



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Statistics

### Seventh session

Bangkok, 26–28 August 2020

## Report of the Committee on Statistics on its seventh session

### I. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

1. The following decisions adopted by the Committee on Statistics are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

#### Decision 1

The Committee endorses the 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 to advance official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to the amendments suggested by member States and final review and approval by the Committee at its seventh session.

#### Decision 2

The Committee decides to advance the mainstreaming of gender in its work. It requests the Bureau to propose, in consultation with the secretariat and development partners, draft recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.

#### Decision 3

The Committee decides to feature accounting for integrated statistics and analysis in its future work with an emphasis on sharing country research and experiences and facilitating the provision of technical assistance. It requests the Bureau to propose, in consultation with the secretariat, draft recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.

#### Decision 4

The Committee decides to feature big data for official statistics in its future work with an emphasis on sharing country research, experiences and good practices and facilitating capacity development. It requests the Bureau to

propose, in consultation with the secretariat, draft recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.

### **Decision 5**

The Committee decides that the strengthening of national statistical offices, including the development of training and train-the-trainer programmes to address skill gaps in line with the 2030 Agenda, should be among the priorities of the Committee. It requests the Bureau to propose, in consultation with the secretariat and relevant development partners, draft recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.

## **II. Organization**

### **A. Opening, duration and organization of the session**

2. The Committee held its seventh session from 26 to 28 August 2020.
3. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it was organized as a hybrid event, enabling participation physically or remotely through the KUDO platform.
4. The session was opened by: Ms. Wanpen Poonwong, Director General, National Statistical Office, Thailand; Mr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics, Malaysia, and Chair of the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP; Under-Secretary-General, United Nations, and Executive Secretary, ESCAP; Ms. Takaichi Sanae, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communication, Japan; and Mr. Yoshikai Shojiro, Director General, Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Japan.
5. The opening session included the launch of a book capturing fifty years of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and its vision for the future in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute.

### **B. Attendance**

6. More than 200 participants registered for the event, including representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, international organizations, civil society organizations and other entities. The list of participants is available at [www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session](http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session).
7. The Committee session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission: Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkmenistan; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

8. Representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat attended: Economic Commission for Africa; and Statistics Division.

9. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds and entities attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunication Union; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Statistics Korea-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Population Fund; and World Trade Organization.

10. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asian Development Bank; Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretariat; Eurostat; Pacific Community; and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.

11. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data; and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century.

### **C. Election of officers**

12. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Gogita Todradze (Georgia)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin (Malaysia) Mr. Pravin Srivastava (India) for the first half and Mrs. Indu Bandara (Sri Lanka) for the second half (sharing arrangement) Mr. Kemueli Naiqama (Fiji)
Member:	Ms. Bayanchimeg Chilkhaasuren (Mongolia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Claire Dennis Mapa (Philippines)

### **D. Agenda**

13. The Committee adopted the following 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.

## **E. Other events**

14. The following events were held as online webinars in conjunction with the Committee session:

- (a) Conducting a census during the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and approaches (29 June 2020);
- (b) Human resource management to build statistical institutions (4 August 2020);

(c) Accounting for integrated statistics and analysis (10 August 2020);

(d) The prospect of big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific (17 August 2020);

(e) 50 years of statistical capacity-building by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific: perspectives from alumni chief statisticians (24 August 2020).

### III. Summary of advance electronic consultations

15. The secretariat, with the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics, conducted advance consultations with members of national statistical offices in member and associate member countries in the Asia-Pacific region on agenda items 2 (b), 3 (a) and 4 (a)–(c) and on the annotated provisional agenda. These consultations were conducted electronically from 20 July to 10 August 2020. An online questionnaire was designed for each of the agenda items inviting comments on the issues for consideration or action in each of the substantive documents.

16. The objective of the consultations was to provide Committee members with the opportunity to comment on the substantive documents in advance of the formal session to facilitate interactive dialogue during the session. Additionally, its objective was to manage time during the formal session, which was reduced to three hours per day to accommodate the virtual modality in order to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants given the COVID-19 outbreak as well as on-going travel restrictions in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### A. Agenda item 1 (c)

##### **Opening of the session: adoption of the agenda**

17. A total of six responses were received on the annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CST/2020/L.1).

#### B. Agenda item 2 (b)

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

18. A total of 12 responses were received on the note by the secretariat entitled “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) and the conference room paper entitled “A monitoring framework and guidelines for the 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” (ESCAP/CST/2020/CRP.1).

19. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the development of the draft monitoring and evaluation framework and made a number of suggestions for improvements to the indicators, targets and presentation.

20. The Committee welcomed the baseline report<sup>1</sup> and made a number of suggestions for future iterations.

**C. Agenda item 3 (a)**  
**Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: 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**

21. A total of nine responses were received on the note by the secretariat entitled “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).

22. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee and by the secretariat, and encouraged the continuation of their efforts in a number of prioritized areas, including the modernization of national statistical systems, the enhancement of the use of new data sources such as big data and geospatial information, the development of accounts, disaster-related statistics and the use of virtual collaboration spaces. The Committee expressed appreciation for the secretariat’s efforts on gender mainstreaming and for the establishment of the data integration community of practice, and provided guidance on strengthening and expanding the work. The Committee noted that the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific had been newly configured and provided support for and guidance on its work. Several members of the Committee expressed interest in the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership and said that they would consider becoming members.

23. The Committee welcomed the initiative to implement the Agricultural Integrated Survey Programme on a large scale. It acknowledged the Regional Technical Advisory Board.

**D. Agenda item 4 (a)**  
**Seminar on priority issues: accounting for integrated statistics and analysis**

24. A total of 11 responses were received on the note by the secretariat on regional and national efforts with economic, satellite and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/3).

25. The Committee acknowledged the importance of accounts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the commitments contained in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind as well as their value for data-driven decision-making and policymaking. It noted with appreciation the increased efforts to compile accounts in the region in recent years, especially environmental and satellite accounts. It also noted that the data and sector expertise needed for accounts often went beyond the scope and capacity of national statistical offices and hence required the establishment of new partnerships and innovative collaboration arrangements.

26. The Committee recognized that regional and international collaboration on accounting and related business processes benefited national efforts and strengthened national capacities, for example through the sharing of research

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<sup>1</sup> ESCAP/CST/2020/1, section III.

and experiences, technical assistance, collaborative experimentation and piloting.

**E. Agenda item 4 (b)**  
**Seminar on priority issues: embracing big data to modernize official statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

27. A total of 10 responses were received on the note by the secretariat on regional and national efforts to embrace big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/4).

28. The Committee acknowledged the importance of embracing the use of big data for official statistics and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also acknowledged the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic had given an additional impetus to the exploration of new data sources. The Committee noted with appreciation the increased efforts to experiment with new data sources and the progress that had been made in using big data for the production of official statistics in several member States. It also noted that access to big data sources and the needed legislative frameworks were key obstacles to progress in that area. It also highlighted that the techniques, methodologies and technology needed in order to take full advantage of big data sources often went beyond the capacity of national statistical offices and highlighted the important work of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics in that regard, emphasizing training needs in particular.

29. The Committee recognized that regional and international collaboration on big data benefited national efforts and strengthened national capacities, for example through the sharing of research, experiences and perspectives, collaborative experimentation, partnerships, staff exchanges and piloting.

**F. Agenda item 4 (c)**  
**Seminar on priority issues: transforming human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future**

30. A total of 10 responses were received on the note by the secretariat on 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).

31. The Committee acknowledged the changing technological landscape in the production of statistics and the associated skill requirements, noting efforts to facilitate the acquisition of skills that were in line with new technologies; reforms to human resource management involving skills audits and the development of on-the-job training programmes to ensure that staff acquire the necessary know-how to work effectively; the establishment of statistical analyst positions across various ministries to support evidence-based policymaking; and practical training programmes focused on big data.

32. The Committee recognized the importance of regional and international collaboration with regard to the following: improving human resources management, increasing skills development efforts and strengthening training institutions; addressing issues that affect the production and use of statistics in a rapidly changing environment; expanding reach such as through e-learning, webinars and freely available materials; increasing public awareness of official statistics; and supporting training institutes in various countries and the establishment, where feasible, of regional training centres. That support could take the form of training infrastructure and policies as well as the development of training programmes to address regional skill gaps in line with the 2030 Agenda.

