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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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* E/CN.3/2013/1.



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 - (i) Informal sector statistics;
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 - (n) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;
 - (o) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
 - (p) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).
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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting at a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution; a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-third session (New York, 28 February-

2 March 2012)¹ and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2012/230. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work for the session is before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its forty-fourth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2013/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2013/L.1)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems

The Commission will have before it the programme review of the development of a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems, prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The report is based on the responses to a global survey of national statistical offices, assessing the current linkages of geospatial information and statistics as well as the policy context and the potential future developments. The report describes the varying degrees of integration of geospatial information and statistics in a variety of countries. In addition, it presents a review and analysis of users' needs and explores areas where the value and usability of official statistics could be enhanced by applying geospatial attributes. The report makes recommendations on ways to achieve the linking of statistical information to a location at national and international levels. The Commission is invited to express its views on the importance of linking statistics and geospatial information; in particular the Commission is asked to decide on a possible programme of future work in the area, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the programme review.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems (E/CN.3/2013/2)

(b) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Commission has before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The group was established at the forty-second session of the Commission. The report contains a new draft preamble, the main findings of an implementation survey conducted in 2012, a road map for taking the Fundamental Principles to the Economic and Social Council and some preliminary suggestions on ways in which the Principles can be reinforced. The Commission also has before it a background document with more detailed findings of the implementation survey.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 4* (E/2012/24), chap. I., sect. A, draft decision.

The Commission is requested to amend and adopt a new preamble, discuss the findings of the implementation survey as presented in the main document and background document, comment on the road map and provide guidance on further work on the reinforcement of the Principles.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/3)

(c) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report provides information on the progress of the global and regional implementation programmes for the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) and supporting economic statistics. The report describes the activities and the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts. The report also provides an update on the finalization and publication of translations of the 2008 SNA in the other official languages of the United Nations. The Commission is requested to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Working Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2013/4)

(d) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report describes the progress made in the programme of work of the Committee, with a particular focus on activities related to the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The report includes for the consideration of the Commission the implementation strategy of the SEEA central framework and covers the ongoing efforts to promote it in international forums as a statistical framework for the environment and its relationship with the economy. The report also presents for consideration the SEEA experimental ecosystem accounts and the SEEA extensions and applications, submitted as background documents. It describes the outcome of the international seminar on linking ecosystems and ecosystem services to economic and human activity. The report also provides information on the finalization of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-Energy), submitted as a background document for adoption. The Commission is invited to adopt SEEA-Energy and express its views on the progress of the work of the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2013/5)

(e) Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and three background documents containing the final chapters of the Framework, a plan for its implementation (Blueprint for Action) and a detailed analysis of the feedback received in the consultation process. The report elaborates on the revision process that started in 2010 and presents the outcome of the global consultation on the Framework as well as of the pilot tests of the core set of environment statistics that were carried out by 25 countries. It describes the changes that were implemented in the final document on the basis of the feedback received from the two exercises. It gives a detailed description of the revised Framework that is a multi-purpose organizing framework for environment statistics, and introduces a blueprint for putting the revised Framework to work. The Commission is invited to endorse the revised Framework and the Blueprint for Action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/6)

(f) International trade statistics

The report of the Secretary-General describes the current policy needs for statistics on international trade, the value added of trade, global value chains and economic interdependencies. It outlines new developments in international merchandise trade statistics, statistics of international trade in services and the corresponding trade classifications, and presents a feasibility study on proposed future goals for international trade statistics. Finally, the report indicates some new initiatives in linking trade and business statistics and estimating trade in value added, and highlights some of the work of the many task teams in this area. The report concludes that a measurement framework covering international trade and economic globalization is needed and proposes that such a framework be developed. The Commission may wish to express its views on this proposal.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international trade statistics (E/CN.3/2013/7)

(g) Agricultural statistics

In accordance with the mandate given at its forty-third session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Global Steering Committee presenting the key activities undertaken to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The report includes a description of progress made in the following:

- Establishing the global office as well as the global governing bodies
- Defining the administrative arrangements of the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity-Building
- Developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Undertaking resource mobilization initiatives

- Establishing partnership arrangements with regional organizations and regional development banks
- Developing regional action plans

In addition, the report presents the initial methodological outputs which will underpin the technical assistance and training activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of national agricultural statistical systems.

