

**Agenda item 3(a): 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**

- UNSD wishes to congratulate the Steering Group and ESCAP for establishing a highly valued program on economic statistics. It covers the exemplary annual Asia Pacific Economic Statistics week, a training package developed by ESCAP on basic economic economics, and support for international programs (the International Comparison Programme (ICP), trade statistics, business statistics, 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) implementation, labour statistics including the 2018 International Conference of Labour Statistician, and micro data access and use of the policy-data integration tool (EPIC) tool).
- The economic statistics program is not only technical but also strategic in nature by supporting the future of economic statistics program led by the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics, which held regional consultations with chief statisticians of the ESCAP region in 2019.
- Moreover, the report describes the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis that confirm the findings of the FOC Group on Economic Statistics
- Going forward UNSD looks forward to actively work with Steering Group and ESCAP in 2020 and 2021 to engage selected countries in global co-investments initiatives through the projects related to experimentation and testing of new data solutions and the update of the statistical framework for the system of economic statistics by 2025, including the 2008 SNA.