

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

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**Regional initiatives: Social statistics****Core set of population and social statistics for Asia and the Pacific****Note by the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics***Summary*

The present document contains a proposed core set of population and social statistics that captures the basic social concerns and policy needs pertaining to people's living conditions in Asia and the Pacific. The core set is intended to be used as a guideline for improving the capacity of national statistical systems in these areas in the region in order to achieve the 2020 strategic goal of the Committee on Statistics. It has been developed by the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics in consultation with member States and relevant international organisations.

The Committee may wish to review and endorse the proposed core set.

**Contents**

	<i>Page</i>
I. Background and underlying principles for a core set on population and social statistics.....	2
II. Core set of population and social statistics .....	4
III. National and international consultations.....	14
A. Governance and family and community domains .....	14
B. Comments from national and international consultations .....	14
IV. Conclusion .....	15
Annex Analysis of outcomes of national and international consultation process on the proposed core set of population and social statistics for Asia and the Pacific.....	16
Table Core set of population and social statistics for the ESCAP region – Domains and statistical themes .....	6

\* E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.1/Rev.1.

## I. Background and underlying principles for a core set on population and social statistics

1. The Committee on Statistics at its second session in 2010 in recommendation 2/1 expressed full support for the goal of ensuring that all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of economic, population, social and environmental statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9). This vision of the Committee is supportive of international and national policy dialogues, highlighting the role of statistics and data for sound evidence-based policies that promote an economically, socially and environmental sustainable future for all.<sup>1</sup>

2. To achieve its strategic goal in the social area, the Committee established the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics to provide recommendations on the strategic directions as well as substantive and methodological guidelines. Within its mandate and strategic approach,<sup>2</sup> the Technical Advisory Group started by discussing the conceptual scope and framework of social statistics, and reviewing past and current experiences on the measurement of social phenomena.

3. Several past international experiences provided insight on how a conceptual framework for social statistics could be built. These ranged from broad approaches that would map out all the fields of social transactions to the other extreme of looking only at specific priorities that policymakers would have in a particular moment of time.<sup>3</sup> The Technical Advisory Group also reviewed current work on social statistics, focusing particularly on countries and organizations in the ESCAP region. In addition to looking at institutional and conceptual frameworks related to the production and use of social statistics, the Technical Advisory Group analysed existing frameworks in the region, such as the *Framework of Inclusive Growth Indicators* of the Asian Development Bank,<sup>4</sup> and the National Minimum Development Indicators developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, “Realizing the Future We Want for All, Report to the Secretary General”, June 2012. Available from [www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam\\_undf/untt\\_report.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/untt_report.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The proposed strategic approach and plan of work of the Technical Advisory Group are presented in document E/ESCAP/CST(3)/5.

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the evolution of international debate on social measurement, please see Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, “Past and current efforts towards a systematic development of social statistics”, report submitted to the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Scope and Content of Social Studies, New York, September 2008, ESA/STAT/AC.161/1; and Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, “Final report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Scope and Content of Social Statistics”, New York, September 2008. Available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/BG-SocialStats-2.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Asian Development Bank, *Framework of Inclusive Growth Indicators: Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific: Special Supplement* (Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Asian Development Bank, 2011). Available at [www2.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key\\_Indicators/2011/pdf/KI2011-Special-Supplement.pdf](http://www2.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2011/pdf/KI2011-Special-Supplement.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> For a more comprehensive review of past and current experiences in measuring social phenomena, please refer to the documents discussed at the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group, which was held on 29 and 30 September 2011 in Bangkok. This information is available from [www.unescap.org/stat/social-stat/meeting-Sep2011/index.asp](http://www.unescap.org/stat/social-stat/meeting-Sep2011/index.asp).

4. The analysis undertaken by the Technical Advisory Group and the review of past experiences highlighted the complexity of the task ahead. Recognizing that a very broad conceptual approach would not likely be viable, the Technical Advisory Group decided to use a more focused and simpler approach by developing a core set of population and social statistics that captures basic areas of social concern and policy needs (the *domains*), and key issues within each domain (the statistical *themes*).

5. During the development process, the Technical Advisory Group ascertained that the core set of population and social statistics would be based on the following principles:

(a) The core set is to be used as a guideline for improving national capacity development, so that by 2020 countries in the region would be able to produce this basic set of population and social statistics, as per the goal of the Committee. In particular, the core set will guide the review of national practices and capacities, a process that stands to help point out capacity gaps and needs. The results of the review will be the basis for the formulation of a regional programme to address those gaps and needs.

(b) Given its role with regard to capacity development, the core set is to serve as a benchmark for capturing the basic needs of policymaking and debates common across countries in the region. To ensure this, member States in the region and international partners<sup>6</sup> have been consulted from a national perspective on the proposed core set.

