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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Statistics**Sixth session**

Bangkok, 16–19 October 2018

**Report of the Committee on Statistics on its sixth session****I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention****A. Matters calling for action**

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

**Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends that the declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/7) be adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

**Recommendation 2**

The Committee endorses the statistical contents of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework and supports the application of it to produce harmonized statistics related to disasters, to strengthen the evidence base for disaster risk reduction policies and to assist in monitoring the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Recommendation 3**

The Committee has considered the recommendations of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and:

(a) Supports the next phase of work to apply the Disaster-related Statistics Framework to the production and dissemination of statistics and indicators;

(b) Supports the development of training materials and technical assistance programmes on the implementation of the Framework;

(c) Generally supports the recommendation to transform the Expert Group into a technical working group, subject to review by the Committee of the draft terms of reference for the technical working group.

2. The Committee supports conveying recommendations 2 and 3 to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its sixth session in 2019 and to the Statistical Commission at its fiftieth session in 2019.

## **B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission**

3. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Commission;

### **Decision 1**

The Committee decides to establish communities of practice covering the dimensions of process, data, conceptual and disciplinary integration and requests the Bureau of the Committee, with support from the secretariat, to develop terms of reference for the communities of practice, with the modality of the communities being electronic only.

### **Decision 2**

The Committee endorses the suggestions of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on future implementation of the Programme, including those pertaining to a review of the core set of economic statistics and the extension of the Regional Programme to 2030 to strengthen alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Decision 3**

The Committee endorses the use of the policy-data integration tool entitled “Every policy is connected” to strengthen user-producer dialogue to ensure effective demand for, and investment in, the development of official statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee recommends that the regional statistical initiatives of the Committee and the Commission apply the tool.

### **Decision 4**

The Committee decides to abolish the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific in its current form and transfer its responsibilities and functions to the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism.

## **II. Proceedings**

### **A. Senior officials segment**

1. **Review of overall progress with respect to 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”**  
(Agenda item 2)

4. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the collective vision and framework

for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community” (ESCAP/CST/2018/1); the information document on strengthening gender for the gender perspective in the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/1); and the information document on transformation in how gender data and statistics are promoted, created and used (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/2).

5. The Committee benefited from a high-level panel on advancing official statistics for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the topics of discussion were mechanisms for implementation of the collective vision and framework for action through existing capacity-development initiatives, consideration of new mechanisms and the use of global and subregional mechanisms. The panel comprised Mr. Gogita Todradze, Executive Director, National Statistics Office, Georgia; Mr. Samaychanh Boupha, Head, Lao Statistics Bureau and Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao People’s Democratic Republic; and Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

6. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; China; Japan; Malaysia; Nepal; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Thailand; and Timor-Leste.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agency also made a statement: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also made statements: European Commission; and Pacific Community.

9. The Committee noted progress made in terms of achievements and overcoming challenges related to the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community at the national and subregional levels for advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee was reminded of the importance of establishing specific measures for governance and practical monitoring of the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action.

10. The Committee noted the importance of reflecting the need for integrated statistics in statistical master plans and national planning processes; adopting and using modern technologies, including geospatial technologies in data collection and processing; strengthening disaggregated data for policy targeting; accessing data from different sources, including the public and private sectors; establishing effective partnerships and institutional mechanisms at the national level for coordinated and coherent implementation and monitoring of progress made toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the collective vision and framework for action; and enhancing related investment and resource mobilization.

11. In relation to integrated statistics and innovation, the Committee supported the proposal to form communities of practice to cover the four integration dimensions, taking a step-wise approach and with the establishment of a community of practice on conceptual integration as a possible first step. The Committee requested the Bureau, supported by the secretariat, to develop terms of reference for the communities of practice and agreed that the modality of the communities should be electronic only.

12. The Committee noted the benefits of integrated statistics for integrated analysis, particularly in the area of ocean accounts, and expressed support for the secretariat's work on the methodological development of ocean accounting as part of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Experimental Ecosystem Accounting revision process. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the interest of several countries in participating in the methodological development and piloting of ocean accounts.

13. The Committee took note of progress made at the national level in strengthening the production and use of gender-sensitive data and statistics and of related regional initiatives by ESCAP and UN-Women. In that regard, the Committee supported the proposal for UN-Women to become a member and contributor to existing regional initiative groups of the Committee. In addition, in response to the proposal to establish an intergovernmental group on gender statistics for the Asia-Pacific region, the Committee expressed support for it, but pointed out the need to coordinate and explore the use of existing mechanisms at the global and regional levels to ensure cost-effectiveness and to consider establishing it within existing resources.

