



United Nations

Statistical Commission

**Report on the fifty-sixth session
(4–7 March 2025)**

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 2025

Supplement No. 4



Statistical Commission

Report on the fifty-sixth session (4–7 March 2025)



United Nations • New York, 2025

Note

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Chapter I

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

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

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

(a) Draft resolution I: “System of National Accounts 2025” ([E/CN.3/2025/L.4/Rev.1](#));

(b) Draft resolution II: “2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme” ([E/CN.3/2025/L.5](#)).

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

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

Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-sixth session;¹

(b) Decides that the fifty-seventh session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2026;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Demographic and social statistics:
 - (a) Demographic statistics;
 - (b) Gender statistics;
 - (c) Disability statistics;
 - (d) Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data;
 - (e) Refugee statistics;
 - (f) Health statistics;
 - (g) Cultural statistics;
 - (h) Social statistics.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 4* ([E/2025/24](#)).

4. Economic statistics:
 - (a) National accounts;
 - (b) Environmental-economic accounting;
 - (c) Service statistics;
 - (d) Agricultural and rural statistics;
 - (e) Business and trade statistics;
 - (f) International Comparison Programme.
5. Natural resource and environment statistics:
 - (a) Disaster-related statistics.
6. Governance statistics:
 - (a) Governance, peace and security statistics;
 - (b) Statistics of drugs and drug use.
7. Cross-cutting domains:
 - (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Information and communications technology statistics;
 - (c) Data governance;
 - (d) Well-being measurement.
8. Statistical infrastructure and methodology:
 - (a) Presentation of statistical data and metadata;
 - (b) Business registers;
 - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
 - (d) Population and housing censuses;
 - (e) Data science;
 - (f) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;
 - (g) Open data;
 - (h) International statistical classifications.
9. Management and modernization of statistical systems:
 - (a) Data stewardship;
 - (b) Coordination of statistical activities;
 - (c) Statistical capacity development;
 - (d) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
 - (e) Working methods of the Statistical Commission.
10. Specific items of the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division:
 - (a) Dissemination of statistics through the Statistics Division and its publications;
 - (b) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

- (c) World Statistics Day;
- (d) Regional statistical development.
- 11. Programme questions (Statistics Division).
- 12. Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.
- 13. Report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

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

56/101

National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its strong appreciation for all those involved in the development of the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA), especially the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and the editorial team, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2025 of the Intersecretariat Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group;

(b) Adopted the 2025 SNA as the updated international statistical standard for national accounts statistics;

(c) Commended the close collaboration between the two teams responsible for the updates of SNA and the *Balance of Payments Manual* to ensure full alignment between the recommendations of SNA and the *Manual* to the best extent possible;

(d) Welcomed the development of guidance on the recommendations related to measuring data as an asset, natural resources and the net return to capital for non-market production;

(e) Endorsed the implementation strategy for the 2025 SNA;

(f) Noted the concerns of some Member States regarding resource constraints in implementing the 2025 SNA and requested the Intersecretariat Working Group to provide annual implementation progress reports to the Commission, and encouraged Member States to take ownership of developing strategies, including the mobilization of national resources, to facilitate the implementation of the 2025 SNA;

(g) Stressed the importance of continuing to develop implementation guidance on the new recommendations and the need to further test the compilation guidance to ensure the reliability and worldwide comparability of national accounts, and welcomed the development of a compilers' hub to that end;

(h) Emphasized the need for capacity-building and funding for Member States with limited resources to facilitate the implementation of the 2025 SNA in an internationally comparable and coordinated way;

(i) Expressed its appreciation to international organizations and Member States for providing technical support on national accounts and supporting statistics;

(j) Requested the timely translation of the 2025 SNA into the official languages of the United Nations and noted the willingness of some Member States to support that effort;

(k) Encouraged the continued reporting on and evaluation of the availability and scope of official national accounts data reported by Member States, and noted the importance of quality data, including the availability of quarterly national accounts data;

(l) Recognized the decisions made to date and the high-quality work that had led to those decisions, and emphasized the need for a user-focused approach to the development of the SNA research agenda, including through a mechanism for meaningful consultations;

(m) Requested a Member State-led review of the mandate and terms of reference of the Intersecretariat Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group, in tandem with the implementation of the 2025 SNA, with a view to ensuring their continued relevance in guiding the SNA update process in an inclusive and transparent manner, and a report on the review to the Commission by 2027.

