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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Statistics

Sixth session

Bangkok, 16–19 October 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

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

I. Provisional agenda**A. Senior officials segment (16–18 October 2018)**

1. Opening of the senior officials segment:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of overall progress with respect to the document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community”.
3. Review of progress by the groups responsible for the regional initiatives of the Committee with respect to the collective vision and framework for action:
 - (a) Economic statistics;
 - (b) Population and social statistics;
 - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
 - (d) Disaster-related statistics;
 - (e) Agricultural and rural statistics.

4. Review of progress by partners with respect to the collective vision and framework for action:
 - (a) Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific;
 - (b) Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
 - (a) Report of the Bureau;
 - (b) Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
6. Consideration of future programme focus.
7. Consideration of the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the senior officials segment.

B. High-level segment (19 October 2018)

10. Opening of the high-level segment:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
11. Member States' perspectives on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.
14. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

II. Annotations

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the senior officials segment

(a) Opening statements

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be available online in due course at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session.

(b) Election of officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session.

The Committee will elect a chair, three vice-chairs and two other members, one of whom will serve as rapporteur, to form the Bureau. The term of the incoming Bureau will commence immediately and last until the seventh session of the Committee.

(c) Adoption of the agenda**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.2)

Annotation

The annotated provisional agenda, as it pertains to the senior officials segment of the session, will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to changes as may be necessary.

2. Review of overall progress with respect to the document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community”

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community (ESCAP/CST/2018/1)

Strengthening gender for the gender perspective in the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/1)

Towards a transformation in how gender data and statistics are promoted, created and used (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/2)

Annotation

At its fifth session, the Committee endorsed the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community¹ with a view to strengthening official statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Document ESCAP/CST/2018/1 provides a review of the major commitments contained in the collective vision and framework of action, an overview of the initiatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to further its implementation and proposed actions towards full implementation.

Bearing in mind the proposed establishment of a new mechanism to advance integrated statistics under action area C of the framework for action, the document contains details of related efforts, emerging partnerships, such as on ocean accounts, and the investigation of the use of new data sources.

¹ E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1/Rev.1.

Also, given the emphasis in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on gender equality, the document lists key issues relevant to strengthening gender in statistics.

The Committee is invited to take note of the progress made, provide guidance on further implementation of the collective vision and framework for action and endorse the proposed actions contained in the document.

Members of the Committee may wish to make concise statements to share their countries' progress and perspectives for implementing the collective vision and its action areas and may wish to provide guidance on the ways regional collaboration could best support and strengthen their efforts.

3. Review of progress by the groups responsible for the regional initiatives of the Committee with respect to the collective vision and framework for action

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/2)

Annotations

A guiding principle for implementing the collective vision and framework for action is to build on existing commitments, including the existing regional initiatives endorsed by the Committee at previous sessions.

Document ESCAP/CST/2018/2 contains an outline of progress made with regard to the existing initiatives of the Committee, including efforts to strengthen alignment between the initiatives and the collective vision and framework for action.

For each initiative, the document indicates the specific issues and actions that require review and endorsement by the Committee.

The Committee is invited to note the progress made in implementing the five existing initiatives of the Committee, namely (1) economic statistics; (2) population and social statistics; (3) civil registration and vital statistics; (4) disaster-related statistics; and (5) agricultural and rural statistics. The Committee is also invited to endorse the proposed actions outlined in the document and to provide additional guidance on the future implementation of each initiative.

In reviewing the combined progress with regard to the five existing initiatives, the Committee is invited to endorse the actions proposed to further adjust and integrate the initiatives to ensure that they collectively and in the most effective manner serve the implementation of the vision and framework for action. The Committee is also invited to provide additional guidance on this matter, as appropriate.

(a) Economic statistics**Documentation**

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/2)

Reports of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/3)

Achievements of the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: highlighted results from the 2017 capacity screening activity and implications for the future implementation of the Programme (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/4)

Annotation

Section A of document ESCAP/CST/2018/2 contains a summary of the achievements of the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific since the fifth session of the Committee and an outline of recommendations made by the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on the future implementation of the Programme.

The Committee is invited to endorse the recommendations and to consider the suggestions made by the Steering Group on the future implementation of the Programme, including those pertaining to possible adjustments to the core set of economic statistics.