14. The Committee was briefed about the outcomes of the Eurostat-ESCAP seminar on policy-data nexus, held in Bangkok on 14 and 15 October 2018. The seminar, which was attended by representatives of 18 countries, concluded the following: the 2030 Agenda provided a unique opportunity for official statistics, as it gave national statistical offices a very high profile, and had drawn together statisticians and policymakers; Sustainable Development Goals should be an integral part of national strategies for the development of statistics and that the economic, social and environmental aspects should be integrated rather than treated in isolation; the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda required effective and continuous user-producer dialogue; and different suppliers of data, within and outside the government, should respect the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in order to maintain trust in statistics, with national statistical offices coordinating, leading and guiding those efforts.

## **2. Review of progress by the groups responsible for the regional initiatives of the Committee with respect to the collective vision and framework for action**

(Agenda item 3)

### **Economic statistics**

(Agenda item 3 (a))

15. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled "Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the existing regional initiatives of the Committee of Statistics" (ESCAP/CST/2018/2); the reports of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/3); and the information document entitled "Achievements of the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: highlighted results from the 2017 capacity screening and implications for the future implementation of the Programme" (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/4).

16. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Malaysia; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

17. The Committee expressed its strong support of the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and noted the increasing demand for timely and accurate economic statistics. The Committee noted that several countries had continued to face multiple institutional, financial and technical constraints in the production and dissemination of economic statistics.

18. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the efforts of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen economic statistics in the region. The Committee thanked the Task Force on Capacity Screening for its excellent work and noted the usefulness of the results of the 2017 capacity screening exercise in guiding future regional collaboration regarding economic statistics.

19. The Committee recognized the importance and continued relevance of the core set of economic statistics as a reference and guide for regional cooperation on economic statistics.

20. The Committee supported the proposal made by the Steering Group to review the core set of economic statistics, noting that the review should consider the findings of the capacity screening, emerging issues, such as digitalization and globalization, alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, and reflection of priority issues, such as poverty eradication. The Committee recommended that the Steering Group establish a task force to conduct the review.

21. Concerning future implementation of the Programme, the Committee supported the extension of the Programme to 2030 and noted the continued need to improve statistical infrastructure, such as quality assurance frameworks and statistical business registers. Referring to the findings of the 2017 capacity screening, the Committee suggested that focus be also placed on improving accuracy in addition to availability and frequency of the core set of economic statistics.

22. The Committee was apprised of the efforts and plans by several countries to improve their economic statistics, such as through conducting economic censuses, establishing statistical business registers and improvements made to national accounts. The Committee expressed its appreciation to ESCAP and other development partners for providing technical assistance to support those efforts.

### **Population and social statistics**

(Agenda item 3 (b))

23. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics” (ESCAP/CST/2018/2); and the conference room paper entitled “EPIC: a generic tool for policy-data integration” (ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.1).

24. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; China; India; Indonesia; Malaysia; Philippines; Russian Federation; Samoa; and Viet Nam.

25. The Committee acknowledged progress made by the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics in addressing user-producer

engagement to ensure demand for, and investment in, the development of official statistics (action area A of the collective vision and framework for action). In that regard, the Committee pointed out that the Philippines and Samoa were champions with regard to the successful implementation of user-producer engagement by application of the policy-data integration tool entitled “Every policy is connected” (EPIC) and expressed appreciation of the secretariat’s support of those efforts.

26. The Committee was informed of recent national developments and efforts in producing disaggregated population and social statistics across a wide range of domains. Capacity needs on communication, data use, interoperability and consistency were highlighted.

27. The Committee emphasized the importance of collective regional and subregional action, including between countries and regional partners, to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all population groups.

28. The Committee endorsed the policy-data integration tool (EPIC) as a generic tool to enhance user-producer engagement in order to establish effective demand for data at the national level in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through development of national indicator sets based on national and sectoral development plans and for mapping priority issues discussed in such plans with regional and global indicators, such as the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

29. The Committee recommended application of the tool in domains beyond population and social statistics and gender statistics, particularly by other regional initiatives of the Committee, to enhance user-producer dialogues, sustainable user-producer partnerships, and efficient budget allocations for the integration of inclusive policies with supporting data.

30. The Committee requested the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics to continue to implement its workplan in line with the collective vision and framework for action, including to improve availability and quality of disaggregated statistics to make vulnerable groups visible in official statistics and national policies.