56/102

Population and housing censuses

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the activities carried out by the Statistics Division and its partners in support of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme;

(b) Acknowledged the efforts of Member States in conducting the 2020 census round, incorporating significant methodological and technological innovations, in particular by adopting digital technologies, georeferencing and the use of administrative data;

(c) Underscored the critical importance of population and housing censuses as an essential source of data for national statistical systems and for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring;

(d) Endorsed the fourth revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, commended the expert group that had overseen and contributed to its preparation, and encouraged countries to begin its implementation;

(e) Recognized that countries might face technical and financial challenges in the 2030 census round, and requested the development of guidelines, including on census modernization, and the provision of technical assistance to that end;

(f) Approved the programme of work as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;²

(g) Recognized the importance of calculating internationally comparable time series data on the total number of households;

(h) Also recognized the connection between population and housing censuses and agricultural censuses, and encouraged countries to consider that connection when planning their censuses.

² E/CN.3/2025/3 and E/CN.3/2025/3/Corr.1.

56/103 Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report³ and the background document entitled “United Nations Statistical Commission: Implementing the 2022 Terms of Reference and remaining relevant in the United Nations system” prepared by the Bureau, and expressed its appreciation for the active engagement of the Bureau to strengthen its outreach and exchanges with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, especially on topics where expertise and competences potentially overlap;

(b) Supported the Bureau in further exploring the fulfilment of Council resolution 2022/3 of 8 June 2022 regarding the broadened mandate of the Commission, while preserving the technical nature of the Commission;

(c) Approved the proposed framework for review and assessment of and reporting on progress towards the achievement of the objectives in Council resolution 2024/2 of 5 June 2024,⁴ recognizing the framework as a tool for ensuring accountability and measurable progress;

(d) Supported the establishment of a working group of the Commission on data governance, focusing on data governance within official statistics while also considering the Commission’s broader mandate as the apex forum for discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices on statistics and data in the United Nations system; and requested the development of the terms of reference of the working group, specifying its scope of work and deliverables based on the Commission’s technical expertise, while avoiding overlap with other mechanisms, and requested the working group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;

(e) Was informed of various initiatives to promote the artificial intelligence readiness of official statistics, such as the World Bank paper, and invited the Bureau to consider how to bring the topic into the discussions of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;

(f) Was also informed of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development guidelines for measuring productive capacities, and in that context invited the Bureau to consider how to address the topic in the discussions of the Commission.

56/104 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the Bureau and the Statistics Division for the transparent and inclusive consultation process in revising the terms of reference of the Consultative Advisory Board on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(b) Welcomed the renaming of the Board to the “Consultative Advisory Board on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”, emphasizing its advisory and non-prescriptive nature while maintaining confidentiality and respecting the governance frameworks of each country;

³ E/CN.3/2025/4.

⁴ Ibid., annex.

(c) Endorsed the revised terms of reference,⁵ subject to agreement on the following:

- (i) Replacing “addressing instances of non-adherence” with “providing guidance to strengthen adherence”, thereby emphasizing a supportive approach;
- (ii) Amending section III.C, paragraph 8 (b), to allow an extra two months for the Bureau to finalize the selection of the Board’s members;
- (iii) Enhancing clarity in certain instances;

(d) Requested the Bureau to initiate the selection process for members of the Consultative Advisory Board for appointment by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;

(e) Welcomed the two sets of draft implementation guidelines, supported further consultations with Member States and stakeholders to ensure their finalization, and encouraged their translation into the official languages of the United Nations;

(f) Took note of the Board’s role in overseeing the regular review of the guidelines, with the aim of maintaining their relevance in a rapidly changing data landscape.

