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

Second session

Bangkok, 15-17 December 2010

Annotated provisional agenda

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

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9. Consideration of possible draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session.
10. Other matters.
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II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/3)

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be made available in due course.

(b) Election of the Bureau

Documentation

Provisional list of participants (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/2)

Principles and procedures concerning the election of the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/1)

The Committee will adopt the proposed principles and procedures for future elections of the Bureau. The proposal, contained in document E/ESCAP/CST(2)/1, was prepared by the outgoing Bureau in response to a request made by the Committee on Statistics at its first session. In finalizing its proposal, the Bureau consulted with all members and associate members. After the adoption of the principles and procedures, the Committee will elect a chair, three

vice-chairs and two other members, one of whom will be a rapporteur, to form the Bureau until the third session of the Committee.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/L.1)

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

2. Strategic direction of the Committee on Statistics

(a) Outcomes of the most recent sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Statistical Commission

Documentation

Outcomes of the sixty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/4)

The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/4) reviewing the outcomes of the sixty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The Committee may wish to discuss and formulate a common position on key topics of importance that could have significant implications for official statistics in the Asian and Pacific region.

(b) Proposed future work

Documentation

Proposed strategic directions of the Committee on Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/2)

The outgoing Bureau will submit a proposal for strategic directions to guide the work of the Committee in the long term. The Committee may wish to review the Bureau's proposal and agree on its strategic directions.

3. Regional initiatives

(a) Vital statistics

Documentation

Development of a regional programme for the improvement of vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/3)

The secretariat will provide an update on its ongoing work on vital statistics in response to a request made by the Committee at its first session. Document E/ESCAP/CST(2)/3 presents the outcome of the Forum on the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration, which was held from 23 to 25 June 2010 and attended by representatives of national statistical offices, civil registration offices and ministries of health from the region, while also outlining the institutional and partnership arrangements necessary for the development of a

regional programme on vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee may wish to review the progress made by the secretariat. The Committee may also wish to express its commitment to the development and implementation of a regional programme for the improvement of vital statistics in the region.

(b) Economic statistics

(i) Core set of economic statistics

Documentation

Proposed core set of economic statistics for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4)

The ESCAP Technical Advisory Group on the Development of Economic Statistics will introduce a proposed core set of economic statistics that the Group was charged with developing pursuant to a decision taken by the Committee at its first session. The proposed core set of economic statistics sets a clear and achievable target for the region by identifying the minimum set of economic statistics that all countries in Asia and the Pacific should have the capacity to produce by 2020 after taking into account their varying needs. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposal of the Technical Advisory Group. The Committee may also wish to encourage all of its members to endorse the proposed core set of economic statistics as a guideline for developing the capacity of national statistical systems.

(ii) Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics

Documentation

Draft regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/5)

Report on the ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/9)

The draft regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific aims to elevate the capacity of countries in the Asian and Pacific region to produce basic economic statistics in accordance with international standards and good practices. It was prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau, in close consultation with national experts and in cooperation with key subregional, regional and international partners, including the Technical Advisory Group on the Development of Economic Statistics. This multi-year programme was developed in response to a request made by the Committee on Statistics at its first session and will serve as a road map for the region as it aims to address the constraints that prevent countries from producing the core set of economic statistics necessary for effective monitoring and decision making. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the draft regional programme and provide advice on its implementation. The Committee may also wish to encourage all of its members to endorse the draft regional programme as a formal strategy for the improvement of economic statistics in the region.

4. Global initiatives

(a) Integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems

Documentation

Integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/6)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will summarize the progress made in developing a global strategy for the improvement of agricultural statistics and future steps to be taken in the implementation of this strategy. The document outlines a key component of the strategy that focuses on the integration of agricultural information into national statistical systems so that agricultural data can be linked to other social, economic and environmental statistical information in order to meet the expectations of policymakers and other data users. The Committee may wish to review the document and discuss a regional approach for the implementation of the proposed strategy.