#### **IV. Chair's summary**

33. The deliberations during the formal hybrid session will be summarized in the Chair's summary, which will be available within a week following the conclusion of the session and included as annex III to the present report.



## Annex I

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2020/1	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	2 (b)
ESCAP/CST/2020/2	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	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/3	Regional and national efforts with economic, satellite and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific	4 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/4	Regional and national efforts to embrace big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific	4 (b)
ESCAP/CST/2020/5	Regional and national efforts to transform human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future	4 (c)
ESCAP/CST/2020/6	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its seventh session	
ESCAP/75/21	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fourteenth session	6 (b)
ESCAP/76/22	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifteenth session	6 (b)
ESCAP/76/23/Rev.1	Report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	2 (c)
<i>Conference room paper</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2020/CRP.1	A monitoring framework and guidelines for the 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	2 (b)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2020/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CST/2020/L.2	Draft report	8
<i>Information series</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/1	Report on progress with regard to decisions made at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics	2 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/2	Report of the secretariat on the establishment of communities of practice	2 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/3	Report on progress towards the achievement of the goals of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024)	2 (c)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/4	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	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/5	Report of the 2nd meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/6	Report of the 6th meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/7	Progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/8	Reports of the 4th and 5th meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/9	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	3 (b)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/10	Work of the secretariat and partners on mainstreaming gender in environment statistics	3 (b)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/11	Preparation of the draft programme of work	5

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/12	Report on the activities of the Bureau since the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics	6 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/13	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	6 (c)
<i>Information available online</i>		
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session#">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session#</a>	Information for participants	
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session#">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session#</a>	Tentative programme	

## Annex II

### List of publications and webinars

#### A. Publications issued since the sixth session of the Committee<sup>1</sup>

*Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2019*. ST/ESCAP/2860 (Sales No. E.19.II.F.9).

*Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2020*. ST/ESCAP/2900 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.10).

#### *Working Paper Series*\*\*

SD/WP/11: SDG14: Life below water – navigating life below water in Asia and the Pacific

SD/WP/10: Mainstreaming gender in environment statistics for the SDGs and beyond: identifying priorities in Asia and the Pacific

SD/WP/09: Every policy is connected (EPIC): a generic tool for policy-data integration

SD/WP/08: SDG16: peace, justice and strong institutions: walking through Asian and Pacific territories

#### *Stats Briefs*\*\*

Issue no. 25: Engaging with development partners to stand-up COVID-19 rapid assessment surveys: five tips for national statistics offices

Issue no. 24: Broken down by age and sex: why reliable and timely population statistics are more important than ever

Issue no. 23: Surveys under lockdown; a pandemic lesson

Issue no. 22: Ocean accounts: the icing on the cake

Issue no. 21: Communicating gender data to deliver impactful messages

Issue no. 20: Big data = big ideas - Asia and the Pacific statistical community share their experiences in Malaysia at the 62nd International Statistics Institute World Statistics Congress

Issue no. 19: Integrated statistics: a journey worthwhile

Issue no. 18: Can mobile phone data be used for official statistics? - Asia and the Pacific says yes

Issue no. 17: Dissemination and communication of vital statistics

Issue no. 16: SDG implementation - what to do when it's not clear what to do?

#### *Blog posts*\*\*

17 July 2020: "Uncounted deaths could obscure COVID-19's gendered impacts"

13 July 2020: "Collaborating across South Asia to improve civil registrations"

8 June 2020: "How much do Asia-Pacific countries invest in SDG-related priorities?"

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<sup>1</sup> A double asterisk (\*\*) denotes publications that are available online only.