56/105

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

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for its ongoing work in conducting regular methodological reviews and improving and implementing the global indicator framework;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the open, inclusive and transparent process conducted for the 2025 comprehensive review of the indicator framework, and adopted the proposed major changes and minor refinements as presented in annexes I and II to the report of the Group;⁶

(c) Also expressed its appreciation for the review by the Group of indicators with low or no data coverage and the global efforts to address data gaps, and agreed on the adoption of a practical approach to future indicator development;

(d) Supported the establishment of a task team on lessons learned to inform future development frameworks;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Group to compile and showcase good practices and resources for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, and invited more countries and partners to contribute thereto;

(f) Also expressed its appreciation for the work of the Group on data disaggregation, on geospatial information and on the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange, and stressed the need for continued support for countries to build capacity in those areas;

(g) Encouraged the Group to continue its collaboration with custodian agencies and partners on the implementation of, and capacity-building on, the indicator framework and work on data innovation, data integration and the use of non-traditional data, such as small area estimation, geospatial information and citizen data;

⁵ E/CN.3/2025/5, annex.

⁶ E/CN.3/2025/6.

(h) Approved the proposed work programme of the Group as described in section V of its report.

56/106

Partnership, coordination and capacity-building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its gratitude to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Government of Colombia and the programme committee for organizing the United Nations World Data Forum 2024, and endorsed the launch of the Medellín Framework for Action on Data for Sustainable Development, renewing the commitment to the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

(b) Welcomed the work of the High-level Group on championing financing and capacity-development needs in relation to national data and statistical systems, in particular with regard to raising awareness among those negotiating the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;

(c) Agreed with the updated terms of reference of the High-level Group,⁷ aimed at enhancing the Group's strategic decision-making role by clarifying its responsibilities and better aligning them with the Medellín Framework;

(d) Also agreed with the work programme of the High-level Group,⁸ and requested the Group to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on its evaluation of the United Nations World Data Forum as a global gathering for advancing data and statistics among the widest stakeholder base and the preparations for the sixth Forum, scheduled to be held from 9 to 12 November 2026 in Saudi Arabia.

56/107

Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the work of the Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations system, in support of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*, the regular update of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database, the modernization of the UNData portal and the work on data and metadata exchange;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the Data for Now initiative, aimed at strengthening capacity on data innovation in order to enhance the production and dissemination of data, and supported the establishment of a Data for Now trust fund, encouraged the inclusion of additional countries and welcomed the "Data for SIDS" project for small island developing States;

(c) Also expressed its appreciation for the work of the collaborative on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, and welcomed the provision of practical guidelines, courses and tools;

⁷ E/CN.3/2025/7, annex I.

⁸ Ibid., annex II.

(d) Welcomed the efforts and achievements of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians as an effective mechanism for the professional community for information exchange and networking among statisticians around the world;

(f) Welcomed the work on citizen data by the Statistics Division and the Collaborative on Citizen Data, and endorsed the revised Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data and its implementation road map; requested that guidance be provided on the evolving connection between citizen data and official statistics; and requested the Bureau to consider how to bring the topic into the discussions of the Commission.

56/108

Social and demographic statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics for advancing research on a conceptual framework and integrated data system for social and demographic statistics;

(b) Took note of and welcomed the expressions of interest by Member States in joining and contributing to the work of the group;

(c) Recognized the importance of the work of the group, in collaboration with partners including the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement and the Network of Economic Statisticians, for monitoring well-being, going beyond gross domestic product;

(d) Approved the 2025 work programme as contained in the report of the group,⁹ particularly the development of strategic recommendations and further research on a conceptual framework, while emphasizing the need to consider innovative approaches as well as country contexts, available resources and implementation capacity;

(e) Requested the group to submit its final report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026.

56/109

Migration statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Endorsed the revised *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility*, and highlighted the benefits of integrating migration data systems into broader population data systems;

(b) Welcomed the alignment of the revised *Recommendations* with other international statistical frameworks relevant to migration;

(c) Recognized the diversity of migration data systems and of data capacity, and the challenges that countries might face in producing migration data;

(d) Highlighted the crucial role of capacity-building and sharing lessons learned to advance the implementation of the *Recommendations*, and called for the mobilization of resources to support those efforts;

⁹ E/CN.3/2025/9.

(e) Emphasized the importance of collaboration between national statistical offices, data-sharing within countries and bilateral data exchange between countries to further strengthen and harmonize statistics on migration and migrants;

(f) Approved the programme of work as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰

(g) Welcomed the organization of the fourth International Forum on Migration Statistics, to be hosted by Sweden in June 2025, to discuss the challenges in gathering and using migration data, as well as related solutions and successful practices.

