). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/122).

Chapter III

Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 (sub-items (a)–(j)) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019.
2. At the 6th meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission and two observer States, as well as by the representative of one international organization.

A. Demographic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/23](#)).
4. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

B. Health statistics

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the World Health Organization outlining current work on health statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/24](#)).
6. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

C. Household surveys

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys ([E/CN.3/2019/25](#)).
8. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

D. Price indices

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices ([E/CN.3/2019/26](#)).
10. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

E. Big data for official statistics

Action taken by the Commission

11. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2019/27](#)).

12. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

F. Statistical capacity development

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development ([E/CN.3/2019/28](#)).

14. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

G. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors ([E/CN.3/2019/29](#)).

16. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the progress report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

H. Coordination of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

17. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities ([E/CN.3/2019/30](#)).

18. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

I. Integration of statistical and geospatial information

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.3/2019/31](#)).

20. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

J. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Action taken by the Commission

21. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2019. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission ([E/CN.3/2019/32](#)).

22. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/124).

Chapter IV

Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 8 March 2019, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. The Commission requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2020 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 50/123).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-first session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 8 March 2019. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by a representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2019/L.2](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2019–2023 ([E/CN.3/2019/33](#)).

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-first session, as outlined in document [E/CN.3/2019/L.2](#) and as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fifty-first session be held from 3 to 6 March 2020 (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2019–2023, as orally revised ([E/CN.3/2019/33](#)).

Chapter VI

Report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 8 March 2019.
2. At the 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fiftieth session (E/CN.3/2019/L.3), together with an informal paper containing the draft decisions of the session.
3. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of 13 States members of the Commission and 23 observer States, as well as by the representative of 1 international organization.

Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 7th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fiftieth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its fiftieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 8 March 2019. The Commission held seven meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance were observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.3/2019/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 5 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Zachary Mwangi Chege (Kenya)

Vice-Chairs:

Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell (Mexico)

Masato Aida (Japan)

Anil Arora (Canada)

Rapporteur:

Tudorel Andrei (Romania)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 5 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.3/2019/1](#).

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional programme of work and timetable of the session ([E/CN.3/2019/L.1](#)).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its fiftieth session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Bank for International Settlements; the Central African Economic and Monetary Community; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; the Eurasian Economic Commission; and the European Free Trade Association.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its fiftieth session are available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents>.