(b) International Comparison Programme

Documentation

Report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/7)

The Asian Development Bank will provide an update on the status of preparations for the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme, including the timetable and a description of the institutional and partnership arrangements for the implementation of the Programme in the Asian and Pacific region. The Committee may wish to review the progress and express its views on the workplan and timetable. The Committee may also wish to encourage all of its members and associate members to participate in the next round of the Programme in 2011 and to use it as an opportunity for capacity development.

5. Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities

(a) Statistical training

Documentation

More relevant, effective and efficient statistical training through improved regional coordination (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/8)

The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/8) providing an overview of the factors that shape the statistical training opportunities available to ESCAP member States. The document, which is based on information furnished by providers of statistical training in the region, provides information on the volume, content, coverage and modality of training and reviews the process by which providers of statistical training determine and prioritize the training needs of their stakeholders. It also discusses the views of statistical training providers on the main challenges they face in remaining relevant, effective and efficient, and the strategies and approaches they are taking to effect the improvements and changes needed to meet these challenges. The Committee may wish to discuss and identify mechanisms for developing and implementing a regional approach to the coordination of

statistical training among training providers that could strengthen and support their ability to better meet the needs of member States.

(b) Coordination mechanism

Documentation

Coordination mechanism for statistics development partners in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9)

The Committee will have before it a short note prepared by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9) describing the progress achieved in the establishment of a coordination mechanism for statistics development partners in Asia and the Pacific. The note includes the secretariat's strategy for setting up this coordination mechanism, as well as a summary of the outcomes of the side event on coordinating support for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific, held during the first session of the Committee on Statistics in February 2009. In addition, the Committee will be briefed on the outcomes of the first meeting of the proposed coordination mechanism for partners in statistics development in the Asian and Pacific region, which is scheduled to be held on 14 December 2010. The Committee may wish to review and discuss the current support for statistical development in the region and endorse the proposed strategy of the coordination mechanism.

6. Items for information

(a) Millennium Development Goal indicators

Documentation

Availability and use of the Millennium Development Goal indicators in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/5)

The secretariat will submit a note for the information of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/5) that provides an update on the availability of data needed to assess the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and highlights the need for statistical capacity development. The note also describes how the secretariat has recently used the data to assess the region's progress towards achieving the Goals and the potential impact of the economic crisis on this progress.

(b) Informal sector and informal employment statistics

Documentation

Report on the work of the secretariat on informal sector and informal employment statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/6)

The secretariat will submit a note for the information of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/6) providing an update on recent developments in the area of informal sector and informal employment statistics, including the work undertaken under the United Nations Development Account project on interregional cooperation on the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment. The document outlines the plan for future work in the region in this area.

(c) Disability statistics**Documentation**

Report on the work of the secretariat on disability statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/7)

The secretariat will submit a note for the information of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/7) providing an update on recent developments in the area of disability statistics under the United Nations Development Account project on the improvement of disability measurement and statistics in support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and the regional census programme. The note also presents a summary of the results of the pilot test of an extended question set to measure disability through surveys.

(d) Gender statistics**Documentation**

Report on the work of the secretariat on gender statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/8)

The secretariat will submit a note for the information of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/8) providing an overview of recent developments in the area of gender statistics and outlines future work planned in the region in this area.

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

Report of the Bureau on its activities since the first session of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/10)

The Committee will have before it the report of the Bureau on its activities since the first session of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/10), which will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau. 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 fifth session (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/11)

The Committee will have before it the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifth session (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/11), which was held in 2009. It will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair of the Governing Council on the outcomes of the sixth session, which is scheduled to be held in 2010. The Committee may wish to take note of the reports.

8. Consideration of future programme focus

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of its short- and longer-term work in the area of statistics, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2010-2011 and the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013, as endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance to enable the full integration of the outcome of deliberations at the current session into the planning and implementation of the secretariat's work programme.

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

10. Other matters

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

11. Adoption of the report

Documentation

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

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

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its second session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session, to be held from 19 to 25 May 2011.