56/110

Work and employment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Acknowledged the important outcomes of the twenty-first International Conference of Labour Statisticians, including the adoption of four resolutions, notably on statistics on the informal economy;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made by the International Labour Organization in supporting the implementation of statistical standards through capacity-building, methodological guidance and technical assistance, and requested the Organization to continue those efforts, including for the most recent International Classification of Status in Employment and statistical standards on the informal economy, noting that implementation would take time;

(c) Welcomed the establishment of technical working groups to develop or update statistical standards, including on digital platform work, labour migration, care work and the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations.

56/111

Economic statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the Network of Economic Statisticians for (i) organizing the data strategy sprint, housing sprint, and artificial intelligence and data science for economic statistics sprint; and (ii) establishing the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement;

(b) Also commended the Network for preparing primers on data strategy and on an international housing statistics framework, which would serve as resources for statistical agencies undertaking work in those two areas;

(c) Welcomed the progress of the work of the Expert Group and its six task teams in preparing briefing notes relevant to the Secretary-General's high-level expert group;

(d) Endorsed the recommendation that the Expert Group report annually on the progress of its work directly to the Commission, starting from 2026;

(e) Also endorsed the terms of reference of the Expert Group, subject to updating paragraph 18 to reflect the decision of the Commission regarding reporting by the Group, and deleting paragraph 19;

(f) Requested the Expert Group to collaborate and coordinate with the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, the Network, the national

¹⁰ [E/CN.3/2025/10](#).

accounts community and relevant international and regional organizations when developing the framework for inclusive and sustainable well-being;

(g) Approved the work programme of the Network for 2025, covering, in particular, the sprints on measuring net zero initiatives and their impact, and on the compilation of subnational economic statistics.

56/112

Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and endorsed the list of issues and the update process for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework, which includes broad consultation, strong communication and user engagement, and coordination with the updates of other statistical standards to foster greater consistency;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the financial support by Eurostat and the International Monetary Fund and in-kind support by countries and international organizations, and encouraged continued support during the update process;

(c) Approved the updated mandate and governance of the Committee;

(d) Welcomed and further encouraged the work on mainstreaming the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting into “beyond gross domestic product”, circular economy, biodiversity, sustainable tourism, climate change and disaster statistics initiatives, and the Group of 20 Data Gaps Initiative;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee related to the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and encouraged the development of practical guidance for the indicators related to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting to support national efforts;

(f) Noted the progress in developing global databases for the priority areas of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and welcomed the plan to re-evaluate those areas for the next five years;

(g) Welcomed the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in countries and the revitalization of the System focal point network, and encouraged the Committee to continue its efforts to coordinate capacity-building activities on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting during the update process, also in support of the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA);

(h) Also welcomed the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting and encouraged the Group to continue to support the Committee to update the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework.

56/113

Business and trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and its task teams, including in strengthening coordination with inter-agency working groups;

(b) Endorsed the handbook on integrating business and trade statistics as the international recommendation for integrating business statistics with international

trade statistics on goods and services, welcomed its implementation strategy and stressed the importance of capacity development to support Member States, and further requested that the inclusion of informal and household trade be explored;

(c) Noted the updates of *International Merchandise Trade Statistics* and the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*, expected in 2026;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the progress in the drafting of volume 2 of the *Manual on Principal Indicators for Business and Trade Statistics*;

(e) Requested the Committee to prepare a concrete proposal for a handbook of business statistics, including the need for concerted efforts, dedicated resources and prioritization of developing such a handbook, and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;

(f) Supported the strategic road map for the global initiative on unique identifiers for businesses, noting the need to consider the cost implications;

(g) Welcomed the development of a centralized global public repository for business and trade statistics and trade data tools;

(h) Requested that technical assistance be provided to Member States for the compilation of business and trade statistics.

56/114

Price statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics related to advancing the international standards and methodologies for price statistics, facilitating collaborative activities aimed at improving data quality and methodological consistency, technical assistance to countries and the international collection of price data, and endorsed the work programme of the Working Group;

(b) Requested the Working Group to consider country-specific circumstances when developing compilation guidance;

(c) Endorsed the updated terms of reference of the Working Group.¹¹

56/115

Crime and criminal justice statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Endorsed the International Classification for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons as the international statistical classification for the production of administrative statistics on trafficking in persons, acknowledging its potential to harmonize data collection and enhance international comparability;

(b) Appointed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration as the custodians of the classification and endorsed their plan to facilitate its implementation, including capacity-building initiatives, technical guidance and assistance, and dissemination efforts;

¹¹ [E/CN.3/2025/15](#), annex.

