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### Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

#### Seventy-third session

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2017

Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda\*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: statistics**

### Report of the Committee on Statistics on its fifth session

#### *Summary*

The Committee on Statistics held its fifth session in Bangkok from 14 to 16 December 2016. Its main objective was to establish the way forward for regional collaboration to strengthen statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, the Committee deliberated on a document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community”, which reflected the results of a regional conference held in August 2016 and subsequent consultations at the subregional level.

The Committee generally endorsed the proposal, highlighting that a six-week period of consultation following the Committee session would enable the experiences and other insights that were shared during the deliberations to be fully captured in the document. Countries expressed their support for the idea that the vision and framework would inform the ongoing process of formulating the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific and recommended that the Commission consider convening the sixth session of the Committee, in 2018, at a higher decision-making level.

The Committee also generally endorsed a new implementation plan for the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics and established the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics to oversee and guide the initiative.

Finally, the Committee took stock of progress in the implementation of ongoing regional initiatives on civil registration and vital statistics and economic, disaster-related, agricultural and rural statistics.

The Commission is invited to consider Committee recommendation 5/1 and take note of decisions 5/1 and 5/2.

\* E/ESCAP/73/L.1.

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## **I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention**

### **A. Matters calling for action**

1. The following recommendations of the Committee on Statistics are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

#### **Recommendation 5/1**

The Committee on Statistics recommends that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific further consider convening the sixth session of the Committee, in 2018, at a higher decision-making level, given the critical importance of high-level government commitment to the successful implementation of the framework of action, to secure political, institutional and resource support and to mobilize broad-based partnership in order to achieve the collective vision of transforming national statistical systems in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission**

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

### **Decision 5/1**

The Committee on Statistics generally endorses the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community, including:

- (a) The collective vision, which supersedes the existing 2020 goals as the Committee's reference for strengthening statistical capacity in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (b) The five action areas and their accompanying objectives;
- (c) The three principles for collective action;
- (d) The proposed implementation mechanisms.

In this connection, the Committee decides that the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, will further elaborate the note by the secretariat entitled "Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community" (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1) on the basis of consultation with all members of the Committee, to be conducted over a six-week period immediately following the present session.

The Committee notes that the collective vision and framework of action and any feedback received during the six-week period of consultation would inform the ongoing intergovernmental process to develop a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific to ensure close alignment.

### **Decision 5/2**

The Committee on Statistics generally endorses the proposed implementation plan for the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in document E/ESCAP/CST(5)/3, including its vision, goals and targets reflecting national level improvements, as well as arrangements for national-level implementation, regional coordination and oversight.

The Committee also generally endorses the terms of reference for the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics, as contained in annex I of the above-mentioned document.

## **II. Proceedings**

### **A. Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community** (Agenda item 2)

3. The Committee had before it two documents (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1 and E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/4) issued under the agenda item (see annex for the list of documents).

4. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion on collective action for transforming national statistical systems. The panel comprised Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Assistant Director and Chief of Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Statistics Division of the United Nations; Ms. Teresa Dickinson, Deputy Government Statistician and Deputy Chief Executive, Statistics New Zealand; Ms. Ofa Ketuu, Director, Statistics for Development Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community; Mr. Romeo Recide, Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority; and Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, Director General, Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal.
5. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Mongolia; New Zealand; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa (on behalf of the Pacific island developing States); Sri Lanka; and Timor-Leste.
6. Representatives of the Statistics Division of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) also made statements.
7. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for facilitating the consultations that had led to the development of the proposed collective vision and framework of action, in particular through the Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming Official Statistics for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok in August 2016, and two subregional workshops on data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals held in September 2016, one in Greater Noida, India, and the other in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
8. The Committee highlighted the urgency of transforming national statistical systems to produce the high-quality, relevant, timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics and data on economic, social and environmental development that were commensurate with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals and 169 targets, as well as with the 2030 Agenda's tenet of leaving no one behind. Given the unprecedented level of challenges in producing the required data, it was only fitting that statistical capacity strengthening should be an integral part of the transformation process. In that connection, the Committee supported the collective vision as representing the region's level of shared ambition to strengthen data and statistics.
9. The Committee emphasized the importance of building on existing regional statistical development initiatives under its own auspices for the transformative agenda. In view of the demands for high-quality data and statistics for various levels of monitoring, the Committee pointed out that national development policy goals and targets as well as corresponding indicator frameworks must be given priority, and that future efforts to transform organizations, processes and people should draw on experiences and lessons learned from earlier statistical capacity strengthening efforts, including monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. The Committee emphasized the critical importance of multi-stakeholder engagement, including a wide range of national stakeholders, in the framework of action for complementation, collaboration and coordination to produce and deliver regional resources in the five action areas. In that connection, the Committee endorsed the principles of the regional framework of action.
10. The Committee emphasized that the success of the transformation would depend upon political, institutional and resource support. As such, it

