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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Statistics**Seventh session**

Bangkok, 26–28 August 2020

**Annotated provisional agenda**

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

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening statements;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Soliciting whole-of-government support for official statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
  - (a) Follow-up on decisions made at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics;
  - (b) Monitoring progress in line with 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” and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind;
  - (c) Monitoring progress in response to the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics.
3. Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
  - (a) Progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat;
  - (b) Initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations in support of the collective vision and framework for action.

4. Seminar on priority issues:
  - (a) Accounting for integrated statistics and analysis;
  - (b) Embracing big data to modernize official statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (c) Transforming human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future.
5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
6. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
  - (a) Report of the Bureau;
  - (b) Reports of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
  - (c) Report of the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Asia-Pacific task team on implementation of the Secretary-General's regional reform phase two recommendation for a region-by-region change management process for data and statistics.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Opening of the session**

#### **(a) Opening statements**

The programme for the session will be available online at [www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session](http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session).

#### **(b) Election of officers**

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 eighth session of the Committee.

The list of participants will be available online at [www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session](http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session).

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

##### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CST/2020/L.1)

##### **Annotation**

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

**2. Soliciting whole-of-government support for official statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**(a) Follow-up on decisions made at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics**

**Documentation**

Report on progress with regard to decisions made at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/1)

Report of the secretariat on the establishment of communities of practice (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/2)

**Annotation**

The Committee may wish to take note of the information document on progress with regard to decisions made at its sixth session and suggest changes as may be necessary. The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the findings in the report on the establishment of communities of practice and the trial of a data integration community of practice.

**(b) Monitoring progress in line with 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” and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind**

**Documentation**

Draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind (ESCAP/CST/2020/1)

**Annotation**

A monitoring and evaluation framework for the regional agreements to advance official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to changes as may be necessary.

**(c) Monitoring progress in response to the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics**

**Documentation**

Report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/23)

Report on progress towards the achievement of the goals of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024) (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/3)

**Annotation**

With the proclamation of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024) at the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in 2014, Governments identified the decade 2015–2024 as the time to enable all people in the region to

benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems. At that time, Governments also endorsed the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific as a means for realizing the shared vision of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade to “get every one in the picture”. A regional report will serve as the basis for a midterm review of the Decade during the upcoming Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in October 2020. At the Second Ministerial Conference, Governments will take stock of current regional progress in meeting the Regional Action Framework goals, recommit to improving civil registration and vital statistics systems and set the course for the second half of the Decade.

The Committee is invited to express its views on progress made to date as documented in ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/3 and to provide advice on the further implementation of the Regional Action Framework. The Committee is also invited to support preparations for the Second 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).

**3. Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**(a) Progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat**

**Documentation**

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing regional initiatives with respect to the collective vision and framework for action (ESCAP/CST/2020/2)

Reports of the 8th and 9th meetings of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/4)

Report of the 2nd meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/5)

Report of the 6th meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/6)

Progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/7)

Reports of the 4th and 5th meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/8)

**Annotation**

A guiding principle for implementing the commitments contained in 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” is to build on existing commitments, including the existing regional initiatives endorsed by the Committee at previous sessions.

Document ESCAP/CST/2020/2 contains an outline of progress and achievements with regard to the existing regional initiatives of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics, the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific. The document also contains information on other areas of the secretariat's work, including efforts to mainstream gender concerns across different areas of work. Efforts to strengthen alignment between the initiatives and the collective vision and framework for action are highlighted. For each action area of the collective vision, the specific issues and actions that require review, endorsement and guidance by the Committee are indicated.

The Committee may wish to note the progress made in implementing the various regional initiatives. The Committee may also wish to endorse the proposed actions outlined in the document and to provide additional guidance on the future implementation of the initiatives with a view to adjusting, integrating and aligning the initiatives, as needed, to ensure they collectively and in the most effective manner serve the implementation efforts for the vision and framework for action.

Information documents ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/4, ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/5, ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/6, ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/7 and ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/8 contain information on the outcomes of recent meetings of the above-mentioned groups, including the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.

The Committee may wish to express its views on the progress to date and to provide guidance and recommendations on the future work of these groups.

**(b) Initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations in support of 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 with respect to the collective vision and framework for action (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/9)

Work of the secretariat and partners on mainstreaming gender in environment statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/10)

**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. Information document ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/9 contains highlights of the current efforts of partners in support of the collective vision and framework for action.

Information document ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/10 contains a concrete example of the efforts of partners in support of the collective vision and framework for action in the area of mainstreaming gender into environment statistics.

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.

**4. Seminar on priority issues**

- (a) Accounting for integrated statistics and analysis**
- (b) Embracing big data to modernize official statistics in Asia and the Pacific**
- (c) Transforming human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future**

**Documentation**

Regional and national efforts with economic, satellite and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/3)

Regional and national efforts to embrace big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/4)

Regional and national efforts to transform human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future (ESCAP/CST/2020/5)

**Annotation**

The Bureau of the Committee has identified accounts, non-traditional data sources, including big data, human resources and building skills for strengthening national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific as priority issues for the region.

Documents ESCAP/CST/2020/3, ESCAP/CST/2020/4 and ESCAP/CST/2020/5 contain information on selected regional and national efforts in these three areas and outline relevant global initiatives.

This agenda item will be discussed in the format of a seminar. Members of the Committee are invited to share their country's progress and perspectives on these topics in the context of strengthening official statistics through the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action and strengthening national statistical systems through the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind.

**5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme**

**Documentation**

Preparation of the draft programme of work (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/11)

**Annotation**

The information document contains an overview of the subprogramme's work with a focus on its contribution to areas that should be mainstreamed in the work of all the committees in accordance with the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific.

The information document will be supplemented by an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division on current activities, plans and priorities.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the preparations for the programme plan based on its deliberations.

**6. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee**

**(a) Report of the Bureau**

**Documentation**

Report on the activities of the Bureau since the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/12)

**Annotation**

The report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair.

The Committee may wish to take note of the information document.

**(b) Reports 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 fourteenth session (ESCAP/75/21)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/22)

**Annotation**

The Committee may wish to take note of the reports.

**(c) Report of the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Asia-Pacific task team on implementation of the Secretary-General's regional reform phase two recommendation for a region-by-region change management process for data and statistics**

**Documentation**

Report of the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Asia-Pacific task team responsible for implementing phase two of the Secretary-General's United Nations development system regional reform (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/13)

**Annotation**

Information document ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/13 contains information on the activities of the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, 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. The document also contains highlights of the work of the Asia-Pacific task team responsible for implementing recommendation 4 of phase two of the Secretary-General's United Nations development system regional reform.

The Committee may wish to take note of the information document.

**7. Other matters**

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items listed above.

**8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session**

**Documentation**

Draft report (ESCAP/CST/2020/L.2)

**Annotation**

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its seventh session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-seventh session.

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