- 1 June 2020: “Is big data the solution to produce official statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic?”
- 18 May 2020: “5 reasons why we need to sail faster to healthy oceans”
- 10 April 2020: “Why we will never know how many people die from COVID-19”
- 26 February 2020: “CRVS: bringing joy to people’s lives”
- 3 July 2019: “Using data integration to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda”
- 10 May 2019: “Providing evidence for change in Asia and the Pacific: reflections on women in math”
- 2 Jan 2019: “Who are you going to call?: the SDG busters”

*Other publications*

- “Reviewing the national statistical system of the Maldives 2020”
- “Producing import and export price indices (XMPI) in Bhutan”
- “Developing a statistical business register (SBR) in Myanmar”
- “The importance of CRVS for gender equality”

*Civil Registration in South Asia: Regulations, Relationships and the Role of ICT with UNICEF*

- “Information note: what is the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific?”
- “Information note: inequality assessments”

*Civil Registration in South Asia: Coordination, Connections and Collaboration with UNICEF*

**B. Webinars (Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series)**

- 24 August 2020: “50 years of statistical capacity-building by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific: perspectives from alumni chief statisticians”.
- 17 August 2020: “The prospect of big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific”.
- 10 August 2020: “Accounting for integrated statistics and analysis”.
- 4 August 2020: “Human resource management to build statistical institutions”.
- 29 July 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: Mapping land cover change using remote sensing and GIS”.
- 23 July 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: COVID-19 and death registration”.
- 13 July 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: COVID-19 data portals”.
- 29 June 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: Conducting a census during the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and approaches”.
- 22 June 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: Asia and the Pacific CRVS systems’ responses to the COVID-19 crisis”.
- 8 June 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: Rapid assessment surveys on the impact of COVID-19”.

1 June 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: COVID-19 impact on the household surveys”.

27 May 2020: “Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series: Accessing and using subnational population estimates in Asia and the Pacific”.

## Annex III

### **Chair's summary of proceedings of the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics was held as a three-day virtual meeting, three hours per day, from 26 to 28 August 2020. Given the time constraints during the virtual session, in order to facilitate an exchange of views and experiences, the secretariat organized advance electronic consultations with Asia-Pacific national statistical offices on agenda items 1, 2 (b), 3 (a) and 4 (a)–(c).

2. The Chair's summary covers the details of responses from Asia-Pacific national statistical offices to the advance electronic consultations as well as the proceedings of the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, including the three seminars conducted during the session.

#### **II. Summary of details of responses to the advance electronic consultations and proceedings of the session**

##### **A. Soliciting whole-of-government support for official statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (Agenda item 2)

##### **Follow-up on decisions made at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics** (Agenda item 2 (a))

3. The Committee had before it the information documents on the report on progress with regard to decisions made at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/1) and on the report of the secretariat on the establishment of communities of practice (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/2).

4. Owing to time constraints, the agenda item was not opened for statements during the session.

##### **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** (Agenda item 2 (b))

5. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled "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) and "A monitoring framework and guidelines for the 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" (ESCAP/CST/2020/CRP.1).

6. Representatives of the following members and associate members provided inputs through electronic consultations in advance of the session, made statements during the session or provided a statement in writing: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India;

Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mongolia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Singapore; and Timor-Leste.

7. The Committee recognized the importance of the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework and found it useful for strengthening coordination for statistical development for leaving no one behind. It noted that data relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be evaluated and published in consideration of the circumstances of each country whenever possible, rather than evaluated uniformly.

8. The Committee made the following recommendations for amendment of the draft monitoring and evaluation framework. The Committee recommended the removal of indicator P.3 since tier III classification no longer existed in the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee noted that the proposed targets were appropriate, but the relevance of their implementation needed to be evaluated continually and the Committee might adjust them when appropriate. The Committee also noted its concern with the representativeness of some indicators when global/international data providers did not cover all ESCAP member States. It was also noted that the proposed classification of trend assessment in the dashboard template needed to specify that “no change” might be the result of reaching the maximum possible value of the indicator. It was proposed that the secretariat should explore the possibility of adding more indicators reflecting the use of visualization methods, as well as consultative user forums (such as webinars or press conferences) in their advocacy and dissemination programmes. The Committee proposed to add “other social media” to the indicator g.2 and provide new wording for indicators b.2 and h.1.

