



NAVIGATING

POLICY WITH DATA

TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



Members' guidebook

ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Sixth session

16-19 October 2018

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I. Welcome from the Director, ESCAP Statistics Division *Gemma Van Halderen*

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 6th Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics. Thank you for joining me in this important and landmark meeting of Chief Statisticians, their representatives, partners and donors.

Why is this a landmark? For the first time, high-level representatives from your Governments have been invited to support you as leaders of your statistical systems. This was requested by you at the 5th Session of the Committee and the Bureau and Secretariat are pleased to deliver.

High-level representation facilitates a dialogue between you, as the producers of high quality official statistics, and policy makers. The dialogue is focussed on supporting achievement of the Collective Vision and Framework for Action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community to advance official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A declaration of support aims to solidify this commitment.

The Committee has before it a full and exciting agenda. Much progress has been achieved in its body of work through initiatives such as the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics and Regional Programme for Population and Social Statistics. In 2020, the ESCAP Commission has decided to hold a mid-term Ministerial Conference for the CRVS Decade, 2015-2024. Asia and the Pacific are leading methodological advances in Ocean Accounts and Disaster-related Statistics. Your work demonstrates Asia and the Pacific has a vibrant statistical community with much to offer.

I look forward to a successful 6th Session of the Committee and supporting you in strengthening your National Statistical Systems and the delivery of trusted official statistics.

II. ESCAP Committee on Statistics

What is the ESCAP Committee on Statistics?

The ESCAP Committee on Statistics is the highest level intergovernmental forum for decision making on statistics in the Asian and Pacific region. ESCAP member States are represented at the Committee by leaders of national statistical systems, i.e. heads of national statistical offices, or their representatives.

What does the Committee do?

The ESCAP Committee on Statistics is a subsidiary body of the Commission, dedicated to the development of official statistics in the Asia-Pacific region.

During its fifth session in December 2016, the Committee endorsed a Collective Vision and Framework for Action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community to Advance Official Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The vision for transformation

We, the Asia-Pacific statistical community, comprising leaders of national statistical systems and development partners active in the region, share the vision that:

..... by 2030, national statistical systems are enabled and empowered to lead development of, and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of Agenda 2030.

The Collective Vision and Framework for Action is the Committee's reference for strengthening statistical capacity in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

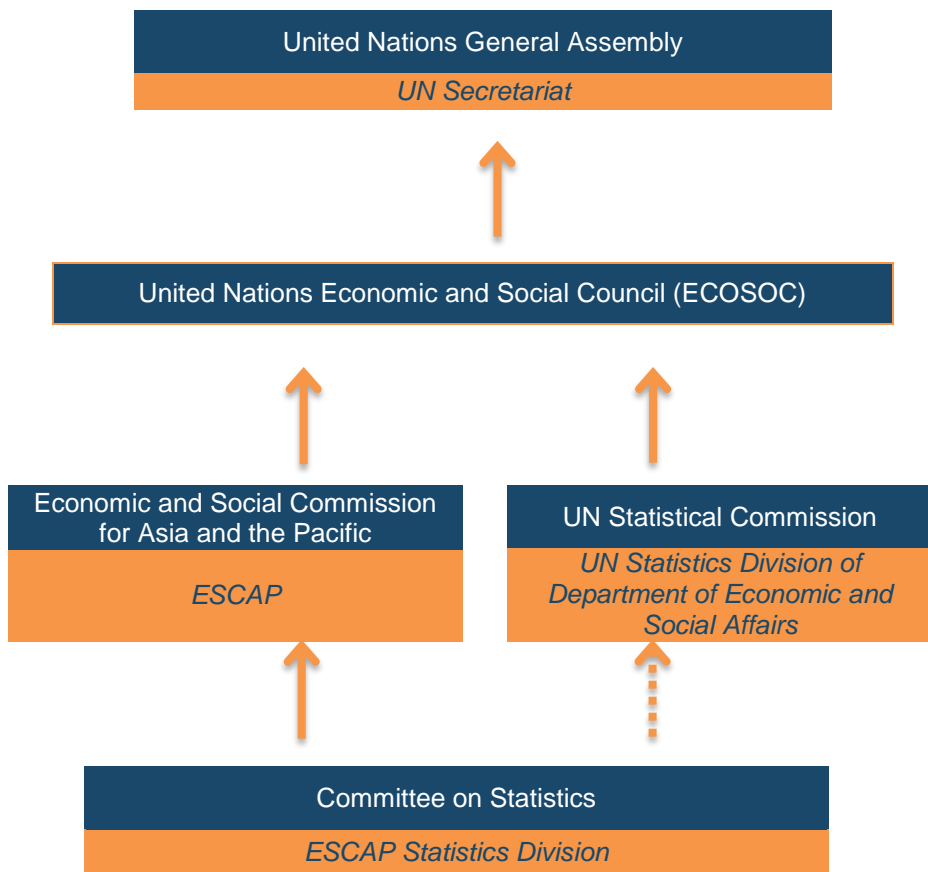
Subsidiary groups to the ESCAP Committee on Statistics



- Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
- Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics
- Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (also reporting to the Asia and the Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics)
- Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific
- Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific

In addition, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics considers the work of the following groups subsidiary to the Commission:

- Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
- Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP Committee on Statistics in the United Nations System



 Inter-governmental body
 Secretariat

ESCAP Committee on Statistics: Decisions & achievements 2010-2016

CST-2
December
2010

The Committee set two strategic goals for its work

- a) Ensuring all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics;
- b) Creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.¹

The Committee approved:

- A Core Set of Economic Statistics²
- A Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

CST-3
December
2012

The Committee endorsed:

- An Implementation Plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
- A Core Set of Population and Social Statistics³
- A Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific⁴
- A regional action plan for global strategy on agriculture and rural statistics
- A strategy for improving regional coordination of statistical training

¹ Subsequently endorsed by the ESCAP Commission in Resolution 67/11, May 2011

² Subsequently endorsed by the ESCAP Commission in Resolution 67/10, May 2011

³ Subsequently endorsed by the ESCAP Commission in Resolution 69/16, April 2013

⁴ Subsequently endorsed by the ESCAP Commission in Resolution 69/15, April 2013

CST-4
March
2015

The Committee endorsed:

- A Regional Strategy to improve Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and establishment of a steering group on population and social statistics to oversee implementation of the regional strategy
- A modular and integration-focused approach to improving environment statistics in Asia and the Pacific
- A core set of gender indicators for Asia and the Pacific
- The programme of work for the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

CST-5
December
2016

The Committee endorsed:

- The Collective Vision and Framework for Action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community for Advancing Official Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵
- *The Collective Vision and Framework for Action supersedes the existing 2020 goal (set in 2010) as the Committee's reference for strengthening statistical capacity*
- An implementation plan for the Regional Strategy to improve Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the terms of reference for a Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics

⁵ Subsequently endorsed by ESCAP Commission in Resolution 73/5, May 2017

History of ESCAP Committee on Statistics

The history of intergovernmental forums of statisticians in the region dates back to 1951. The first-ever such body was the Regional Conference of Statisticians of Asia and the Far East (RCOS) formed under the Economic Commission of Asia and the Far East (the former name of ESCAP).

RCOS was in 1957 replaced by the Conference of Asian Statisticians (COAS) which remained until 1974. In that year, the Committee on Statistics (COS) was established under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Between 2003 and 2007, statistical matters were considered by the Committee by the mandate of the Committee on Poverty Reduction (CPR).



An ECAFE report containing recommendations from the first session of Regional Conference of Statisticians of Asia and the Far East (1952)