(b) Population and social statistics**Documentation**

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/2)

EPIC: a generic tool for policy-data integration (ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.1)

Annotation

At its fifth session, the Committee endorsed the implementation plan for the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific (decision 5/2), including its vision, goals and targets reflecting national level improvements. The Committee also endorsed the terms of reference for the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics.²

Section B of document ESCAP/CST/2018/2 contains a summary of the achievements in the implementation of the Regional Strategy to Improve Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific as well as of activities by the Regional Steering Group since the fifth session of the Committee.

The Committee is invited to express its views on progress to date and to advise on further implementation of the Regional Strategy. Specifically, the Committee is invited to endorse the principle-based generic tool for policy-

² See E/ESCAP/CST(5)/9.

data integration developed under the guidance of the Regional Steering Group, as contained in document ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.1.

The Committee is invited to express its support for expanding the use of the tool by requesting one or more of the other five existing initiatives to include in their respective programmes or implementation plans the application and further refinement of the tool for increased applicability to other domains of statistics.

(c) Civil registration and vital statistics

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/2)

Report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its third meeting (ESCAP/74/25)

Annotation

Section C of document ESCAP/CST/2018/2 contains a summary of the achievements with regard to the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024, since the fifth session of the Committee as well as an outline of the recommendations made by the Regional Steering Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on future activities.

At its seventy-fourth session, the Commission resolved to accelerate the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and decided to convene a second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in 2020.³

The Committee is invited to express its views on progress made to date and to advise on further implementation of the Regional Action Framework. The Committee is also invited to support the preparations for the Ministerial Conference and to provide specific guidance on further implementation of goal 3 of the Regional Action Framework (Accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated).

(d) Disaster-related statistics

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/2)

The Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/24)

Disaster-related Statistics Framework (ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.2)

³ Commission resolution 74/8.

Annotation

Section D of document ESCAP/CST/2018/2 contains a summary of the achievements of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific since the fifth session of the Committee as well as an outline of the priorities for and proposed mechanism of further work.

At its seventy-fourth session, the Commission resolved to further advance disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific.⁴ In considering the results of the work of the Expert Group and the technical nature of the main body of work, namely the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, which required scrutiny by disaster experts and statisticians, the Commission requested the Committee on Statistics, at its sixth session, and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, at its sixth session, to review the results of the work of the Expert Group and to submit those reviews to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session.

Further, referring to decision 49/113 of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, in which the Statistical Commission decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session in 2019 a separate item on disaster-related statistics,⁵ the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested the secretariat to support the preparation of a joint report by the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, taking into consideration the work of the Expert Group.

Bearing in mind the achievements of the Expert Group and the decisions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and of the Statistical Commission, the Committee is invited to review the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, as contained in document ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.2 with a view to endorsing its statistical contents. The Committee is further invited to review and concur with the priorities for and proposed mechanism of the work of the Expert Group with a view towards preparing its work for review by the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and for submission to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session.

(e) Agricultural and rural statistics

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/2)

Progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/5)

Annotation

Section E of document ESCAP/CST/2018/2 contains a summary of the work of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics to guide the

⁴ Commission resolution 74/6.

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 4 (E/2018/24)*, chap. I, sect. B, paragraph (k).

implementation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and highlights main achievements in implementing the Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics since the fifth session of the Committee. The document also contains an outline of key issues related to future regional implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The Committee is invited to express its views on the implementation of the first phase of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, to provide guidance for the successful completion of the first phase in 2018, and to indicate priorities and strategies for the proposed second phase.

4. Review of progress by partners with respect to the collective vision and framework for action

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations to implement the collective vision and framework for action (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/6)

Annotation

The collective vision and framework for action focuses on collaborative activities that add value to national efforts to strengthen statistics for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Hence, development partners at all levels play important roles in its successful implementation.

The Committee may wish to express its views on the current efforts of partners and to provide guidance on modalities of and focus on future collaborative efforts to advance the collective vision and framework for action, bearing in mind the information contained in document ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/6.

In recalling the collective vision and framework for action, including its principles for collaboration, action areas and implementation mechanisms, development partners are encouraged to confirm their support and indicate their commitments for its successful implementation.⁶

(a) Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific

Documentation

Report on the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2018/3)

Annotation

Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific was established in 2010 to strengthen collaboration among development partners operating in the region for combined effectiveness and to increase the impact of development partner support on national statistics development.