31. The Committee also recommended that the Regional Steering Group provide more guidance to member States on the use of EPIC and facilitate sharing of experiences by pilot countries on the functioning of the tool.

### **Civil registration and vital statistics**

(Agenda item 3 (c))

32. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics” (ESCAP/CST/2018/2); and the report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its third meeting (ESCAP/74/25).

33. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; China; Georgia; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Philippines; Samoa; and Thailand.

34. The Committee noted the importance of civil registration and vital statistics for timely, continuous, reliable and universal statistics in support of

leaving no one behind. The Committee recognized civil registration and vital statistics systems as a source for multiple global indicators of the 2030 Agenda, particularly for achieving universal birth registration covered under Sustainable Development Goal 16.

35. The Committee also noted the role of well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems for improved service delivery, and that agreed civil registration systems remained the best source for vital statistics in the long term.

36. The Committee recognized the importance of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific as part of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024), and expressed its support for its continuation. The Committee noted that shared regional ambition and action framework, combined with national target setting, was a good practice for regional collaboration to effectively spur national action.

37. The Committee supported the convening of a ministerial conference in 2020 for the midterm review of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024). The Committee stressed the importance of the conference and requested the secretariat to inform the Committee of the schedule and methodology for the midterm review as early as possible.

38. The Committee was informed of efforts by countries to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems and increase the use of civil registration data for vital statistics production. The Committee noted several aspects of well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems, including, among them, a national strategy, high-level leadership, strong legal frameworks, collaboration among multiple agencies, clear delineation of responsibilities, suitable coordination mechanisms and the need to integrate information from various systems.

### **Disaster-related statistics**

(Agenda item 3 (d))

39. The Committee had before it the notes by the secretariat entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics” (ESCAP/CST/2018/2) and “Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP/74/24); and a conference room paper entitled “Disaster-related Statistics Framework” (ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.2).

40. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; China; Japan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

41. The representative of the following intergovernmental organization also made a statement: Pacific Community.

42. The Committee stressed the need to improve disaster-related statistics, noting the impacts of disasters on development in the Asia-Pacific region. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the importance of harmonized disaster-related statistics for monitoring international agreements, particularly the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

43. The Committee congratulated the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific for developing the Disaster-related Statistics Framework and recognized the Framework as a valuable tool for national statistical offices and disaster management agencies to improve disaster-related statistics.

44. After being informed by several countries about their initiatives and plans for improving disaster information and statistics for disaster risk assessments and preparedness and their engagement with the Expert Group, the Committee provided guidance on future regional collaboration to strengthen disaster-related statistics. Delegations noted the importance of capacity-building through training and technical assistance and sharing of experience, practices and tools. They also expressed the need for further methodological work to harmonize statistics in areas such as the measurement of economic loss from disasters to facilitate international monitoring.

45. The Committee considered the proposals made by the Expert Group and noted that a technical working group should engage an increased number of experts from more countries in the region. The committee noted with appreciation the interest of several countries to contribute to a technical working group and also noted the broad range of stakeholders and expertise available across multiple government ministries and international organizations, which could be mobilized for the improvement of disaster-related statistics. The Committee noted that a technical working group should support coordination within governments and bear in mind the need to minimize response burden related to the monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

46. The Committee took note of experiences shared by some countries on the intersection of disaster-related statistics with statistics on other themes, such as environment and climate change-related statistics.

#### **Agricultural and rural statistics**

(Agenda item 3 (e))

47. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics” (ESCAP/CST/2018/2) and the information document on progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ESCAP/2018/INF/5).

48. Representatives of following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Japan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Timor-Leste; and Viet Nam.

49. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific of the Global Strategy, based in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and to its implementing partners, including FAO, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Pacific Community and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, for the successful implementation of the first phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.



50. The Committee strongly supported the development and implementation of a second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, using the same modalities as the first phase, and recommended increased focus on issues related to the 2030 Agenda, including adding value to agricultural data through analysis and the use of cost-effective methods, including advances in information and communications technology (ICT). The Committee further recommended giving priority to countries not included in the first phase.

51. The Committee noted the growing importance of the use of advances in ICT to improve the quality, timeliness and small-area detail of agricultural and rural statistics, including the use of geographical information systems and remote sensing, computer-assisted personal interviews, mobile technologies, blockchain technologies and artificial intelligence.

