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Committee on Statistics

Second session

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Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session: Election of the Bureau

Principles and procedures concerning the election of the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Note by the Bureau

Summary

The present document contains a proposal to be used for the election of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics. It has been prepared by the outgoing Bureau in response to the request of the Committee on Statistics at its first session. In finalizing its proposal, the Bureau has consulted with all Committee members. The proposal is submitted for adoption by the Committee on Statistics at its second session. The adopted version will be used to guide the election of subsequent Bureaux of the Committee.

A. Decisions and guidance provided by the Committee on Statistics at its first session

1. At its first session, held from 4 to 6 February 2009, the Committee on Statistics decided to establish a bureau to assist it in conducting each session and in performing the functions of the Committee between the biennial sessions. The same decision also covered the composition, role and functioning of the Bureau.¹

2. In that context, the current elected Bureau is proposing a set of principles and procedures to govern the election of the Bureau in the future and has submitted the proposal to the members and associate members of ESCAP for consultation during the period between the first and second

¹ Committee decision 1/1 (see E/ESCAP/CST/10).

sessions of the Committee in order to maximize the chances of the proposal being adopted during the formal session.

B. Additional points considered by the Bureau

3. In developing the proposal, the Bureau also reviewed the procedures for electing bureau members for statistical committees and conferences of other regional commissions. The Bureau decided that the following aspects of the Committee's decisions at its first session needed further specification:

(a) *Number of consecutive terms allowed for members.* The Bureau recommends that any member could sit on the Bureau for a maximum of two terms (four years);

(b) *Continuity in the Bureau.* The Bureau considers it ideal that half of the Bureau members rotate out at each session. This would require that the Bureau comprise an even number of members;

(c) *Practical nomination procedure.* The Bureau recommends that the outgoing Committee Chair consult all Committee members, as he or she thinks is feasible and appropriate, and prepare a list of candidates to be nominated for the new Bureau at the next session.

C. Initial proposal and its review

4. With the assistance of the secretariat, the Bureau drafted an initial proposal in May 2010. Mr Rusman Heriawan, Chair of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics and Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, sent the proposal by e-mail to all Committee members, seeking their feedback.

5. A total of 10 Committee members responded via e-mail or fax regarding the proposed election procedures. In addition, one Committee member had an informal meeting with the secretariat, during which the subject of the election procedures was raised.

6. Following the above consultation with all Committee members, the Bureau carefully considered all of the feedback received and decided that the following issues, which had not been fully taken into account in its initial proposal, required further clarification:

(a) *Composition of the Bureau.* After taking into account the feedback received regarding paragraph 3(b)), above, the Bureau recommends that the Bureau consist of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and two other members, one of whom will act as the Rapporteur during the formal Committee session;

(b) *Election procedure.* After taking into account the feedback received, the Bureau recommends that the outgoing Chairperson contact all Committee members (via e-mail or by other means) seeking their nominations to the Bureau and, if necessary, enter into negotiations with all the interested members, prior to making his proposal;

(c) *Special provision for the Bureau elected at the first session.* After taking into account the feedback received, the Bureau recommends that the members elected by the Committee at its first session be eligible for re-election at the second session of the Committee and, to ensure rotation and the continuity of the Bureau, that up to three members of the Bureau

elected by the Committee at its first session be re-elected at its second session.

D. Final proposal for the election of the Bureau

7. Taking into account the decisions already made by the Committee, the feedback received from the Committee members during the consultation process and the further considerations outlined above, the Bureau proposes that the following principles and procedures guide the election of the Bureau at future sessions of the Committee on Statistics:

(a) All ESCAP members and associate members shall be eligible for membership in the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics;

(b) Members of the Bureau shall commit to devoting the time required for adequate discharge of their duties;

(c) The election of the Bureau shall take place at the beginning of each session of the Committee;

(d) The Bureau membership should, to the extent possible, reflect balanced subregional representation;

(e) The Bureau shall consist of a Chair, three vice-chairs and two other members, one of whom will act as the Rapporteur during the formal Committee session;

(f) The term of a Bureau member shall run from the beginning of a Committee session to the beginning of the following session;

(g) If an elected member of the Bureau vacates a seat, a representative of the same country as the elected member will be co-opted for the remainder of his/her term. If the elected Chair leaves the Bureau, the remaining Bureau members shall elect a new Chair from among the vice-chairs and the seat so vacated shall be filled by co-opting in the above manner;

(h) Possible re-election of Bureau members:

(i) A member can be re-elected, but can only serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms, of two years each. Subsequent re-election is permitted after a break of at least one term of two years;

(ii) To ensure rotation and continuity, up to three members shall be re-elected at each session;

(i) Election procedure:

(i) The election of the Bureau shall be a dedicated agenda item at the beginning of each regular session and the election shall be carried out on the basis of a proposal prepared by the outgoing Chair of the Bureau. The proposal should be prepared in consultation with all Committee members, in an appropriate manner, to maximize the chances of it being adopted by consensus;

- (ii) The outgoing Chair should contact all Committee members (via e-mail or by other means), seeking their nominations to the Bureau, prior to making his or her proposal. If more than one member from a given subregion is interested in serving on the Bureau, the Chair should consult with all interested members before making a decision;
 - (iii) Nominations shall be proposed to the Committee at the formal session and shall be seconded by two different Committee members who are not candidates for election to the Bureau. The proposal should consist of nominations for a Chair, three vice-chairs and two other members, one of whom will act as the Rapporteur during the formal session;
- (j) Special provision for the Bureau elected at the first session of the Committee on Statistics:
- (i) The members of the Bureau elected by the Committee at its first session shall be eligible for re-election by the Committee at its second session;²
 - (ii) To ensure rotation and the continuity of the Bureau, up to three members of the Bureau elected by the Committee at its first session shall be re-elected at its second session. The members of the Bureau elected at the first session of the Committee who vacate their positions may be co-opted unopposed at the third session so that they complete a full two terms (four years).

8. The Committee may wish to adopt the proposal outlined above at the beginning of its second session before proceeding to elect a new Bureau for the Committee on Statistics according to the procedures contained in the proposal.

² See Committee decision 1/1, para. 3.