9. The Committee welcomed the baseline report and emphasized that biannual evaluation was crucial to monitor progress with regard to regional commitments as outlined in the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. The Committee recommended that for future reports, the secretariat should conduct further consultations with member States to validate national data with national statistical offices and clearly distinguish the data estimated by international agencies from the data provided by countries. The Committee proposed that results be presented over time to allow trend analysis and made available at the country level (geographical disaggregation) to identify countries lagging behind and needing extra support, as well as to provide opportunities for knowledge-sharing among member States. It was also noted that the text about data availability on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.4.1 needed to be updated based on the most recent metadata. It was noted that units of the baseline values and targets should be specified.

10. On the results diagram of the draft monitoring and evaluation framework, the Committee highlighted the role of subnational governments and their ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of implementing the collective vision and framework for action at the subnational level, as well as strengthening capacity for production of disaggregated statistics. It was highlighted that development partners should work closely with national statistical offices to provide more coordinated support to statistical activities.

11. Representatives of several countries shared their national experiences in the implementation of the relevant action areas of the collective vision and framework for action, including on engaging with the private sector and academia and use of big data and new sources of data; implementation and



monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals; and civil registration and vital statistics systems.

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

(Agenda item 2 (c))

12. The Committee had before it the report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/23/Rev.1) and the information document on the 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).

13. Owing to time constraints, the agenda item was not opened for statements during the session.

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

(Agenda item 3)

**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**

(Agenda item 3 (a))

14. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled “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) and the information documents on the 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) and 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).

15. Representatives of the following members and associate members provided inputs through electronic consultations in advance of the session, made statements during the session or provided a statement in writing: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Pakistan; Philippines; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; and Timor-Leste.

16. A representative of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement.

17. The Committee recommended to the secretariat and its partners to increase the number of recipient countries for technical support and statistical reviews and provide tailored support to national statistical systems, prioritizing less developed systems. The Committee also recommended to increase efforts on enhancing human resource capacity in some focus areas, including statistical literacy and new skill sets, agricultural censuses, standards and statistical classifications, and thematic work on specific Sustainable

Development Goals. To improve the way regional initiatives operated, the Committee recommended: (a) to identify potential synergies, interlinkages and trade-offs among existing regional groups; (b) to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise; and (c) to target a minimum set of indicators to be produced by countries in the region.

18. The Committee acknowledged the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and appreciated the support provided to develop basic economic statistics (including development of the training package on economic statistics) and to compile economic, environmental, ocean, satellite and tourism accounts. The Committee also requested a timeline for the capacity screening exercise for economic statistics, underscoring the importance of national capacity-building.

19. The Statistics Division offered to engage with selected countries in global co-investment initiatives through the projects related to experimenting with new data solutions and updating statistical frameworks such as the System of National Accounts.

20. The Committee recommended the expansion of work on gender mainstreaming to other statistical domains and the development of a virtual environment for exchanging information on different gender mainstreaming efforts.

21. The Committee acknowledged the establishment of the data integration community of practice as a virtual learning platform for the sharing of knowledge and experience. The Committee supported furthering the work on data integration and extending the use of communities of practice into other areas.

22. The Committee encouraged the newly configured technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific to devise strategies and initiate capacity-building activities. The Committee recommended that the group set up a collaborative space for the sharing of knowledge, experience and good practices. The Committee also encouraged it to prioritize providing support on the implementation of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework to the countries that were prone to natural disasters.

23. The Committee expressed appreciation for the role played by the regional technical advisory board as described in the Second Global Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and supported its composition, and recommended the inclusion of technical experts in the field of rural and agricultural statistics and a wide range of international and regional organizations and individuals. The Committee also recommended the drafting of the mandate of the board and clarifying its difference from the previous Regional Steering Committee, as well as developing an information dissemination function considering country-specific needs. The Committee also shared the experience of innovative agricultural censuses.

24. The Committee reinforced the need for enhancing the consistency of global and national Sustainable Development Goals data and providing technical support to countries to establish their Sustainable Development Goals data structure and national reporting platforms. The Committee also noted that the Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway needed to adequately reflect the Sustainable Development Goals progress at the national level.

25. The Committee advised on expanding implementation of a policy-data integration tool entitled “Every policy is connected” (EPIC) to more countries with a broader range of sectors.