⁶ See E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1/Rev.1, annex IV.

Document ESCAP/CST/2018/3 contains information on developments since the establishment of the partnership, with a focus on the emergence of partnership coordination mechanisms established by the Secretariat of the United Nations to enhance coherence in the United Nations development system, such as the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. The document also contains information on the limited resources available within the secretariat of the Commission to service multiple partner coordination mechanisms and a proposal on the way forward for the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific.

The information contained in the document will be supplemented by an oral update given by the Co-Chairs of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific.

The Committee is invited to consider and to endorse the proposed future arrangements for the coordination of partner activity on statistics development, including the discontinuation of Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific and the transfer of related responsibilities to the Thematic Working Group of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism.

(b) Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2018/4)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/CST/2018/4 contains information on the outcomes of the third meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific held on 5 December 2017. The report will be supplemented by an oral update on the most recent developments, given by the Chair of the Network.

The Committee is invited to express its views on progress to date and to provide guidance and recommendations for future implementation of the programme of work of the Network.

5. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee

(a) Report of the Bureau

Documentation

Report on the activities of the Bureau since the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/7)

Annotation

The report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair. The Committee may wish to take note of the report.

(b) Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/26)

Annotation

The Committee may wish to take note of the report.

6. Consideration of future programme focus

Annotation

The Director of the Statistics Division will make a statement on current activities, plans and priorities. The Committee may wish to provide guidance on future areas of work of the subprogramme.⁷

7. Consideration of the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind

Documentation

Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind: whole-of-government support for national statistical systems (ESCAP/CST/2018/5)

Draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.3)

Annotation

At its seventy-third session, the Commission endorsed the recommendation by the Committee on Statistics to convene the present session of the Committee at a higher decision-making level.

Document ESCAP/CST/2018/5 provides a summation of the motivation for convening the Committee at a higher decision-making level, highlighting aspects of the collective vision and framework for action which require resources, decisions or other support from Governments as a whole, beyond the institutions and mandates of the national statistical systems, for successful implementation.

The Committee is invited to review the proposed draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind, with a view to recommending that it be endorsed by the high-level segment of the present session of the Committee.

8. Other matters

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

⁷ See E/ESCAP/73/33 and ESCAP/74/36.

9. Adoption of the report of the senior officials segment**Documentation**

Draft report of the senior officials segment (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.4)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and endorse the report of the senior officials segment for transmittal to and adoption by the high-level segment of the sixth session of the Committee.

B. High-level segment**10. Opening of the high-level segment****(a) Opening statements**

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be available online in due course at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session.

(b) Election of officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session.

A chair, vice-chair(s) and a rapporteur will be elected for the high-level segment of the session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.2)

Annotation

The annotated provisional agenda, as it pertains to the high-level segment of the session, will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to any necessary changes.

11. Member States' perspectives on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.**Documentation**

Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind: whole-of-government support for national statistical systems (ESCAP/CST/2018/5)

Annotation

Under this agenda item, ministers and heads of delegations are presented with aspects of the collective vision and framework for action that require resources, decisions or other support from Governments as a whole, beyond the institutions and mandates of national statistical systems, for successful implementation. These aspects and underlying issues, as

highlighted by the statistical community, are presented in document ESCAP/CST/2018/5 and form the basis for the call to better navigate policy with data to leave no one behind.

The ministers and heads of delegations are invited to deliver short statements to highlight national policy priorities, commitments and targets for strengthening links between policy and data. Ministers and heads of delegations may wish to highlight achievements and challenges related to policy-data integration and express their expectations for regional collaboration to strengthen statistics to improve the evidence base for the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the context of advancing the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.⁸

The ministers and heads of delegations may also wish to express their commitment and to share their plans for implementing the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.3).

12. Other matters

The Committee may raise any matters not covered under the items listed above.

13. Adoption of the declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind

Documentation

Draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.3)

Annotation

Under this agenda item the Committee will consider and adopt the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind.

14. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CST/2018/L.4/Rev.1)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its sixth session for submission to the Commission for consideration and endorsement at its seventy-fifth session, to be held in May 2019.

⁸ E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.