(c) Encouraged regional organizations to partner with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration in developing regional programmes for the implementation of the classification, emphasizing the importance of cross-border collaboration in addressing transnational trafficking networks;

(d) Took note of the challenges that national institutions might face in adopting the classification and called for the mobilization of financial and technical resources to support its successful implementation.

56/116

Food security and nutrition

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Noted the progress made in establishing a stand-alone food security and nutrition data domain in version 2.0 of the Classification of Statistical Activities, and reiterated the importance of that initiative in developing harmonized definitions, methodologies and standards for food security and nutrition data;

(b) Supported the establishment of a dedicated expert group on food security and nutrition data and statistics under the umbrella of the Statistical Commission, and its terms of reference, and noted countries' interest in joining the expert group;

(c) Endorsed the proposed amendment to the name and the terms of reference of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics, now known as the Committee of Experts on Agricultural and Rural Statistics;

(d) Noted the progress made on the development of a guidance note, encouraged members to participate in its consultation process, acknowledged other recent initiatives in that area, and emphasized the need for capacity-building and financial support to ensure their implementation.

56/117

International statistical classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the progress made by the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications and its task teams on advancing international statistical classifications;

(b) Endorsed the explanatory notes and introduction to version 3.0 of the Central Product Classification;

(c) Encouraged the Committee to develop correspondences and supplementary materials to support the implementation of version 3.0 of the Central Product Classification by Member States, and requested the translation of version 3.0 into all official languages of the United Nations;

(d) Recommended the submission of the revised Standard International Energy Product Classification to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made on the revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government;

(f) Endorsed the International Classification for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons as the international statistical classification for the production of administrative statistics on trafficking in persons;

(g) Approved the initiation of a limited update of version 2.0 of the Classification of Statistical Activities to consider a stand-alone food security and nutrition domain;

(h) Also approved the terms of reference of the standing task team on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification;

(i) Further approved the terms of reference of the task team on best practices and the international family of classifications;

(j) Requested the provision of technical assistance to Member States to implement international statistical classifications;

(k) Noted the progress on the update of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, and encouraged the implementation of the most recent version of the International Classification of Status in Employment.

56/118

Household surveys

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the progress of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, recognizing its continued efforts in advancing survey methodologies, fostering coordination and promoting the value of household surveys and their integration with broader national data ecosystems;

(b) Supported the work of the Working Group on methodologies to integrate survey data with other data sources such as censuses, administrative records and geospatial data, and encouraged the Group to explore the integration of survey data with other non-traditional sources such as non-probabilistic surveys and citizen data, and develop methodologies to handle other emerging challenges;

(c) Commended the efforts of the Statistics Division and its partners for the draft of the *Handbook of Surveys on Individuals and Households: Foundations and Emerging Approaches*, which features a scientific foundation, modernized methodologies, inclusivity and practical guidance for national statistical offices; and supported the newly proposed title and direction for the handbook;

(d) Called for timely finalization of the handbook, ensuring relevance and applicability to countries with different levels of statistical development;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the training events and webinars on innovative survey methodologies and stressed the importance for technical assistance, training courses and regional conferences to support the adoption and uptake of the revised handbook;

(f) Requested the establishment of a task force under the Working Group to lead efforts in supporting countries, in response to the termination of the Demographic and Health Surveys and the potential reduction of other survey programmes, including (i) exploring access to existing Demographic and Health Surveys data and documentation, as appropriate; and (ii) developing a sustainable long-term solution to demographic and health data production;

(g) Supported the work programme of the Working Group and encouraged the Group to continue its active engagement with national statistical offices.