26. The Committee appreciated the training courses provided by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and stressed the importance of enhancing human resources capacity. The Committee identified focus areas, including modernizing statistical systems; exploiting new sources of data; promoting statistical literacy; and the quality assurance of official statistics, register-based censuses and agricultural censuses. The Committee welcomed the willingness of countries and partners to continue supporting the secretariat and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on strengthening national statistical systems, including in the Central Asian countries and in Russian-speaking countries, promoting efforts related to human resources development and contributing to the training resource database launched by the Institute in January 2019 by contributing to and using its data.

27. The Committee called on the members to continue supporting the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.

**Initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations in support of the collective vision and framework for action**

(Agenda item 3 (b))

28. The Committee had before it the information documents entitled “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) and “Work of the secretariat and partners on mainstreaming gender in environment statistics” (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/10).

29. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements during the session or provided a statement in writing: Bangladesh; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Pakistan; Russian Federation; Samoa; and Viet Nam.

30. The Committee expressed appreciation for the support provided by development partners and encouraged the continuation of the support to strengthen national statistical systems to produce quality data and statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.

31. The Committee expressed appreciation to development partners (including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Pacific Community, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund) for their support on the design and conduct of national surveys, including agricultural integrated surveys, national surveys on violence against women, multiple indicator cluster surveys, demographic and health surveys, living standards measurement study surveys and labour force surveys.

32. The Committee welcomed the gender-environment initiative and encouraged furthering the work. The Committee also expressed concern about the excessive burden a gender-environment indicator set might add and highlighted the need to clarify the approach. The Committee also noted national experiences on pioneering the measurement of some gender-environment indicators.

33. The Committee highlighted the importance of modernizing statistics and requested development partners to support enhancing relevant skill sets, and in particular, requested technical support on conducting register-based censuses.

**C. Seminar on priority issues**  
(Agenda item 4)

**Accounting for integrated statistics and analysis**  
(Agenda item 4 (a))

34. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on regional and national efforts with economic, satellite and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/3).

35. Representatives of the following members and associate members provided inputs through electronic consultations in advance of the session, made statements during the session or provided a statement in writing: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Maldives; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Samoa; and Singapore.

36. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement.

37. The Committee benefited from contributions of four discussants who shared their views on potential forms of regional collaboration during the introduction of the agenda item. The discussants were: Mr. Yusif Yusifov, Deputy Chairman, State Statistical Committee, Azerbaijan; Ms. Marion Chan, Commissioner, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong, China; Ms. Shailja Sharma, Director General (Statistics), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India; and Mr. Insang Ryu, Assistant Director, Statistics Korea, Republic of Korea.

38. The Committee appreciated the initiative by the Bureau to include accounting for integrated statistics as a priority topic for its seventh session, noting the close alignment of accounting with country priorities.

39. The Committee acknowledged the importance of accounting for the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the commitments made by the Commission in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind and by the Committee in the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community.

40. The Committee stressed the importance of advancing multiple types of accounts including national accounts, environmental-economic accounts, ecosystem accounts and satellite accounts to unleash their full power for integrated analysis and data-driven decision-making, for example, on the ocean economy and related tourism.

41. The Committee noted that the data and sector expertise needed for accounts often went beyond the realm and capacity of national statistical offices and hence required the establishment of new partnerships and innovative collaboration arrangements. In that regard, the Committee appreciated the establishment of networks of experts and the increased outreach to academia by several statistical offices in the region.

42. The Committee appreciated the efforts by several countries to expand and improve national accounts, implement additional environmental-economic accounts such as energy, mineral, land, forest, water, waste, emission and material flow accounts, pilot and experiment with ecosystem accounts including ocean accounts, develop tourism satellite accounts and initiate measurements of the sustainability of tourism.

43. Noting the important role of development partners in strengthening the statistical capacity of countries, the Committee expressed its appreciation for technical support and guidance provided by the ESCAP secretariat and other development partners on national accounts, environmental-economic accounts and ocean accounting and requested that such support be continued and scaled up where feasible.

44. The Committee welcomed the regional and global initiatives to advance accounting, including the development of guidance on ocean accounting, capacity support on national accounting, measuring the sustainability of tourism, further development of ecosystem accounting standards and renewal of the system of economic statistics.