was important for the statistical community to effectively engage high-level political leadership and decision-making in order to communicate the collective vision and to secure such support. The Committee recommended that member States should step up the adoption and use of existing tools, new technologies and innovative approaches for statistical production and dissemination. The Committee agreed to the five action areas and called on member States and development partners to redouble their efforts to translate vision into reality and promises into actions.

11. The Committee emphasized the importance of close alignment between the collective vision and framework of action and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was expected to emerge from ongoing intergovernmental consultations and would be considered by the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, scheduled for March 2017.

12. In noting the importance of statistical capacity strengthening, the Committee emphasized that financial and technical resources should be mobilized to support national efforts to enhance statistical systems. In that connection, the Committee recommended that development partners should prioritize financial and technical support to less developed member States to assist national efforts to enhance statistical production and quality.

13. The Committee was informed of States' efforts and experiences at the national level in transforming their statistical work and institutions.

14. Several representatives noted that the document needed elaboration, including with respect to stronger emphasis on integrating national statistical capacity strengthening as part of the political process of the Sustainable Development Goals, cross-cutting foundational work to support technical transformation and modernization of the statistical system, coordination among an expanded range of partners, connections to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and further clarification of the proposed monitoring framework for the collective vision.

15. The Committee adopted recommendation 5/1 and decision 5/1.

## **B. Achieving the vision through existing regional initiatives** (Agenda item 3)

16. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion on improving the quality of statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, including studies and lessons from the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The panel comprised Ms. Elmira Alymkulova, Head of Administration, National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan; Ms. Erdenesan Eldevochir, Director of Economic Statistics Department, National Statistics Office of Mongolia; Mr. Firdavsi Asmatbekov, Head, Department of Trade and Services Statistics, and Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **1. Economic statistics**

17. The Committee had before it one document issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/2).

18. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Bangladesh; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia;

New Zealand; Russian Federation; and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

19. The Committee expressed strong appreciation for the work of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and of the secretariat for the continued effective implementation of the Regional Programme. The Committee noted in particular the successful organization of the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week in 2016, with substantive contributions from member States and development partners, and welcomed the reorganization of the work of the Steering Group into task forces as an encouraging development for accelerating implementation.

20. The Committee noted with gratitude the sustained financial support to the Regional Programme by the Russian Federation and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and extended its appreciation to the many States that had offered technical assistance in the form of training as well as country-to-country exchange of experiences.

21. The Committee recognized the importance of economic statistics to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasized that regional and national efforts should not only focus on increasing availability of economic statistics but also support improvements in other dimensions of statistical quality. The Committee noted the importance of further exploration of linkages between the core set of economic statistics and the monitoring framework for the Sustainable Development Goals under the Regional Programme in order to channel support towards the core set areas in which countries needed more assistance with respect to monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, the Committee emphasized the increased need for support to countries for the elaboration of accounts under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework.

22. One representative endorsed the use of capacity screening in the monitoring of the Regional Programme, as part of a monitoring framework for the collective vision and framework for action considered by the Committee under agenda item 2. Another representative recommended that the Regional Programme should make provision for countries to overcome initial hurdles in developing partnership agreements to enable them to benefit fully from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Resource Facility, which had been established under the Regional Programme in 2016.

## **2. Population and social statistics**

23. The Committee had before it one document issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/3).

24. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Mongolia; New Zealand; Russian Federation; and Timor-Leste.

25. Representatives of the Statistics Division of the United Nations and the United Nations Population Fund also made statements.

26. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Friends of the Chair Group and the secretariat for the extensive work in developing the implementation plan and reformulating the vision, goals and targets to align

them with the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community considered by the Committee under agenda item 2.