56/119

Data science

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Endorsed the updated terms of reference¹² and mandate of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics and its task teams;
- (b) Supported the work of the task teams, the regional and global hubs, the United Nations Global Platform and the Data Science Leaders Network, and welcomed the ongoing initiatives to develop a playbook for the integration of data science into the work of statistical offices and to provide guidance on privacy-enhancing technologies;
- (c) Expressed its appreciation for the contribution of the regional and global hubs in sharing knowledge and building capacity for the use of big data and data science in official statistics, requested that the hubs be supported and strengthened, and encouraged close collaboration of the hubs with related initiatives, including the Big Data Center of the International Monetary Fund;
- (d) Emphasized the importance of the United Nations Global Platform for the global statistical community as an international collaboration environment for carrying out training activities and joint data innovation projects, and for data- and knowledge-sharing;
- (e) Stressed the continued need for technical and financial assistance on data innovation, including on the use of mobile phone data for official statistics;
- (f) Encouraged national statistical offices to lead digital transformation efforts and to establish strategic partnerships with academia, civil society and the private sector;
- (g) Encouraged continued international collaboration on artificial intelligence, data science and the use of big data and other alternative data sources, especially on fostering artificial intelligence readiness through further work on data interoperability, metadata standards and use of the FAIR principles (findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability) for improved discoverability and use of official statistics;
- (h) Requested the urgent establishment of a task team on the use of large language models.

56/120

National quality assurance frameworks

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed its appreciation to the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks for its work over the past two years;
- (b) Endorsed the draft module for quality assurance when using administrative and other data sources to produce official statistics to address the challenges in using administrative and new data sources;
- (c) Also endorsed the draft maturity model on quality culture in official statistics, and stressed the importance of shared values and behaviours for improving official statistics;
- (d) Requested that both tools be updated and refined when needed, on the basis of experiences of countries in their use;

¹² [E/CN.3/2025/20](#), annex I.

(e) Recognized the need for capacity development and training for the implementation of a national quality assurance framework and welcomed the planned initiatives of the Expert Group to support countries, including through e-learning and knowledge platforms, with a view to supporting quality assurance throughout the national statistical system and beyond;

(f) Welcomed the efforts to address the integration and joint implementation of quality assurance and the use of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model in coordination and cooperation with other groups;

(g) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed work programme of the Expert Group for the next two years and its updated terms of reference.¹³

56/121

Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁴ and commended the Statistical Conference of the Americas and other actors for their achievements;

(b) Commended the significant progress through collaborative efforts among countries and regional and international entities in (i) modernizing and strengthening national statistical systems; (ii) improving the use of administrative records; (iii) integrating geospatial and statistical data; (iv) improving the production of environmental and climate change statistics; and (v) innovative approaches adopted during the 2020 census round and the use of new technologies;

(c) Welcomed mechanisms for strengthening interregional collaboration to exchange best practices, methodologies and innovations, building on successful initiatives, such as the knowledge transfer network, to foster dialogue and capacity-building in the region;

(d) Noted challenges ahead over the next decade for statistical systems in the region and emphasized the need for sustained regional and international cooperation and innovative approaches to data production and a continued commitment to the principles of official statistics.

56/122

World Statistics Day

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day¹⁵ and thanked the Bureau and the secretariat for the work done thus far;

(b) Supported the slogan “Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone”;

(c) Noted the plans for national, regional and global events and requested the secretariat to continue developing multilingual promotional materials, enhancing engagement through the website, social media, and other channels, and coordinating preparations for the 2025 World Statistics Day, incorporating suggestions from the discussion.

¹³ See [E/CN.3/2025/21](#).

¹⁴ [E/CN.3/2025/22](#).

¹⁵ [E/CN.3/2025/23](#).

56/123

Education statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Noted the progress and supported the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring Report in guiding countries to set national benchmarks for education indicators;
- (b) Endorsed the new methodology of producing estimates of completion and out-of-school rates using modelling techniques, and supported its further expansion;
- (c) Welcomed the convening of the first-ever Conference on Education Data and Statistics, which builds a global education data governance;
- (d) Supported the work of the Education Data and Statistics Commission, which takes forward the Conference's recommendations between sessions.