52. The representatives of several member countries spoke about their experiences and expertise in the use of ICT in statistics and offered to share their expertise and provide capacity development and technical assistance support to other member States through South-South cooperation.

53. ICT was increasingly used for censuses and surveys, including population and housing censuses and agriculture censuses. The Committee noted the benefits of maximizing synergies in the use of ICT across statistical programmes and called for more coordination with regard to the application of ICT in technical assistance activities.

54. The Committee supported the development of collaborative platforms to share and exchange knowledge related to Global Strategy methodologies, guidelines, training materials and experiences and to monitor progress towards improving agricultural and rural statistics.

### **3. Review of progress by partners with respect to the collective vision and framework for action**

(Agenda item 4)

55. The Committee had before it the report on the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2018/3), the report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CST/2018/4) and the information document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations to implement the collective vision and framework for action” (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/6).

56. The Committee benefited from a high-level panel on partners supporting advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda. The panellists discussed partners’ contributions to the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action. The panel comprised Mr. Alexander Surinov, Head of Rosstat, Federal State Statistics Service, Russian Federation; Mr. Rana Hasan, Director, Development Economics and Indicators Division, ADB; Ms. Ofa Ketuu, Director, Statistics for Development, Pacific Community; Ms. Sara Duerto Valero, Statistics Specialist, UN-Women; and Ms. El Iza Mahomedou, Deputy Secretariat Manager, Country Programme, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century.

57. Representatives of following members and associate members made statements: China; Japan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Republic of Korea; Samoa; and Timor-Leste.

58. Representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations made statements.

**Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific**

(Agenda item 4 (a))

59. The Committee expressed confidence in the ability of the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism to assume the responsibilities and functions of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific and to extend the impact of the Partners to deliver effective coordination of statistics development.

60. The Committee asked that progress by the Thematic Working Group on Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism be reported at the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics.

**Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

(Agenda item 4 (b))

61. The Chairs of the third and fourth meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Indonesia (Badan Pusat Statistik-Indonesia) were thanked for their work, as was the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for its work as the secretariat of the Network.

62. Network members from China and the Republic of Korea informed Committee members of activities being conducted by statistical institutions in these countries. Network members also informed the Committee of new areas of training support, including economic statistics, gender statistics, the compilation of global indicators related to the 2030 Agenda and the use of new sources of data for official statistics.

63. One delegation expressed caution to expansion of the current activities of the Network and to the accreditation of training courses.

64. The Committee was informed of the development of human resources strategies and called upon the Network and partners to provide support in the implementation of these strategies.

65. The Committee requested Network members to increase the use of e-learning and training-of-trainers modalities, and for the Network secretariat to develop and maintain a training resource repository to increase the impact of regional training initiatives and the efficiency of resource mobilization.

66. The Committee requested that ESCAP consider how best to collaborate and coordinate regional statistical training with global developments, particularly the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training.

67. The Committee endorsed the report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.

**4. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee**

(Agenda item 5)

68. The Committee had before it the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its thirteenth session

(ESCAP/74/26) and the report on the activities of the Bureau since the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/7).

69. Representatives of following members and associate members made statements: Japan; Malaysia; and Samoa.

#### **Report of the Bureau**

(Agenda item 5 (a))

70. The Committee took note of the report on the activities of the Bureau.

#### **Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

(Agenda item 5 (b))

71. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for its training efforts, particularly in the Pacific and in relation to e-learning programmes, and called upon the Institute to provide greater access to training programmes regardless of base qualification requirements.

72. The representative of Japan, as the host of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, expressed great appreciation for the cash and in-kind contributions from members, associate members and international organizations to support the work of the Institute, assured the Committee of the continuing support of the Government of Japan for the Institute to the maximum extent possible and requested the same from members, associate members and international organizations.

### **5. Consideration of future programme focus**

(Agenda item 6)

73. The Committee had before it the information document on the preparation of the draft programme of work for 2020 (ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/8).

74. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Indonesia; and Samoa.

75. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

76. The Director of the Statistics Division of ESCAP made a presentation concerning the future programme focus, taking into account the Secretary-General's management reforms<sup>1</sup> and the United Nations development system reforms.<sup>2</sup>

77. The Committee expressed full support for the proposed future focus of the programme of work and identified as two specific priorities disaster-related statistics and the use of big data for addressing priority gaps in the 2030 Agenda indicator set.

<sup>1</sup> A/72/492, A/72/492/Add.1 and A/72/492/Add.2.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 72/279.

