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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Statistics

### Third session

Bangkok, 12-14 December 2012

### **Annotated provisional agenda (revised)**

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee on Statistics (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening statements;
  - (b) Election of the Bureau;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics:
  - (a) Proposal of the Bureau for future work;
  - (b) Review of the functioning of the Committee;
  - (c) Monitoring framework for the work of the Committee.
3. Regional initiatives:
  - (a) Economic statistics;
  - (b) Social statistics;
  - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
  - (d) Modernization of statistical information systems.
4. Global initiatives:
  - (a) Agricultural and rural statistics;
  - (b) Environment statistics;
  - (c) Monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015.
5. Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities:
  - (a) Statistical training;
  - (b) Regional partnership.

6. Items for information:
  - (a) International Comparison Program;
  - (b) Informal sector and informal employment statistics;
  - (c) Gender statistics;
  - (d) Disability statistics;
  - (e) Tourism statistics;
  - (f) Statistics of international trade in services;
  - (g) Labour statistics;
  - (h) Disaster statistics.
7. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
  - (a) Bureau;
  - (b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
8. Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the ESCAP secretariat.
9. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Opening of the session**

#### **(a) Opening statements**

##### **Documentation**

Tentative programme (revised) (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/3/Rev.1)

##### **Annotation**

The revised tentative programme provides the time plan for the session.

#### **(b) Election of the Bureau**

##### **Documentation**

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/2)

##### **Annotation**

The Committee will elect a chair, three vice-chairs and two other members, one of whom will serve as rapporteur, to form the Bureau. The term of the incoming Bureau will commence immediately and last until the fourth session of the Committee.

**(c) Adoption of the agenda****Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (revised) (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.1/Rev.1)

**Annotation**

The revised annotated provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.

**2. Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics****(a) Proposal of the Bureau for future work****Documentation**

Proposed future work of the Committee on Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/1)

Documents for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 2 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/5)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a note by the Bureau, which outlines the progress in the follow-up to the recommendations and decisions emanating from the second session of the Committee and proposes future priority areas, an information note by the secretariat summarizing the outcomes of the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific regarding statistics and the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Statistical Commission, and information documents provided by subregional organizations on major recent developments in official statistics in subregions as reflected in deliberations of the relevant intergovernmental forums. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposal of the Bureau.

**(b) Review of the functioning of the Committee****Documentation**

Review of the functioning of the Committee on Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/2)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a note by the Bureau assessing the functioning of the Committee since its inaugural session, highlighting the growing demand for timely decisions, the need to improve integration and coordination within national statistical systems to address common challenges, and the reporting line of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee may wish to discuss and decide on issues related to its functioning, as inputs to the deliberations of the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.

**(c) Monitoring framework for the work of the Committee****Documentation**

A proposed approach to monitoring the work of the Committee on Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/3)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a note, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Bureau and under the guidance of the Chair, describing a proposed approach to monitoring the work of the Committee on Statistics. Highlighting the purpose of monitoring, which arises from the strategic goals of the Committee regarding statistics development in Asia and the Pacific, the document outlines the key principles guiding the proposed monitoring approach and the governance and reporting arrangements for ensuring that it is applied effectively. The Committee may wish to review and consider the proposed monitoring approach for endorsement, and provide guidance on its implementation.

**3. Regional initiatives****(a) Economic statistics****Documentation**

Report of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/4)

Documents for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 3 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/9 and Add.1)

**Annotation**

The Committee in its decision 2/6 endorsed a proposed regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics, including the establishment of a steering group to directly oversee the implementation of the programme. During 2011 and 2012, the Steering Group developed a proposed implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposed implementation plan as the guide for national capacity development in the area of economic statistics. The Committee may also wish to call upon members to actively participate in and support the implementation of the Regional Programme.