56/124

Environment and climate change statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Supported the restructuring of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation for efforts to enhance communication and collaboration among agencies leading international programmes on climate change data and statistics;
- (c) Welcomed the methodology updates and the establishment of subgroups to address the impact of climate change on health and of climate change on women and men;
- (d) Urged countries to strengthen national data collection and compilation in environment and climate change statistics to better inform policy decisions and international reporting, including on the Statistics Division/United National Environment Programme questionnaire on environment statistics;
- (e) Supported periodic updates to the terms and definitions used in the Statistics Division/United National Environment Programme questionnaire and accommodating emerging topics, such as e-waste and food waste;
- (f) Also supported the work of the subgroup of the Expert Group on compiling a core set of environment and climate change questions for censuses and surveys;
- (g) Requested support for national statistical offices and national focal points for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in producing climate change statistics for their reporting under the Paris Agreement;
- (h) Encouraged strengthened collaboration and coordination among partners to improve synergies in capacity-development initiatives;
- (i) Encouraged Member States to enhance the use of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool;
- (j) Urged Member States to apply the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and its implementation support tools to establish national programmes of climate change statistics and contribute to reporting under the Paris Agreement;

(k) Called upon donors to mobilize additional resources for sustained and permanent statistical advancements.

56/125

Programme questions

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the work programme of the Division, including the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. It requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2026.

56/126

Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the International Labour Organization on informal economy statistics¹⁶

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics¹⁷

Report of the International Monetary Fund on financial statistics¹⁸

Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial statistics¹⁹

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme²⁰

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices²¹

Report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development²²

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange Sponsors on common open standards for the exchange and sharing data and metadata²³

Report of the Secretary-General on the measurement and modernization of statistical systems²⁴

Report of the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission²⁵

¹⁶ [E/CN.3/2025/26](#).

¹⁷ [E/CN.3/2025/27](#).

¹⁸ [E/CN.3/2025/28](#).

¹⁹ [E/CN.3/2025/29](#).

²⁰ [E/CN.3/2025/30](#).

²¹ [E/CN.3/2025/31](#).

²² [E/CN.3/2025/32](#).

²³ [E/CN.3/2025/33](#).

²⁴ [E/CN.3/2025/34](#).

²⁵ [E/CN.3/2025/35](#).

Chapter II

Items for discussion and decision

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 7th meetings, from 4 to 7 March 2025. At its 7th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission adopted two draft resolutions (see chap. I, sect. A). At the same meeting, the Commission took action on all related draft decisions (draft decisions 56/101–56/122) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. C).

A. National accounts

2. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 7th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2025. At its 1st meeting, the Chair of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts introduced the report of the Working Group ([E/CN.3/2025/2](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 7 States members of the Commission, 19 observer States and 5 international organizations.

3. Also at the 1st meeting, the Chair of the session introduced a draft resolution, entitled “System of National Accounts 2025” ([E/CN.3/2025/L.4/Rev.1](#)).

B. Population and housing censuses

4. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2025. At the 1st meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on 2020 and 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programmes ([E/CN.3/2025/3](#) and [E/CN.3/2025/3/Corr.1](#)). At its 2nd meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (b). At the 1st and 2nd meetings, statements were made by the representatives of 5 States members of the Commission, 14 observer States and 3 international organizations.

5. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced a draft resolution, entitled “2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme” ([E/CN.3/2025/L.5](#)).

C. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

6. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2025. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on the working methods of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2025/4](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 5 States members of the Commission and 12 observer States.

D. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

7. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 7th meetings, on 4, 5 and 7 March 2025. At the 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Capacity Management Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/5](#)). At its 3rd meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (d). At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, statements were made by the representatives of six States members of the Commission, nine observer States and four international organizations.

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

8. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At the 3rd meeting, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([E/CN.3/2025/6](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 10 States members of the Commission, 24 observer States and 9 international organizations.

9. Also at the 3rd meeting, the representative of Albania introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.3/2025/7](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission and eight observer States.

10. At its 4th meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (e) and the Chief of the Development Data Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/CN.3/2025/8](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission, eight observer States and one international organization.

F. Social and demographic statistics

11. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At the 4th meeting, the representative of Lithuania introduced the report of the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/9](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of nine States members of the Commission, eight observer States and two international organizations.

G. Migration statistics

12. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At the 4th meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/10](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 7 States members of the Commission, 15 observer States and 4 international organizations.

H. Work and employment statistics

13. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2025. At the 4th meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization introduced the report of the International Labour Organization on work and employment statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/11](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission, nine observer States and one international organization.

I. Economic statistics

14. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Network of Economic Statisticians ([E/CN.3/2025/12](#)). Thereafter,

statements were made by the representatives of four States members of the Commission, six observer States and two international organizations.