**6. Consideration of the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind**

(Agenda item 7)

78. The Committee had before it the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.3).

79. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Australia; Bangladesh; China; Japan; Malaysia; Myanmar; Samoa; Thailand; Timor-Leste; and Viet Nam.

80. The Committee reviewed and amended the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.

81. The Committee requested that the secretariat inform member States of the schedule and details of the implementation of the two-year progress review at its earliest convenience.

82. The Committee strongly recommended that the draft declaration, with the agreed amendments as contained in ESCAP/CST/2018/L.3, be adopted by the high-level segment of the Committee.

**7. Other matters**

(Agenda item 8)

83. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Malaysia; and Samoa.

84. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

85. The Committee was informed of progress in the preparations for the sixty-second International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress, which will be hosted by the Government of Malaysia and take place in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 23 August 2019.

86. The Committee was asked to advise on mechanisms for addressing the concerns of national statistical offices when international donor partners conduct surveys in member countries that are not consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

87. The Committee was reminded of Governments' commitments, in 2014, to honour the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The Committee was also informed of partner coordination mechanisms at the regional level and the proposed commitments by partners in the draft declaration considered under agenda item 7.

**8. Adoption of the report of the senior officials segment**

(Agenda item 9)

88. The senior officials adopted the report of the senior officials segment on 18 October 2018.

## **B. High-level segment**

### **1. Member States' perspectives on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind**

(Agenda item 11)

89. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled "Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind: whole-of-government support for national statistical systems" (ESCAP/CST/2018/5).

90. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Japan; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Russian Federation; Singapore; Sri Lanka; and Timor-Leste.

91. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

92. Representatives of several member countries congratulated the secretariat and the Committee for initiating and organizing the high-level segment and preparing the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind. The initiative complemented national efforts to reform national statistical systems. The Committee noted that there was strong support for the draft declaration.

93. The Committee noted the importance of high-quality, timely, reliable, relevant and disaggregated data in support of the 2030 Agenda and the importance of official statistics to good governance of effective societies that were transparent, accountable and inclusive.

94. The Committee took note of the importance of high-level political support and good governance to a strong national statistical system.

95. The Committee recognized the significant demand placed on national statistical systems in implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee emphasized the importance of prioritization, including prioritization of resources.

96. The Committee noted the alignment of the 2030 Agenda and strengthened national statistical systems with national plans and policies.

97. The Committee noted the importance of modern technologies and methods in strengthening national statistical systems. The Committee also recognized the importance of statistical legislation for a strong statistical system and took note of a number of reviews completed or under way to ensure modern production of official statistics and use of data, particularly government-held data, for research and analysis.

98. The Committee emphasized the role of advocacy in the use and expanded use of official statistics in policy processes, government reports, Sustainable Development Goal prioritization, modernization efforts, government reforms and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In that regard, communication efforts with stakeholders should be stepped up.

99. The Committee recognized the importance of human resources and skills development and efforts under way in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen skills, including by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

100. The Committee recognized the importance of the declaration in thematic areas such as ageing populations and trade, and for monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

101. The Committee recognized the value of financial as well as technical assistance in developing and strengthening national statistical systems extended by the secretariat and development partners; expressed gratitude and thanks to them; and looked forward to their continued cooperation.

102. The Committee noted that the task of strengthening national statistical systems did not stop with the declaration and efforts needed to continue. In that regard, member States noted the need for, and their willingness to collaborate and contribute to, global, regional, subregional and national efforts.

**2. Other matters**  
(Agenda item 12)

103. No other matters were discussed.

**3. Adoption of the declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind**  
(Agenda item 13)

104. The Committee adopted the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind (ESCAP/CST/2018/7).

**4. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session**  
(Agenda item 14)

105. The Committee adopted the present report of the Committee on its sixth session on 19 October 2018.

### **III. Organization**

**A. Senior officials segment**

**1. Opening, duration and organization of the session**

106. The senior officials segment of the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics was held in Bangkok from 16 to 18 October 2018. The session was opened by Mr. Puchapong Nodthaisong, Director-General, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand. The Director of the Statistics Division and the Chair of the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics also made statements.