The Commission is invited to take note of the progress report, and to provide further guidance to the Global Steering Committee on the implementation process of the Global Strategy.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Steering Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/8)

(h) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The report, prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme, outlines the status of implementation of the 2011 round. The report describes the following: (i) governance, capacity-building and outreach activities undertaken in 2012; (ii) the status of country participation, funding, risk assessment and the timetable; (iii) progress in the implementation of ICP price and National Accounts activities; (iv) the 2011 ICP data access policy; and (v) some thoughts on the future of ICP. The Commission may wish to review the progress made with respect to the implementation of the 2011 round and express its views on the workplan leading to the publication of the final results.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2013/9)

(i) Gender statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics, which describes the recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the global gender statistics programme. The report: (i) summarizes the results of the global review of gender statistics programmes in countries; (ii) presents the new guidelines for the production of statistics on violence against women and other forthcoming methodological work on gender statistics; and (iii) highlights the major outcomes of the fourth Global Forum on Gender Statistics. It also provides an update on the minimum set of gender indicators established by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. Finally, the report describes the workplan and strategies implemented by the Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to strengthen the global gender statistics programme, including a new project on evidence and data for gender equality (EDGE), executed jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

(UN-Women). The Commission is invited to comment on the ongoing work on gender statistics, with a view to identifying future priority areas.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2013/10)

(j) Crime statistics

The Commission will have before it the joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on a road map to improve crime statistics. Building on the report presented by the Institute at the forty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, this report recalls the main challenges to the collection, production and dissemination of crime statistics at the national and international levels, and it proposes a number of activities that need to be conducted as a matter of priority. Such activities aim to address existing methodological challenges, including quantifying “difficult-to-measure” crimes (such as organized crime and corruption), improving the capacity to produce crime data and coordination at the national level, and fostering the quality and availability of data and statistical analysis relating to crime at the international level. Specific attention is devoted to the development for statistical purposes of an international classification on crime and on ways to promote the implementation of victimization surveys. The Commission is requested to discuss the proposed road map and provide guidance on its implementation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve crime statistics (E/CN.3/2013/11)

(k) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) on their work on health statistics. In the report, WHO describes its work in three areas: monitoring levels and trends in health; developing and promoting standards and tools for health information; and strengthening country monitoring and measurement. The Commission is invited to express its views on the ongoing activities of the World Health Organization in the area of health statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on its work on health statistics (E/CN.3/2013/12)

(l) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

The Commission will have before it a progress report of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system. It describes the establishment of the group and the initial discussion on priority areas. It also includes a briefing on a meeting between the chair of the Friends of the Chair group and the chief statisticians of the agencies of the United Nations system. Moreover, the report contains a proposal for a programme of work for the Friends of the Chair

group to conclude its tasks. An accompanying background document provides a more detailed description of the United Nations statistical system and existing coordination mechanisms. The Commission is invited to comment on the programme of work and provide guidance for the completion of the group's tasks.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system (E/CN.3/2013/13)

(m) Regional statistical development in Africa

This report provides an overview of the main domains for statistical development in Africa, with a view to addressing development challenges on the continent. The domains cover governance, economic statistics, environment statistics, population and housing censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, gender statistics, the International Comparison Programme for Africa, development indicators, infrastructure statistics, data management and dissemination, training and human resources in statistics, statistics for food security, and sustainable agricultural and rural development. It recalls statistical development challenges and describes the institutional framework developed by African stakeholders aimed at overcoming those challenges by enhancing the statistical capacity of the continent. The framework includes coordination structures, a forum, continental strategies, statistical principles and codes of conduct as well as initiatives taken by subregional integration bodies and countries. The Commission may wish to comment on ongoing efforts aimed at boosting the statistical development of African countries and organizations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa (E/CN.3/2013/14)

4. Items for information

(a) Demographic statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics. The report provides updated information on the progress of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and addresses major issues that affect the full implementation of the Programme. The report also presents the response rates by specific demographic topics for the *Demographic Yearbook* in the past five years, thus providing an illustration of national capacities to collect, process and disseminate demographic statistics. Finally, the report introduces the revised version of *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, outlining the major features and changes, and describing the revision process. It will also highlight major activities aimed at improving civil registration and vital statistics in different regions of the world. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2013/15)

(b) Education statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics on education statistics. The report provides updated information on recent developments in international education statistics. In particular, the report provides information on the implementation of the newly adopted International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) and notes progress towards an ongoing revision of the Standard Fields of Education Classification. The report also presents information on a regional education data collection approach that has been implemented in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean and a modular data collection approach at the global level which will be launched in 2013. It also presents the first results from a new global initiative, the Learning Metrics Task Force, related to the measurement of learning outcomes. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute of Statistics on education statistics (E/CN.3/2013/16)

