



GUIDE TO PARTICIPATION<sup>1</sup>  
**Seventh Session of the Committee on Statistics**  
**26-28 August 2020**  
**10:00-13:00 hrs. (Bangkok time, GMT+7)**  
(information as of 24 August 2020)

### **We are all learning**

The seventh session of the Committee on Statistics will be a new experience for all of us. It is the first time the session will be virtual and to accommodate the virtual modality, the session has been reduced to a maximum of three hours per day. Time will be limited and we thank everyone in advance for their patience and understanding.

We seek your understanding also to make the meeting proceed as smoothly as possible. Country interventions will be limited to substantive agenda items only and we ask that you tailor country interventions to the issues for discussion. Country statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session and will be lodged as part of the meeting documentation.

An evaluation of the virtual modality will be undertaken to capture your feedback and recommendations for the eighth session of the Committee in 2022.

### **Virtual participation**

The meeting will be conducted through the KUDO videoconferencing platform.

Given the technical limitations of conducting the Committee through a virtual platform and in view of the mandates and operational requirements of the Committee, priority will be given **to the members, associate members and permanent observers of the Commission** to deliberate on procedural matters.

Limited opportunities to deliberate on procedural matters will be available for observer organizations, intergovernmental organizations, other entities and non-governmental organizations.

All participants who wish to observe the proceedings may do so via a broadcast on the Committee website. Details of the broadcast will be made available in due course.

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<sup>1</sup> This guide to participation is also available on the Committee website at [www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session](http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-seventh-session)

## Letter of credentials, online registration and speakers list

As advised in the invitation letter of 23 April and subsequent update on 7 July, each delegation is required to submit a **letter of credentials**, duly signed by the appropriate authority of the respective Government, at the latest by 10 August. Only accredited delegates will be recognized in the list of participants.

Letters of credentials can be sent via email to the Statistics Division at the following address: [stat.unescap@un.org](mailto:stat.unescap@un.org) with copy to the Committee on Statistics secretariat team at [sridamaw@un.org](mailto:sridamaw@un.org); and [duangrapruen@un.org](mailto:duangrapruen@un.org).

If you wish to send originals, the following mailing address can be used:

Statistics Division  
United Nations Building  
8th Floor Block B  
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

In addition to submitting a letter of credentials for the delegation, each delegate in the delegation is required to **register online** as soon as possible before 10 August at <https://meetings.unescap.org/>. Only registration of accredited delegates will be accepted.

Each delegation is also requested to complete [the speakers list request form](#) to identify which members of the delegation will have a speaking role during the session. Members and associate members of the Commission can nominate **up to three speakers**. Permanent observers of the Commission, observer organizations, intergovernmental organizations, other entities and non- governmental organizations can nominate **one speaker each**. Delegations are requested to complete the speakers list request form and submit it to [stat.unescap@un.org](mailto:stat.unescap@un.org) as soon as possible before 10 August 2020.

Delegates who wish to be present in the United Nations Conference Centre are welcome to join the event in ESCAP Hall. However, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the need for physical distancing, the conference room can accommodate up to 50 delegates only. Furthermore, as the session will be conducted virtually through the KUDO platform, delegates who have a speaking role and wish to be present in the conference room need to be on the delegation list, registered and nominated as speaker. Delegates who wish to be present in the conference room only (i.e. no speaking role) need to be on the delegation list and registered. In order to reserve seats in the conference room, please indicate your preference in the letter of credentials. The reservation is on first-come first-served basis.

## Country Interventions and Statements

Since the virtual session will run for only three hours per day, time for interventions under each agenda item is limited. For the most part, the Committee will consider substantive issues brought for endorsement or action by the Committee, or for attention by subsidiary bodies of the Committee. These are Agenda items 2(b), 3(a), 4(a), 4(b) and 4(c). Country interventions focused on the substantive issues for consideration in these agenda items are welcome. Statements and issues shared for the general information of the Committee will be considered only if time allows. Country interventions and statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session and will be posted on the session website.

## Documents and Interpretation

Pre-session documents are available in Chinese, English, French and Russian and are available on the documents page of the Committee website.

Given the technical limitations of conducting the Committee on Statistics in a virtual manner and in view of the mandates and operational requirements of the Committee on Statistics, the report of the Committee on Statistics will contain only four sections: organizational matters, decisions taken, the outcomes of electronic consultations and reference to Chair's summary. A Chair's Summary will be prepared to record the proceedings of the Committee and will be annexed to the report after the conclusion of the session.

The report, in all languages, will be available on the Committee website, following the second day of the session, for consideration by the Committee on the third and final day of the session at least one hour before the adoption of the report.

The KUDO videoconferencing platform provides live simultaneous interpretation in the four official languages of the Committee. Details on how to choose the interpretation service will be provided in the KUDO user guide.