45. The Committee recognized that regional and international collaboration on accounting and related business processes benefited national efforts and strengthened national capacities, for example through sharing of research and experiences, collaborative experimentation and piloting and facilitation of technical assistance. In that regard, the Committee welcomed the offers by several members of the Committee to contribute to global and regional collaboration on accounting for the development of standards and capacity by sharing their experience, knowledge and results of early experimentation and encouraged more countries to become involved in existing regional and global groups.

46. The Committee highlighted the potential for additional mechanisms for countries to share experience and expertise to improve accounts compilation, develop methodologies and expand the knowledge of new frameworks such as on ocean accounts, disaster-related statistics and other multi-domain statistics. The Committee noted that such mechanisms could serve many purposes and take many forms and mentioned several considerations when discussing the way forward. Those included the need to attract young statisticians, for example, through technical paper submission and competitions, to address priorities of developing countries and to tailor collaboration and technical assistance to the current capacity of the national statistical offices involved.

47. An Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe webinar on accounting for integrated statistics and analysis, held on 10 August 2020, provided an opportunity for discussion and added further insights. Representatives of the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership made presentations at the Stats Cafe, which was attended by approximately 130 participants.

**Embracing big data to modernize official statistics in Asia and the Pacific**  
(Agenda item 4 (b))

48. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on regional and national efforts to embrace big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2020/4).

49. Representatives of the following members and associate members provided inputs through electronic consultations in advance of the session, made statements during the session or provided a statement in writing: Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; and Viet Nam.
50. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.
51. The Committee benefited from the contributions of three discussants on the prospects of big data in the region and how regional collaboration could support the national statistical offices' efforts in the area of big data for official statistics. The discussants were: Mr. Ning Jizhe, Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics, China; Mr. Gary Dunnet, Deputy Chief Methodologist, Statistics New Zealand; and Ms. Aliimuamua Malaefono Taua-T. Faasalaina, Government Statistician, Samoa.
52. The Committee acknowledged that the data needs for the 2030 Agenda and the COVID-19 pandemic had given an additional impetus to the exploration of new data sources for official statistics, particularly the need for more timely data.
53. The Committee noted with appreciation the increased efforts to experiment with new data sources and the progress that had been made in using big data for the production of official statistics in several member States.
54. Member States shared specific examples of the use of non-traditional data, such as scanner data, mobile network operator data, credit card transaction data, online price data, social media data and satellite imagery for official statistics, and highlighted the importance of partnering with national institutions, researchers and the private sector in strengthening the official statistical systems to explore alternative sources of data.
55. The Committee highlighted that the techniques, methodologies and technology needed to take full advantage of big data sources often went beyond the capacity of national statistical offices. It also noted that access to big data sources and the needed legislative frameworks were key obstacles to progress in that area.
56. The Committee welcomed the work of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics and its task teams and recognized the need for setting standards and developing global guidelines for countries to adapt to the use of big data for official statistics, also emphasizing the need for training and capacity-building.
57. Furthermore, the Committee emphasized both its willingness to share and the need to document existing experiences in the use of big data for official statistics.
58. All member States were invited to make use of the United Nations Global Platform, which is a collaborative environment for data innovation by the global statistical community and all its partners, including a broad spectrum of stakeholder communities.
59. An Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe webinar on the prospect of big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific, held on 17 August 2020, provided an opportunity for discussion and added further insights. Statistics Denmark, the National Bureau of Statistics of China and Statistics Indonesia made

presentations at the Stats Cafe, which was attended by approximately 200 participants.

**Transforming human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future**

(Agenda item 4 (c))

60. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on 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).

61. Representatives of the following members and associate members provided inputs through electronic consultations in advance of the session, made statements during the session or provided a statement in writing: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Malaysia; Maldives; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Singapore.

62. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

63. The Committee benefited from contributions of four discussants who shared their views on potential forms of regional collaboration during the introduction of the agenda item. The discussants were: Mr. Claire Dennis Mapa, Undersecretary, Philippine Statistics Authority; Mr. Ashkan Shabbak, Head, Statistical Research and Training Center, Statistical Center of Iran; Ms. Aishath Shahuda, Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives; and Mr. Akira Tsumura, Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

64. The Committee acknowledged the importance of human resources to the successful production of statistics in any statistics agency, not only at the national level but also at the local level. It recognized the need for continuous assessment and mapping out of both technical and managerial competencies.