27. The Committee highlighted the importance of high-quality data and population and social statistics to support decision-making processes in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and other national social policy priorities, with the aim of identifying vulnerable population groups and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Committee pointed out the importance of examining the relevance of the regional core set on population and social statistics to the policy priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as other national policy priorities.

28. The Committee called for the acceleration of regional action to translate the implementation plan into concrete interventions at the national level in order to improve population and social statistics. In doing so, the Committee emphasized the importance of implementing the regional strategy in the context of national policy priorities for statistics development.

29. The Committee emphasized the importance of coordinated support and partnership at the regional level to support national actions. The Committee called on development partners to strengthen the provision of financial and technical support to implement the regional strategy, with a special focus on assisting less developed countries. In that context, the Committee noted the offer from the Government of Japan to support member States in the region in advancing their statistics development.

30. The Committee noted offers from representatives of the following States and organizations to serve on the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics that had been established: Azerbaijan; Mongolia; New Zealand; Russian Federation; and the Statistics Division of the United Nations.

31. One representative recommended that member States should be consulted in the review and any revision of the terms of reference of the Steering Group. Hence, in the last sentence of paragraph 18 of the terms of reference of the Steering Group (as contained in annex I of document E/ESCAP/CST(5)/3), “the Bureau of” would be deleted, to read “The revisions shall be subject to approval by the Committee on Statistics”.

### **3. Civil registration and vital statistics**

32. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on the report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its 2nd meeting (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/4) issued under the agenda item.

33. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Japan; Malaysia; New Zealand; Republic of Korea; and Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific island developing States).

34. A representative of the Statistics Division of the United Nations also made a statement.

35. The Committee expressed strong appreciation to the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific for providing strategic guidance and supporting member States in the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee congratulated member

States on the progress made in implementing the Regional Action Framework, while expressing concern at the uneven progress across member States.

36. The Committee recommended that the Regional Steering Group, with the assistance of the secretariat, should identify and prioritize support to countries that were falling behind in the implementation of the Regional Action Framework. The Committee also recommended that regional analysis should be conducted to monitor implementation and provide the basis for the Regional Steering Group to prioritize regional support.

37. The Committee highlighted the importance of the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific convened by ESCAP in November 2014 in securing political commitment for advancing civil registration and vital statistics. In that connection, the Committee emphasized the key role that the Regional Action Framework had played and should continue to play in raising political visibility and ensuring accountability through the goals and targets set by member States. The Committee encouraged all countries that had yet to submit their national target and baseline reports to do so, and requested development partners to provide related support to member States.

38. The Committee recognized civil registration and vital statistics as an integral part of government planning and policies and that statistics derived from a well-functioning national civil registration and vital statistics system underpinning the indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, the Committee underscored that efforts to improve civil registration and vital statistics should be integrated into national implementation of the Goals and reflected in national strategies for the development of statistics. Further, the Committee noted the importance of engaging multiple stakeholders at the national level since responsibilities for civil registration and vital statistics were often shared among a wide range of national institutions.

39. The Committee emphasized the need for modernizing and integrating civil registration and vital statistics systems and noted that the use of administrative data, including civil registration data, was a key source of data for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring. The Committee stressed the importance of protecting the confidentiality of information belonging to individuals while making data accessible to a wide range of users.

40. The Committee was informed about national and regional level activities as well as global support for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework, including the support provided by the Brisbane Accord Group to the Pacific island developing States.

#### **4. Disaster-related statistics**

41. The Committee had before it one document issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/5).

42. Representatives of the following member States made statements: Bangladesh; Japan; and Sri Lanka.

43. The representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community also made a statement.



44. The Committee stressed the importance of better disaster-related statistics for improved disaster preparedness and relief in disaster-prone areas of the Asia-Pacific region.

45. The Committee welcomed and appreciated the progress in the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in developing the draft disaster-related statistics framework and supplementary guidance materials and invited additional countries to engage in the work of the Expert Group.

46. The Committee acknowledged and supported the continued collaboration of the Expert Group with other international entities, including the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction, and encouraged stronger collaboration at the national level between national statistical offices and disaster management agencies.