Chairpersons of the Intergovernmental Bodies on Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Session	Chairperson	Inter-sessional period
S-1	Mr Hla Maung (Burma)	1951 – 1952
RCOS-2	Mr P.C. Mahalanobis (India)	1952 – 1954
RCOS-3	Mr F.C. Benham (Malaya)	1954 – 1956
RCOS-4	M.C. A. Ksemsri (Thailand)	1956 – 1957
RCOS-5/COAS-1	M.C. A. Ksemsri (Thailand)	1957 – 1958
COAS-2	M.C. A. Ksemsri (Thailand)	1958 – 1960
COAS-3	Mr Yuzo Mortia (Japan)	1960 – 1961
COAS-4	Mr Ichiro Nakayama (Japan)	1961 – 1963
COAS-5	Mr B. Kantabutra (Thailand)	1963 – 1964
COAS-6	Mr B. Kantabutra (Thailand)	1964 – 1966
COAS-7	Mr B. Kantabutra (Thailand)	1966 – 1967
COAS-8	Mr K.M. Archer (Australia)	1967 – 1969
COAS-9	Mr B. Kantabutra (Thailand)	1969 – 1970
COAS-10	Mr R. Chander (Malaysia)	1970 – 1972
COAS-11	Mr Tito Mijares (Philippines)	1972 – 1973
COAS-12	Mr V.R. Rao (India)	1973 – 1974
COS-1	Mr M. Abdulmajid (Indonesia)	1974 – 1976
COS-2	Mr Firoz Tofigh (Iran)	1976 – 1978
COS-3	Ms E. Kohkongka (Thailand)	1978 – 1981
COS-4	Mr S. Husain (Pakistan)	1981 – 1983
COS-5	Mr S. Kuzmicich (N. Zealand)	1983 – 1985
COS-6	Mr A.K.M. Rabbani (Bangladesh)	1985 – 1987
COS-7	Mr Azwar Rasjid (Indonesia)	1987 – 1992
COS-8	Mr Dato Khoo Teik Huat (Malaysia)	1992 – 1994
COS-9	Mr Frederick W.H. Ho (HK)	1994 – 1996
COS-10	Mr Frederick W.H. Ho (HK)	1996 – 1998
COS-11	Mr Frederick W.H. Ho (HK)	1998 – 2000
COS-12	Mr Paul Cheung (Singapore)	2000 – 2003
CPR-1	Mrs K. Navaratne (Sri Lanka)	2003 – 2005
CPR-2	Mr Z. Ampatuan (Philippines)	2005 – 2006
CPR-3	Mr D. Panganiban (Philippines)	2006 – 2007
CPR-4	Ms Lina Castro (Philippines)	2007 – 2009
CST-1	Mr Rusman Heriawan (Indonesia)	2009 – 2010
CST-2	Mr Brian Pink (Australia)	2010-2012
CST-3	Ms Carmelita Ericta (Philippines)	2012 – 2014
Inter-session	Ms Lisa G. Bersales (Philippines)	2014 – 2015
CST-4	Ms Aishath Shahuda (Maldives)	2015 – 2016
CST-5	Mr Suhariyanto (Indonesia)	2016 – 2018

III. Milestones for Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The Bureau of the Committee to assist the Committee in performing its functions is established – CST-1 - 2009 ●

The Committee on Statistics (CST) is re-established - 2008 ●

Committee on Poverty Reduction (CPR) is established – Dec 2003 - 2003 - 2007 ●
CPR replaces COS in order to face more directly the challenge of poverty in the region
Four sessions of CPR are held between December 2003 and December 2007

ASI changes name to Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) - 1975 ●

The Committee of Statistics (COS) replaces the Conference of Asian Statisticians - 1974 ●
ECAFE changes name to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Asian Statistical Institute (ASI) is created - 1970 ●

ECAFE Statistics Division is established - 1966 ●

Resolution 21: Conference of Asian Statisticians (COAS) replaces RCOS - 1957 ●

RCOS-1 at Rangoon, Burma, 40 countries - 1951 ●

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) is created - 1947 ●
ECAFE requests to establish a Statistical Section in the Research and Statistics Division

Agenda milestones

- 2016 - The collective vision and framework for action endorsed by CST-5
- 2010 - Strategic Goals endorsed by CST-2
- 2006 - Measurement of informal employment – CPR-3
- 2000 - Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of IMF adopted by COS-12
- 1992 - Gender issues (collaboration with UNIFEM); poverty and environment statistics – COS-8
- 1985 - Computers and new data processing systems – COS-6
- 1983 - Administrative records; International Comparison Project, cross-sectoral statistics - COS-5
- 1974 - Energy statistics, statistics for environmental studies and cultural statistics – COS-1
- 1970 - Statistics on education, literacy estimates – COAS-10
- 1969 - Data processing, statistical development activities – COAS-9
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Far East
- 1964 - Labour force, employment statistics – COAS-6
- 1961 - Food consumption Shortage of trained professionals – COAS-4
- 1957- 1960 - World Census of Agriculture – RCOS-5
- 1956 - Population and housing censuses – RCOS-4
- 1954 - National Accounts System – RCOS-3
- 1952 - Industrial production and price statistics – RCOS-2

IV. Bureau of the ESCAP Committee of Statistics

What is the role of the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics?⁶

- Assists the Committee on Statistics in carrying out its functions in the course of the inter-sessional period, including overseeing the activities of the Statistics Division of the ESCAP secretariat related to the implementation of the decisions of the Committee.
- Represents the Committee, through its Chairperson or such other Bureau member as may be designated by the Chairperson, at meetings, workshops or other forums for which invitations might be received and which the Bureau considers of particular relevance and importance to the Committee.
- Considers presentations from the secretariat on the resolutions and decisions of the ESCAP Commission and of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and highlights issues of particular importance to the ESCAP region for the consideration of the Committee, making appropriate recommendations.
- Guides the ESCAP secretariat in the development of the provisional agenda, including the scope of documentation, for each Committee session.
- Provides recommendations to the Committee to establish working groups, task forces or any other instruments as are deemed necessary for furtherance of the functions of the Committee and implement its decisions through the secretariat.
- Keeps the Committee informed of all significant steps taken and proposed by the Bureau and, in the event of objections or differences, resolve matters through electronic communication.