J. Environmental-economic accounting

15. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting ([E/CN.3/2025/13](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 4 States members of the Commission, 14 observer States and 3 international organizations.

K. Business and trade statistics

16. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Mexico introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/14](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 5 States members of the Commission and 12 observer States.

L. Price statistics

17. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 5th meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization introduced the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/15](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of three States members of the Commission and seven observer States.

M. Crime and criminal justice statistics

18. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 5th meeting, the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime introduced the joint report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration on crime statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/16](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of four States members of the Commission and four observer States.

N. Food security and nutrition

19. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 5th meeting, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations introduced the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization on food security and nutrition data and statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/17](#)). At its 6th meeting, the Commission continued its consideration of item 3 (n). At the 5th and 6th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission, nine observer States and one international organization.

O. International statistical classifications

20. The Commission considered item 3 (o) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 6th meeting, the representative of New Zealand

introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications ([E/CN.3/2025/18](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission, seven observer States and one international organization.

P. Household surveys

21. The Commission considered item 3 (p) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 6th meeting, the representative of the World Bank introduced the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys ([E/CN.3/2025/19](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of three States members of the Commission, eight observer States and two international organizations.

Q. Data science

22. The Commission considered item 3 (q) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 6th meeting, the representative of South Africa introduced the report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/20](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 6 States members of the Commission, 10 observer States and 2 international organizations.

R. National quality assurance frameworks

23. The Commission considered item 3 (r) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 6th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks ([E/CN.3/2025/21](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of 2 States members of the Commission, 11 observer States and 1 international organization.

S. Regional statistical development

24. The Commission considered item 3 (s) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 6th meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean introduced the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on cooperation for regional statistical development ([E/CN.3/2025/22](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of one State member of the Commission and three observer States.

T. World Statistics Day

25. The Commission considered item 3 (t) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2025. At the 6th meeting, a statistician from the Statistical Capacity Management Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day ([E/CN.3/2025/23](#)). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of two States members of the Commission, two observer States and one international organization.

Chapter III

Items for decision

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025. At the same meeting, the Commission took action on all related draft decisions (draft decisions 56/123 and 56/124) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 8 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. C).

A. Education statistics

2. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 7th meeting. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization introduced the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on education statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/24](#)). Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of one State member of the Commission and one observer State.

B. Environment and climate change statistics

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 7th meeting. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on environment and climate change statistics ([E/CN.3/2025/25](#)). Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of three observer States and two international organizations.

Chapter IV

Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 5 (a) to (j) of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of all the reports under these agenda items for information (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 56/126; and chap. VIII, para. 6).

Chapter V

Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the Division's current activities, plans and priorities.
2. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the oral report and requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2026 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 56/125).

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025. A representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division introduced the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission ([E/CN.3/2025/L.2](#)), as orally revised;

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2025–2029 ([E/CN.3/2025/36](#)), as orally revised.

2. At its 7th meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session ([E/CN.3/2025/L.2](#)), as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau with finalizing it. The Commission decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Council that its fifty-seventh session be held from 3 to 6 March 2026 (see chap. I, sect. B).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2025–2029 ([E/CN.3/2025/36](#)), as orally revised.

Chapter VII

Report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session

1. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 7 March 2025, and heard a statement by the Rapporteur, who introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session ([E/CN.3/2025/L.3](#)), together with an informal paper containing the draft decisions.
2. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the draft decisions were made by the representatives of eight States members of the Commission, six observer States and three international organizations.
3. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-sixth session, including the draft decisions, as orally revised, and the draft resolutions; and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing the report.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its fifty-sixth session at Headquarters from 4 to 7 March 2025. It held seven meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance were observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.3/2025/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairs:

Graciela Márquez Colín (Mexico)

Hyoung Il Lee (Republic of Korea)

Apolonija Oblak Flander (Slovenia)

Rapporteur:

Andrew Bob Johnny (Sierra Leone)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda ([E/CN.3/2025/1/Rev.1](#)) and approved the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session ([E/CN.3/2025/L.1/Rev.1](#)).

5. At the same meeting, the Commission invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its fifty-sixth session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Bank for International Settlements; Central African Economic and Monetary Community; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa; and Eurasian Economic Commission.

E. Documentation

6. The documents before the Commission are available at <https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/documents/56>.