(c) Employment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on labour and decent work statistics, which summarizes progress and recent developments in the field of labour statistics. The report provides an overview of activities carried out to promote methodological development and provide support to national statistical systems for the production of labour and decent work statistics. The report also describes planned activities and the programme of work in employment statistics. In particular, it describes the preparations for the forthcoming nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians to be hosted by ILO in October 2013. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on labour and decent work statistics (E/CN.3/2013/17)

(d) Business registers

The Commission will have before it the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, which summarizes recent developments and planned activities of the Wiesbaden Group. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2013/18)

(e) Service statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. The report presents the progress of the Group since its last report to the Statistical Commission in 2010. The Voorburg Group has applied a content development framework to develop best practices in the collection of output and price statistics for over 75 service industries defined in the *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4*. The work product and tangible outputs are presented on the Group's website (<http://www.voorburggroup.org/>). The report includes a detailed list of industries addressed and a presentation of the content development framework that guides the continued efforts. In recent years, the group has also addressed some cross-cutting issues in papers that can be found on the website. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/19)

(f) Statistics for economies based on natural resources

The Commission will have before it the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources. The report summarizes the first meeting of the Ulaanbaatar Group and presents information on the proposed terms of reference, the proposed work programme and the proposed organizational structure of this city group, as requested by the Commission at its last session. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources (E/CN.3/2013/20)

(g) Development indicators

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. It describes the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal indicators and the Statistics Division in the following areas: reviewing lessons learned in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals; improving methods for the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; resolving differences between national and international data sets; and strengthening statistical capacity-building. The report also summarizes the preparation of the yearly reports on progress towards achievement of the Goals and presents an assessment of data availability for Goal indicators. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2013/21)

(h) Statistics of science and technology

The Commission will have before it a joint report of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) describing their work on science, technology and innovation statistics. The report will document recent developments in the measurement of science, technology and innovation, with particular emphasis on efforts to revise guidelines on measuring research and development, to support the implementation of the capitalization of research and development in National Accounts and to apply the concepts and methods of the *Frascati Manual* on a truly global basis. The report will also highlight efforts to improve the comparability of innovation statistics for business innovation surveys. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on science, technology and innovation statistics (E/CN.3/2013/22)

(i) Informal sector statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics. The report provides an update on recent activities and meetings and outlines the plans of the Delhi Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/23)

(j) Statistical capacity-building

The Commission will have before it a report that provides an overview of technical cooperation and various forms of capacity-building activities of the Statistics Division which aim to support national efforts in building and strengthening statistical capacity. The report will describe the implementation of the overall programme of the Division by specific statistical domains, including the Millennium Development Goal indicators. Furthermore, it will give details on the progress with the implementation of the multi-year projects organized and executed by the Division. The Commission may wish to take note of the report. The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21). The report outlines the Partnership's efforts to promote the use of better statistics and the development of statistical capacities as a central part of the enabling environment for development. The report also highlights progress in implementing the Busan Action Plan for Statistics and reflects on emerging topics likely to affect national statistical systems such as the "big data" and "open data" agendas. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2013/24)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2013/25)

(k) Price statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The report provides an update on recent developments and activities and outlines the plans of the Working Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/26)

(l) Integrated economic statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics. The report describes the finalization and status of publication of the *Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics*. The report contains information on the conclusion of the task of the Friends of the Chair to develop practical guidance on the integrated approach in economic statistics. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2013/27)

(m) International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on international statistical classifications. The report provides updated information on work related to the development and implementation of international statistical classifications in various fields. In particular, the report presents to the Commission the outcome of the work on updating the Central Product Classification. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2013/28)

(n) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it a report that summarizes the main conclusions of the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held in New York on 27 February 2012 and in Frankfurt from 17 to 19 September 2012, respectively. The Commission may wish to take into

account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2013/29)

(o) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) sponsors on SDMX, which summarizes recent developments and planned activities by the initiative. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange sponsors on SDMX (E/CN.3/2013/30)

(p) Follow-up to policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and the Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions of the General Assembly, the Council or of other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken so far and those suggested to be taken. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by 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 Commission (E/CN.3/2013/31)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fifth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2013-2016. The Commission is invited to

approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-fifth session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2013/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2013-2016 (E/CN.3/2013/32)

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its forty-fourth session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session (E/CN.3/2013/L.__)