**(b) Social statistics****Documentation**

The strategic approach and plan of work of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/5)

Core set of population and social statistics for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/5/Add.1)

**Annotation**

The Committee in its decision 2/2 established a technical advisory group charged with making recommendations on the strategic directions as well as substantive and methodological guidelines to improve population and social statistics in the region. Through consultations with national stakeholders and relevant international agencies, the Technical Advisory Group developed a core set of population and social statistics which is intended as a guide for regional efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in the sector. The Technical Advisory Group has also developed a strategic approach and plan of work for the future. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the core set of population and social statistics. The Committee may also wish to review the

progress of work of the Group, comment on its strategic approach and consider its continuation.

**(c) Civil registration and vital statistics**

**Documentation**

Civil registration and vital statistics: Make every life count (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6)

Make every life count: Regional strategic plan for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6/Add.1)<sup>1</sup>

**Annotation**

Pursuant to Commission resolution 67/11 and Committee decision 2/4, the secretariat has developed a proposed regional strategic plan for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in close collaboration with a large number of development partners and based on country assessments and country consultations. Bearing in mind the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which will have been held on 10 and 11 December 2012, the Committee may wish to endorse the regional strategic plan. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance on approaches to ensure the successful implementation of the regional strategic plan, including recommending pathways for securing a broad, ministerial-level commitment for improving civil registration and vital statistics in the Asia-Pacific region.

**(d) Modernization of statistical information systems**

**Documentation**

Regional cooperation on the modernization of official statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/7)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat on modernizing official statistics to achieve the strategic goal of creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical institutions by 2020. Emphasizing the urgency and importance of modernizing official statistics, the secretariat provides an update on the supportive activities it has carried out and outlines recent global developments in the area. There is a proposal for a future workplan to modernize official statistics in the Asia-Pacific region, mainly by raising awareness and building knowledge within national statistical institutions, facilitating regional collaboration and influencing global directions. There is also a recommendation to establish a regional mechanism comprising a high-level strategic body and an expert community as the modality for guiding and supporting the proposed workplan. The Committee may wish to consider the proposal for endorsement.

**4. Global initiatives**

**(a) Agricultural and rural statistics**

**Documentation**

Report of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/8)

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<sup>1</sup> The annexes to the regional strategic plan are contained in E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/9/Add.1, Part II.

Documents for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 4 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/6)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a report of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics, established pursuant to its decision 2/7, to develop a regional plan for implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. With the support of the secretariat, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank, the Steering Group has developed the draft Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, which was endorsed by the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics at its twenty-fourth session, in October 2012. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the Regional Action Plan and call on members to actively participate in its implementation. The Committee may also wish to consider for approval the proposal of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics regarding the composition of the Regional Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

**(b) Environment statistics**

**Documentation**

Improvement of environment statistics in the context of sustainable development and green economy policy in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/9)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat providing an update on recent developments in the area of environment statistics, including the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. The Committee may wish to review the developments and opportunities highlighted in the document and consider approaches to regional cooperation towards improved and more integrated environment statistics in the context of sustainable development and green economy policies.

**(c) Monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015**

**Documentation**

Advancing the global development agenda beyond 2015: Potential contributions by national statistical systems (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/10)

Work of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on measuring well-being and fostering the progress of societies (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/11)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat providing an overview of the ongoing processes of the United Nations system and national, regional and global consultations to define the global development agenda beyond 2015, with particular focus on the role of statistics in the monitoring of progress. The document highlights opportunities and the need for the statistical community to contribute to the shaping of the global development agenda and the implementation thereof.

The Committee will also have before it a document prepared by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development which provides an update on its Better Life Initiative and highlights how the Initiative can potentially improve the measurement of well-being and shape the global development agenda and related post-2015 monitoring framework. The document also outlines several steps that the Asia-Pacific region can take to participate in the global endeavour to measure well-being.

The Committee may wish to discuss possible mechanisms to ensure the engagement of national statistical systems in shaping and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda, and the possible role of the Committee in this regard. It may also wish to express its view on the suggestion that it play a role in promoting and coordinating efforts in the Asia-Pacific region in pursuing work on measuring well-being, to express its support for the proposal to establish a regional Wikiprogress network and to provide guidance on the concrete steps to be taken to that end.