47. One representative noted the linkages between disaster-related statistics and economic statistics, in particular national accounts, and suggested exploring approaches to ensure that advice on those linkages were generated through the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

## **5. Agricultural and rural statistics**

48. The Committee had before it one document issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/6).

49. Representatives of the following member States made statements: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; Republic of Korea; and Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific island developing States).

50. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and organizations also made statements: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); UNIDO; and Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

51. The Committee expressed strong support for the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and noted with satisfaction the progress made towards its implementation. It acknowledged the importance of the strong partnerships between FAO, ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank in implementing the plan. Noting the continued need for capacity-building to improve agricultural and rural statistics, the Committee expressed support for its continued implementation.

52. Several delegations stressed the importance of the Regional Action Plan with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, the Committee noted that improving agricultural and rural statistics also led to the improvement of economic and environment statistics, metadata and data quality.

53. Several delegations reflected on the support that their Governments had provided for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and offered continued and enhanced support as needed.

54. Member States that were receiving assistance as a result of the Regional Action Plan highlighted a number of benefits, including having the ability to estimate gross domestic production more accurately and to produce

agricultural satellite accounts; using data collection cost-saving technologies, such as satellite imagery, remote sensing and computerized personal interviewing; and improving alignment and integration of various data collection instruments.

55. Reflecting on lessons learned from the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, some delegations highlighted the importance of close collaboration between national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture for improving agricultural and rural statistics.

56. Several delegations suggested that the implementation of the Regional Action Plan should include the development of guidelines on methods to save costs in the production of agricultural and rural statistics; the convening of a ministerial conference to gain political commitment for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics; and the sharing of information on technical assistance requests.

57. The representative of FAO, noting that the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics was part of its wider Country Programming Framework, encouraged Committee members to request prioritization of agricultural statistics in their respective Country Programming Frameworks. That would facilitate the flow of additional resources for statistics work, beyond the Regional Action Plan. The representative also conveyed the readiness of FAO to support national efforts to build country capacity to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals. The representative of UNIDO, while emphasizing the role of manufacturing in the supply of food, informed the Committee about its collaborative work with FAO to establish a database on food processing statistics.

58. Noting that agriculture, fisheries and forestry constituted the backbone of the economy of Pacific island States, the Committee noted that the Regional Action Plan, contextualized in the Pacific and through the support of various partnerships, had enabled agricultural censuses in the subregion to be conducted recently.

**C. The framework for action, partner coordination and stakeholder responsibilities**  
(Agenda item 4)

59. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion on collective action for combined greater impact. The panel comprised the Director of the Statistics Division, ESCAP; Ms. Jenna Slotin, Programme Manager, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Director for Sustainable Development Policy, United Nations Foundation; Mr. Olivier Dupriez, Lead Statistician, World Bank and Member of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific; and Ms. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority.

60. Representatives of the following member States made statements: China; India; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Nepal; Philippines; and Thailand.

61. The representative of the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also made a statement.

# **1. Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the secretariat**

62. The Committee supported the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the secretariat.

63. One delegation noted the increased need for technical assistance related to the modernization of national statistical systems.

64. The Committee took note of the newly established ASEAN working group on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and recommended that the secretariat collaborate with the group.

65. In response to a query by the delegate of Japan, the secretariat noted that the responsibilities of the secretariat related to the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community, as outlined in document E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1, were not expected to require any changes to its programme of work for 2016-2017.

## **2. Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific**

66. The Committee had before it a note by the secretariat issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/7).

67. The Committee expressed strong support for collaboration in general and for the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific in particular and highlighted that the partnership was important for ensuring a coordinated and collaborative approach to strengthening statistics for the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, the Committee encouraged development partners to strengthen the role of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific in the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community.

68. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the support for statistical development provided by a large number of development partners and highlighted the need for support for further regional exchanges of good practices and lessons learned through mechanisms similar to the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week.

## **3. Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

69. The Committee had before it a note by the secretariat issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/8).

70. The Committee expressed strong support for the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and expressed its appreciation for the work of the Philippines as Chair of the Network. The Committee also expressed its appreciation for the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific which acted as the secretariat and noted in that regard the need for strengthening the human resources of the Institute to enable the provision of related services.

71. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the Institute's work on the prototype of the database of training resources and highlighted the need for training on statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals and training on decision-making in modernization efforts.

