



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

Third session

Bangkok, 12-14 December 2012

Annotated provisional agenda

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: implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Social statistics;
 - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics: regional medium-term plan for improving civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (d) Modernization of statistical information systems.

4. Global initiatives:
 - (a) Agricultural and rural statistics: regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
 - (b) Environment statistics;
 - (c) Monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015.
5. Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities:
 - (a) Statistical training: proposal on the coordination of statistical training in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Regional partnership.
6. Items for information:
 - (a) International Comparison Programme;
 - (b) Informal sector and informal employment statistics;
 - (c) Gender statistics;
 - (d) Disability statistics;
 - (e) Tourism statistics;
 - (f) Statistics of international trade in services.
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 (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/3)

Annotation

The tentative programme provides the time plan for the session.

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

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

Document for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 1 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/4)

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 (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.1)

Annotation

The 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 made since its second session 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 United Nations 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. The Committee may wish to discuss and decide on issues related to its functioning.

(c) Monitoring framework for the work of the Committee

Documentation

Monitoring framework for the work of the Committee on Statistics
(E/ESCAP/CST(3)/3)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it a proposal, prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau, for a framework for monitoring the progress towards achieving the strategic goals of the Committee. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposal.

3. Regional initiatives

(a) Economic statistics

Documentation

Summary of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
(E/ESCAP/CST(3)/4)¹

Annotation

The Committee will have before it a proposal for an implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, submitted by the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, which was established pursuant to Committee decision 2/6. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the 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.

¹ The full text will be issued as a conference room paper in English only.

(b) Social statistics**Documentation**

Update on the work of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/5)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it a note by the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics, which provides an update on its ongoing work. Pursuant to Committee decision 2/2, the Technical Advisory Group was established to guide the work of the Committee in the area of social statistics. The Committee is invited to review the work of the Technical Advisory Group and to provide guidance on the direction and priorities for its future work.

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

Summary of the regional medium-term plan for improving civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6)²

Annotation

The Committee will have before it a proposal for a regional medium-term plan for improving civil registration and vital statistics, which aims to build the commitment and capacity of countries to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems. Pursuant to Committee decision 2/4, the regional medium-term plan was developed by the secretariat in close partnership with a large number of development partners and based on country assessments and country consultations. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the regional medium-term plan and to provide advice on its implementation, bearing in mind the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which is scheduled to be held on 10 and 11 December 2012.

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

Creation of a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/7)

Annotation

In its resolution 67/11 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission endorsed the strategic direction proposed by the Committee, which included the goal of “creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical

² The full text will be issued as a conference room paper in English only.

offices through stronger collaboration". In this connection, the Committee will have before it a proposal by the Bureau for a regional approach to support national efforts to modernize statistical information systems in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposal.

4. Global initiatives

(a) Agricultural and rural statistics

Documentation

Summary of the regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/8)³

Document 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 proposal for a regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, submitted by the Steering Group on Agricultural Statistics, which was established by the Committee, and the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) pursuant to Committee decision 2/7. The Committee is invited to review and endorse the regional implementation plan as the guide for national capacity development in the area of agricultural and rural statistics, bearing in mind the outcome of the twenty-fourth session of APCAS. The Committee may also wish to encourage members to support the regional implementation plan through active participation.

(b) Environment statistics

Documentation

Improvement of statistics for environmental and sustainable development policy in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/9)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it a note prepared 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 consider approaches to strengthening environment statistics in Asia and the Pacific, taking into account developments in the policy context.

³ The full text will be issued as a conference room paper in English only.

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

Challenges for national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific in monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015 (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/10)

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 update on the work of the United Nations system to define the global development agenda beyond 2015 and the relationship between this agenda and the agreements of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 summit) regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing on lessons learned in tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, this note will discuss some of the challenges that monitoring the implementation of the beyond 2015 development agenda may pose for national statistical systems in the region.

The Committee will also have before it a document prepared by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which provides an update on its ongoing work pertaining to measuring well-being and fostering the progress of societies, and a discussion on how this work is contributing to the formulation of the global development agenda beyond 2015 and the related monitoring framework.

The Committee may wish to discuss possible mechanisms for consulting with national statistical systems in the region in monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015 and advise on possible regional approaches to improving the measurement of well-being.

5. Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities**(a) Statistical training****Documentation**

Strategy for the coordination of statistical training in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/12)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it a proposal on the coordination of statistical training in Asia and the Pacific, which aims to increase the efficiency and impact of statistical training in the region through improved coordination. Pursuant to Committee decision 2/8, the proposal was submitted by the Working Group for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposal.

(b) Regional partnership

Documentation

Report of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific (the “Partnership”) (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/13)

Document for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 5 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/7)

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 2010-2012. The Partnership was established in December 2010 with the aim to improve 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

Under items for information, the Committee is invited 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)

(a) International Comparison Programme

Annotation

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

(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 the 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.

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

Report of the Bureau (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 concerning the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/15)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventh session in 2011 and its interim meeting 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 to be held in December 2012. The Committee may wish to take note of the report.

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

Documentation

Strategic framework and intended outputs for the proposed programmes of work for 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 (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 longer-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 full integration of the outcome of deliberations at the present session 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 report (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.2)

Draft recommendations of the Committee (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.