65. In particular, the Committee observed the changing technological landscape that required the skills of staff to be up to date in order to take advantage of the increasing use of administrative data, non-traditional data and big data. There was also a need to have training on data-collection methods, especially in COVID-19-type situations, and on web scraping. In addition, the Committee noted the challenging data needs for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the need to constantly empower staff to deal with the emerging needs.

66. The role of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific as a provider of statistical training was recognized. The Committee noted the importance of developing more interactive programmes and expanding them to cover topics such as big data, modernization of statistical business processes, data collection, data analytics and geospatial methods, among others.

67. The Committee reiterated its commitment to support and partner with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in developing and running various training programmes through leveraging the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee also suggested that the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training and the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific should work together to develop interactive training programmes. It

was also requested that the database of training resources developed by the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific with the support of Japan be shared as this will be useful for the delivery of training programmes. The Committee also expressed the need to strengthen the training of trainers. The Committee was informed by the delegation of the Russian Federation that an international centre for capacity-building with training focused on Russian-speaking countries was commencing shortly.

68. Furthermore, the Committee noted the role of various regional, national and international training providers in developing human resources. In particular, the Committee noted that talent development and retention remained critical and discussed putting in place certification mechanisms for all short courses such as the ones offered by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific through collaboration with universities to ensure the career development of staff.

69. The Committee also expressed the importance of face-to-face training programmes, which should be started immediately after the end of the pandemic. While the importance of e-learning programmes was appreciated, the Committee felt self-paced programmes were not so effective and that those programmes should be interactive. In addition, the Committee acknowledged the role of empowering countries to deliver their own training, citing the pilot training package developed by the secretariat as a success in empowering national agencies.

70. With respect to partnerships, the Committee noted that national statistical agencies needed to collaborate extensively with other research institutes and academies to harness their skills in new technologies. Some of the areas that the Committee discussed included joint research projects, data exchange and improving statistical literacy among users.

71. The Committee also noted the role played by the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific in coordinating training and encouraged countries to fully utilize the Network, particularly at a time when the demand for training was increasing because of the impact of COVID-19 on statistical activities and participation options. Furthermore, the Committee challenged statistical training institutions to provide practical-oriented training that could address the needs of users, with emphasis on effectively communicating statistics in a technological world full of information.

72. Representatives of member states shared various approaches to human resources planning such as succession planning, competency-based recruitment, on-the-job training programmes, training workshops, staff retention, innovation and managerial competency to ensure statistical agencies were well positioned to deliver on their mandates. The Committee noted that there was a need to outsource work in view of increasing data demands and therefore there was a need to develop those data producers who were outside the national statistical systems and also partner with various technical institutions to use the latest technological tools.

73. An Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe webinar on human resource management to build statistical institutions was held on 4 August 2020 as part of the preparations for the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics. The National Statistics Office of Mongolia; Central Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India; Statistics New Zealand; and Federal State Statistics Service, Russian Federation, made



presentations at the Stats Cafe, which was attended by approximately 70 participants.

**D. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme**  
(Agenda item 5)

74. The Committee had before it the information document on the preparation of the draft programme of work (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/11).

75. There were no statements.

**E. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee**  
(Agenda item 6)

**Report of the Bureau**  
(Agenda item 6 (a))

76. The Committee had before it the information document on the report on the activities of the Bureau since the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/12).

77. A representative of the Russian Federation made a statement.

78. The Committee took note of the importance of transparency and inclusiveness in the work of the Bureau. The Committee also acknowledged suggestions on meeting physical arrangements.

**Reports of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**  
(Agenda item 6 (b))

79. The Committee had before it the reports of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/75/21) and on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/22).

80. There were no statements.

**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**  
(Agenda item 6 (c))

81. The Committee had before it the information document entitled "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).

82. There were no statements.

**F. Other matters**  
(Agenda item 7)

83. No other matters were discussed.

**G. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session**  
(Agenda item 8)

84. The Committee adopted the report as contained in pages 1 through 14 of the present document on 28 August 2020.

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