⁶ Committee decision 1/1 (see E/ESCAP/CST/10)

How does the Bureau work?⁷

The Bureau holds consultations periodically, as needed, during the inter-sessional period.

In order for the Bureau to perform its role effectively, the Committee advises the Bureau to pursue several key functions in the inter-sessional period and to report to the Committee at its next session on the progress made:

- Engage with, and provide technical support to, the other seven committees of ESCAP (e.g. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction) on any statistical matters that may arise in the course of their work
- Propose common regional positions to the Committee regarding the formulation, review and extension of international statistical frameworks, classifications and standards, and on the setting of statistical priorities in the work program of the UNSC
- Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the Asian and Pacific region, with particular attention to the specific tasks set from time to time by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and to the implementation of international statistical frameworks, classifications and standards
- Provide the secretariat with guidance on coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and sub-regional entities and other members of the United Nations system and other international organizations concerning statistical work in the Asian and Pacific region
- Promote the observance of the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its special session in 1994⁸
- Identify, within the strategic framework and the program of work, areas for technical assistance, training, education and research in the area of statistics and their application, including the development of information technology applications and information resource management in the Asian and Pacific region
- Give suggestions to the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on the nature of, and priorities in, statistical training for countries of the region, including countries with special needs

⁷ Committee decision 1/1 (see E/ESCAP/CST/10)

⁸ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9 (E/1994/29), para. 59.

How is the Bureau composed?⁹

The Bureau assists the Committee in conducting each session and in performing the functions of the Committee between the biennial sessions.

The elected Chairperson of the Committee on Statistics serves as the Chairperson of the Bureau. The Bureau has three vice-chairpersons and up to two other members, one of whom acts as the Rapporteur of the Committee during the formal session.

The Bureau is elected at each formal session of the Committee on Statistics with due consideration to geographic representation.

As considered appropriate by the Chairperson, others may be invited to participate in particular activities of the Bureau from time to time.

How is the Bureau elected?¹⁰

- The Bureau of ESCAP Committee on Statistics recommends any member could sit on the Bureau for a maximum of two terms (four years). To ensure rotation and the continuity of the Bureau, up to three members of the Bureau elected by the Committee at one session are re-elected at the following session.
- All ESCAP members and associate members are eligible for membership in the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

The election of the Bureau is a dedicated agenda item at the beginning of each regular session and the election is carried out on the basis of a proposal prepared by the outgoing Chair of the Bureau.

⁹ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/1

¹⁰ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/1

V. Statistics at ESCAP

Statistics Division (the Secretariat)

The ESCAP Statistics Division is one of eight substantive divisions of the ESCAP secretariat. The Division's core areas of work include supporting intergovernmental dialogue in its area of competence, implementing programmes for capacity building in statistics, collecting and analysing data on the region, and publishing statistical and analytical publications.

Between 1947 and 1966, statistical matters in the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East were handled by the Research and Statistics Division. The Statistics Division was established on 1 February 1966, servicing for the first time the seventh session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians. Its successor, the Statistics Division has provided secretariat support to the various regional intergovernmental forums.

Currently, the Statistics Division services the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, its Bureau and other subsidiary bodies. The Division has two main sections, a unit and a Regional Advisor on Environment Statistics:

- Economic and Environment Statistics Section
- Population and Social Statistics Section
- Statistical Data Management Unit

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

Formerly named the Asian Statistical Institute, SIAP was established in Tokyo in September 1970 for a five-year period. It changed its name to SIAP in 1975. In 1995, SIAP becomes a subsidiary body of ESCAP and has since 1999 been located in Chiba, Tokyo.

SIAP's mission is to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of member economies in the region to collect, analyse and disseminate high quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning.

In accordance with its Statute, SIAP has a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of Japan and eight representatives nominated by other members elected by the Commission. The Governing Council reviews the administration and financial status of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work. It also reviews and endorses annual and long-term work plans.



Statistics Division

Bangkok, Thailand

Phone: +66-2288-2593

Email: stat.unescap@un.org

Web: www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

Chiba, Japan

Phone: +81-43299-9782

Email: escap-siap@un.org

Web: www.unsiap.or.jp



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