72. The Committee endorsed the updated programme of work for 2016-2017 for the Network.

**D. Items for information**

(Agenda item 5)

73. The Committee had before it one document issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/5).

74. No representatives made statements.

**E. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee**

(Agenda item 6)

**1. Bureau**

75. The Committee had before it one document issued under the agenda item (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/6).

76. No representatives made statements.

**2. Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

77. A representative of the following member State made a statement: Japan.

78. The delegation of Japan stated that its Government, as host of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, highly appreciated the cash and in-kind contributions from members, associate members and international organizations to support the work of Institute. Assuring the Committee of its Government's continuing support for the Institute to the maximum possible extent, the delegation requested the same from members, associate members and international organizations. While expressing appreciation for the efforts of national statistical offices and the secretariat thus far, the delegation encouraged Committee members to reach out to the entities within their Governments that dealt with technical cooperation matters to ensure prioritization of the joint Institute-Japan International Cooperation Agency courses in the August 2017 round of the Agency's annual needs survey.

**F. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session**

(Agenda item 7)

79. The Committee was invited to discuss and review ideas to be considered for draft resolutions that could be proposed to the Commission for further deliberation and endorsement at its seventy-third session.

80. No representatives made proposals for draft resolutions.

**G. Other matters**

(Agenda item 8)

81. Representatives of the following member States made statements: Australia; and Maldives

82. The Committee was informed about the progress of work of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources and

informed that it would provide a full report on its progress to the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission.

83. One delegation suggested that governance statistics, as one of the 11 domains of the regional core set of population and social statistics, could be further explored by the Committee.

#### **H. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session** (Agenda item 9)

84. The Committee adopted the present report on 16 December 2016.

### **III. Organization**

#### **A. Opening, duration and organization of the session**

85. The Committee on Statistics held its fifth session in Bangkok from 14 to 16 December 2016. The session was opened by Ms. Rajana Netsaengtip, Inspector General, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand. During the opening, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Chair of the fourth session of the Committee on Statistics made statements.

#### **B. Attendance**

86. The Committee session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

87. A representative of the following office of the United Nations Secretariat attended: Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

88. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; and United Nations Population Fund.

89. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: FAO; International Labour Organization; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNIDO; and World Bank.

90. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian Development Bank; ASEAN Secretariat; the European Commission; and Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

91. Observers were present from the following organizations: Department for International Development; Eurasian Economic Commission; Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; United Nations Foundation; and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

**C. Election of officers**

92. The Committee elected the following officers:

- Chair: Mr. Suhariyanto (Indonesia)
- Vice-Chairs: Mr. Ning Jizhe (China)  
Ms. Wah Wah Maung (Myanmar)  
Mr. Alexander Surinov (Russian Federation)
- Member: Mr. Mohammadsadegh Alipour  
(Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Rapporteur: Mr. Simil Johnson Youse (Vanuatu)

**D. Agenda**

93. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening statements;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community.
3. Achieving the vision through existing regional initiatives:
  - (a) Economic statistics;
  - (b) Population and social statistics;
  - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
  - (d) Disaster-related statistics;
  - (e) Agricultural and rural statistics.
4. The framework for action, partner coordination and stakeholder responsibilities:
  - (a) Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the secretariat;
  - (b) Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific;
  - (c) Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Items for information.
6. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
  - (a) Bureau;
  - (b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
7. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session.

8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session.

**E. Other events**

94. The following seminar, side events and special session were held in conjunction with the Committee session:

(a) 13-14 December 2016 (ESCAP/Eurostat seminar): Strengthening statistical systems to meet the challenges of Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) 15 December 2016 (special session): Introducing the New ESCAP Statistical Online Database: Demonstrating Support for Sustainable Development Goals Analytical Work;

(c) 16 December 2016: (side event on disaster-related statistics): Needs and expectations relating to international guidelines for disaster-related statistics;

(d) 16 December 2016: (side event on gender data and statistics): Making Every Woman and Girl Count.

95. The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific held its twelfth session in Bangkok on 12 and 13 December 2016.

## Annex

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
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<i>Information series<sup>a</sup></i>		
E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/1	Information notes for participants	
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E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/6	Report on the activities of the Bureau since the fourth session of the Committee	6 (a)

<sup>a</sup> For technical reasons, document E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/5 was withdrawn.