**2. Election of officers**

107. The session elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Mohd Uzir Bin Mahidin (Malaysia)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Ning Jizhe (China)
	Ms. Wah Wah Maung (Myanmar)
	Mr. Javad Hosseinzadehneyestani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Member:	Mr. Gogita Todradze (Georgia)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Aliimuamua Malaefono Tauā-T Faasalaina (Samoa)

### 3. Agenda

108. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the senior officials segment:
  - (a) Opening statements;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of overall progress with respect to 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”.
3. Review of progress by the groups responsible for the regional initiatives of the Committee with respect to the collective vision and framework for action:
  - (a) Economic statistics;
  - (b) Population and social statistics;
  - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
  - (d) Disaster-related statistics;
  - (e) Agricultural and rural statistics.
4. Review of progress by partners with respect to the collective vision and framework for action:
  - (a) Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific;
  - (b) Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
  - (a) Report of the Bureau;
  - (b) Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
6. Consideration of future programme focus.
7. Consideration of the draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the senior officials segment.

### B. High-level segment

#### 1. Opening, duration and organization of the session

109. The high-level segment of the Committee on Statistics was convened in Bangkok on 19 October 2018. The session was opened by Mr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand.

110. Mr. Samaychanh Boupha, Head, Lao Statistics Bureau, and Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao People's Democratic Republic, provided the opening remarks. The Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Chair of the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics also made statements.

## **2. Election of officers**

111. The session elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Mohd Uzir Bin Mahidin (Malaysia)  
 Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Jelfs (Australia)

## **3. Agenda**

112. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

10. Opening of the high-level segment:

- (a) Opening statements;
- (b) Election of officers;
- (c) Adoption of the agenda.

11. Member States' perspectives on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.

12. Other matters.

13. Adoption of the declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind.

14. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

## **C. Senior officials and high-level segments**

### **1. Attendance**

113. The senior officials segment was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; and Viet Nam.

114. Representatives of the following Permanent Observer to ESCAP attended: Nigeria.

115. Representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat attended: Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

116. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds and entities attended: FAO; International Labour Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;



United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Population Fund; UN-Women; World Bank; and World Health Organization.

117. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: ADB; Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; European Commission; and Pacific Community.

118. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Asia Research Initiative Network; Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data; Holy See; Huqooq-ul-Ebad Development Foundation; Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century; Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; and Stockholm Environment Institute.

## **2. Other events**

119. The following side events and special session were held in conjunction with the Committee session:

(a) 16 October 2018: side event on the importance of producing and using gender statistics in disaster-prone countries, co-hosted with UN-Women, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and FAO;

(b) 17 October 2018: side event on children at greatest risk of being left behind: the urban poor and children with disabilities, co-hosted with the United Nations Children's Fund;

(c) 18 October 2018: special session on Sustainable Development Goal data flows and global reporting: the Asia-Pacific experience;

(d) 18 October 2018: side event on the inclusive data charter: making everyone count, co-hosted with Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data;

(e) 19 October 2018: side event on advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14 through ocean accounting: "Ocean accounts: the economy and beyond".

**Annex**

**List of documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2018/1	Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community	2
ESCAP/CST/2018/2	Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing the existing regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics	3
ESCAP/CST/2018/3	Report on the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific	4 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2018/4	Report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific	4 (b)
ESCAP/CST/2018/5	Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind: whole-of-government support for national statistical systems	7 and 11
ESCAP/CST/2018/6	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its sixth session	
ESCAP/CST/2018/7	Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind	
ESCAP/74/24	The Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	3 (d)
ESCAP/74/25	Report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its third meeting	3 (c)
ESCAP/74/26	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its thirteenth session	5 (b)
<i>Conference room papers</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.1	EPIC: a generic tool for policy-data integration	3 (b)
ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.2	Disaster-related Statistics Framework	3 (d)
ESCAP/CST/2018/CRP.3	Draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind	7

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2018/L.1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CST/2018/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c) and 10 (c)
ESCAP/CST/2018/L.3	Draft declaration on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind	13
ESCAP/CST/2018/L.4	Draft report of the senior officials segment	9
ESCAP/CST/2018/L.4/Rev.1	Draft report	14
<i>Information series</i>		
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/1	Strengthening gender for the gender perspective in the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action	2
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/2	Towards a transformation in how gender data and statistics are promoted, created and used	2
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/3	Reports of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/4	Achievements of the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: highlighted results from the 2017 capacity screening activity and implications for the future implementation of the Programme	3 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/5	Progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics	3 (e)
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/6	Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations to implement the collective vision and framework for action	4
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/7	Report on the activities of the Bureau since the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics	5 (a)
ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/8	Preparation of the draft programme of work for 2020	6

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Information available online</i>		
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session</a>	Information for participants	
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-statistics-sixth-session</a>	Tentative programme	

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