## **5. Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities**

### **(a) Statistical training**

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/12)

#### **Annotation**

The Committee will have before it the report of the Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training, which was established pursuant to Committee decision 2/8. The report outlines a proposed strategy for improving regional coordination of statistical training, with the objective of creating an environment that allows training recipients and training providers to use a common language and set of tools to describe priority needs, and identify and address training gaps in the region. The proposed strategy also includes mechanisms for enhancing coordination. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the overall strategy proposed by the Working Group.

### **(b) Regional partnership**

#### **Documentation**

Summary of the activities of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010-2012 (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/13)

Documents for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 5 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/7 and Add.1)

#### **Annotation**

Pursuant to Committee decision 2/9, the Committee will have before it a report on the work of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific (the “Partnership”) during the period from 2010 to 2012. The Partnership was established in December 2010 with the aim of improving coordination among development partners in providing support to statistics development in Asia and the Pacific. The report will be supplemented by an oral update given by the co-chairs of the Partnership on the most recent developments. The Committee may wish to review and discuss the work of the Partnership and provide guidance on its future work.

## **6. Items for information**

The Committee may wish to take note of and comment on the information provided.

### **Documentation**

Documents for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 6 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/8, Add.1 and 2)

#### **(a) International Comparison Program**

##### **Annotation**

The Asian Development Bank will provide an update on the results of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Program.

#### **(b) Informal sector and informal employment statistics**

##### **Annotation**

The secretariat will provide an overview of the work and recent developments in the area of informal sector and informal employment statistics and outline the plan for future work in the region in this area.

#### **(c) Gender statistics**

##### **Annotation**

The secretariat will provide an overview of the recent developments in the area of gender statistics and outline a plan for future work in the region in this area.

#### **(d) Disability statistics**

##### **Annotation**

The secretariat will provide an overview of the work and recent developments in the area of disability statistics and outline the plan for future work in the region in this area.

#### **(e) Tourism statistics**

##### **Annotation**

The World Tourism Organization will provide an update on the implementation of its programme to build capacity on tourism statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

#### **(f) Statistics of international trade in services**

##### **Annotation**

The United Nations Statistics Division will provide an overview of work and recent developments in the area of statistics of international trade in services and highlight the relevant issues in the region.



**(g) Labour statistics****Annotation**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will provide an overview of the process that the International Labour Organization has commenced for updating the international standards for labour force and related statistics which will be concluded in 2013. It will detail some of the proposed changes that could have significant implications for Asia-Pacific countries. It is therefore important that the views of the ESCAP members and associate members be taken into account.

**(h) Disaster statistics****Annotation**

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction will illustrate the importance of disaster statistics and their standardization in triggering and supporting informed policy decisions by governments and other stakeholders to prevent human and economic losses against disasters and protect hard-won development gains. It argues for the active engagement of national statistical offices and related agencies in the consultation process to prepare the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in such a way as to link closely with the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that the future frameworks adequately address statistics, data and information for their implementation and monitoring.

**7. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee****(a) Bureau****Documentation**

Report on the activities of the Bureau since the second session of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/14)

**Annotation**

The report will provide a summary of the activities of the Bureau since the second session of the Committee, which will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair. The Committee may wish to take note of the report.

**(b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific****Documentation**

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/15)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its interim session (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/15/Add.1)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it the reports of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventh session, held in 2011, and on its interim meeting, held in February 2012, which will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair of the Governing Council on the outcomes of the eighth session, which will be held in December 2012. The Committee may wish to take note of the reports.

**8. Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the ESCAP secretariat**

**Documentation**

Intended outputs of the programme of work for 2012-2013 and proposed strategic framework for 2014-2015 for the Statistics subprogramme (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/16)

**Annotation**

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of the short- and long-term work in the area of statistics, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the programme of work for 2012-2013 and the draft strategic framework for 2014-2015.

The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance to enable the outcome of deliberations at the third session to be fully integrated into the planning and implementation of the secretariat's work programme.

**9. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session**

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to statistics for the consideration of the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.

**10. Other matters**

The Committee may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

**11. Adoption of the report of the Committee**

**Documentation**

Draft recommendations (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.2)

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.3)

**Annotation**

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session, to be held in 2013.

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