## Decisions

The Committee will deliberate on five substantive items, adoption of the agenda, election of a new Bureau and adoption of the report. Details on the deliberations under each agenda item are provided in the section below.

In light of the truncated format of the session, consultation on decisions are being undertaken in advance through electronic consultations conducted during July-August 2020.

The draft decisions from the electronic consultations will be presented for consideration and adoption by the Committee under agenda item 8. The deliberations during the virtual session on 26-28 August 2020 will be summarized as the Chair's Summary and will be attached to the final report as an Annex.

### Day 1: 26 August 2020 (10:00-13:00h, Bangkok time, GMT+7)

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the Session**

##### **Supporting document:**

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

Agenda item 1 of the provisional agenda includes (a) opening addresses; (b) election of officers; and (c) adoption of the agenda.

The session will be opened at 10 a.m. Bangkok time (GMT+7) by the Chair of the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics, who will also deliver a statement highlighting key work of ESCAP since the Committee last met in October 2018.

The Chair will also preside over the election of officers of the seventh session.

In line with its rules of procedure and usual practice, the Committee will elect, from among its members, a Chair, three Vice-Chairs, one rapporteur and one member for the session.

Following the election of officers, the Chair of the seventh session will present outcomes of the advance electronic consultation on the provisional agenda of the session for

adoption. After the agenda is adopted, the Chair will invite the Executive Secretary to deliver her welcome and policy address.

The Chair may also invite pre-recorded messages and statements from distinguished guests, if time allows and pre-recorded messages and statements are available.

After opening of the session, the Chair will invite the Executive Secretary and distinguished delegates to launch the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book.

**Agenda item 2b:** 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

**Supporting documents:**

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](#))

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](#))

Agenda item 2(b) of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat on the results of the advance electronic consultation for this agenda item, after which the floor will be opened for country interventions.

Under agenda item 2(b), it is anticipated the Committee will adopt a monitoring and evaluation framework for the regional agreements to advance official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

**Supporting documents:**

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

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

**Agenda item 2(c):** Monitoring progress in response to the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics

**Supporting documents:**

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

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

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

**Supporting document:**

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

Agenda item 4(a) of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat on results of the advance electronic consultation for this agenda item. After the presentation by the secretariat, the floor will be opened for brief country interventions. Country statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated the Committee will advise the secretariat on regional priorities for economic, satellite and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific.

**Day 2: 27 August 2020 (10:00-13:00h, Bangkok time, GMT+7)**

**Agenda item 3a:** 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

**Supporting document:**

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](#))

**Information documents supporting Agenda item 3a**

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda item 3(a) of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat on results of the advance electronic consultation on 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. Thereafter the floor will be opened for country interventions. Country statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session.

Under agenda item 3(a), it is anticipated the Committee will take note of progress made in implementing the various regional initiatives and endorse the proposed actions outlined in document ESCAP/CST/2020/2.

If time allows, the floor will be opened to allow country interventions on the information only items under 3(a).

**Agenda item 3(b)** Initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations in support of the collective vision and framework for action

**Supporting documents:**

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations with respect to the collective vision and framework for action (ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/9)

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

**Agenda item 4b:** Seminar on priority issues: Embracing big data to modernize official statistics in Asia and the Pacific

**Supporting documents:** Regional and national efforts to embrace big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP/CST/2020/4](#))

Agenda item 4(b) of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat on results of the advance electronic consultation on this agenda item. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for brief country interventions. Country statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated the Committee will advise the secretariat on regional priorities for embracing big data for official statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

**Day 3: 28 August 2020 (10:00-13:00h, Bangkok time, GMT+7)**

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

**Supporting document:** 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](#))

Agenda item 4(c) of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat on results of the advance electronic consultation on this agenda item. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for brief country interventions. Country statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated the Committee will advise the secretariat on regional priorities for transforming human resource management to build statistical institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the future.

**Agenda items 5 and 6 – information items**

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

**Supporting documents:**

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

**Agenda item 6:** Report brought to the attention of the Committee

**Supporting Documents:**

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/75/21)

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

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)

Agenda items 2(a), 2(c), 3(b), 5 and 6 are for information only. If time allows, the floor will be opened to allow country interventions on the information only items under 3(a). Country statements are encouraged to be submitted in writing in advance of the session.

Under agenda item 8, it is anticipated the Committee will take note of the documents supporting agenda items 2(a), 2(c), 3(b), 5 and 6.

**Agenda item 7.** Other matters

Agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda provides the opportunity for members and associate members to raise other matters not covered under the items above.

Members or associate members wishing to raise other matters may request the floor using the online chat function.

**Agenda item 8:** Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session

**Supporting documents:**

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

Under agenda item 8, the Committee will consider and adopt the report of the seventh session.

Following the adoption of the report, Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP will deliver the closing statement.

The Chair may also deliver a closing statement before formally closing the session.