(c) The core set focuses on statistics, not indicators. Within each country, different indicators may be used for national and local purposes. Thus, the core set does not focus on indicators, but instead it refers to statistics on key population and social issues that are important across countries in the region. Furthermore, statistics tend to have a longer time horizon, while indicators may be more subject to policy changes.

(d) The core set does not aim to be an exhaustive list of population and social statistics, but rather a set of statistics that captures the most essential, current and emerging areas of population and social concerns and policy needs.

(e) The core set is not driven by other reporting frameworks, such as the Millennium Development Goals or the Human Development Report of United Nations Development Programme. The statistics included in the core set, however, need to capture the basic aspects of international policy debates and the ongoing discussions, at both the national and international levels, pertaining to the Millennium Development Goals agenda and more recently, the agenda established at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. These agendas not only recognize the growing importance of focusing on the lives and living conditions of people and communities, but also on their environments and the prosperity of the economies of the nations in which they reside. The consistency of the core set with ongoing debates is additional evidence of the relevance of the Committee's strategic goal.

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<sup>6</sup> The international organizations consulted were the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific. For more information refer to [www.unescap.org/stat/partnership/index.asp](http://www.unescap.org/stat/partnership/index.asp).

(f) By agreeing with the core set, member States are not committed to deliver or report a specific set of statistics. The core set will be used as a regional guideline to improve national capacity on population and social statistics.

(g) The core set is not prescriptive as countries may have specific contexts that may require adding more statistics than in the regional set or not considering others. It should, however, include most of the social issues that are important across countries in the region. For example, if urbanization is a concept that applies to all except a specific member State, the core set should still include that theme, and in that specific country context these statistics may not be considered when reviewing national practices and capacities.

(h) The core set is to be aspirational in that it aims to include the population and social areas deemed important for policy needs, and to consider the key policy needs of today and the future. To support the relevance of the core set in the future, the domains and statistical themes included should cover current as well as emerging areas of population and social concerns and policy needs. For some of the statistical themes, such as subjective well-being and governance issues, the Technical Advisory Group recognizes that technical discussions and international standards are still under development and the regional programme should follow closely the evolution of international debate to further incorporate its main outcomes.<sup>7</sup> With the inclusion of these emerging population and social concerns and policy needs, the core set will remain up to date and will enable the Asian and Pacific region to continue to contribute to the international statistical debate.

## II. Core set of population and social statistics

6. Early in the process, the Technical Advisory Group decided to identify priority statistics relevant to social phenomena. Preference was given to prioritizing specific and well-defined population and social concerns that are regionally pertinent (domains) and within each, to identify the emerging and complex social concerns that are growing in relevance to policy needs (themes), with the themes focusing on statistics rather than on indicators.

7. After several discussions in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics, and broad consultative processes within ESCAP member States and with international partners, the Technical Advisory Group developed a proposed core set of population and social statistics for the Asian and Pacific region comprised of 11 domains: population; health; income, wealth and expenditure; employment; education and training; housing and infrastructure; information and communication; crime and justice; family and community; culture and leisure; and governance. The

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<sup>7</sup> In the governance area, the international debate includes several initiatives, such as the World Bank governance indicators, and the discussions at the fourth Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) World Forum, which was held from 16 to 19 October 2012 in New Delhi. OECD has been active in efforts to measure subjective well-being and is now in the process of preparing guidelines on the measurement of subjective well-being. Within member States, there are also examples of initiatives related to subjective well-being measurement. For example, Indonesia-BPS Statistics 2012 will be conducting a survey on happiness to measure the happiness index of Indonesia.

domains are considered essential for measuring people's lives and living conditions.

8. Within each domain, statistical themes have been identified to capture priority areas of social concern and policy needs of member States and international organizations. The themes have been tailored to each domain. For example, within the population domain, the relevant statistical themes are population numbers, births, deaths, international migration, population mobility (internal migration) and urbanization.

9. The core set also includes emerging social issues, such as governance and family and community. The inclusion of these topics will allow a set of population and social statistics to evolve in its detailed features and thus ensure the set's relevance by 2020.

10. The Technical Advisory Group also identified the increasing need for more disaggregated statistics within countries, both by geographical areas and population groups, and as a result, included a reference to relevant characteristics of analysis along with each domain and statistical theme.

11. The table below presents the proposed core set (domains and statistical themes) as well as possible relevant characteristics for disaggregation of data at the national level, and some illustrative examples of related indicators.

Table

**Core set of population and social statistics for the ESCAP region – Domains and statistical themes**

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Statistics (themes)</b>	<b>Possible relevant characteristics</b>	<b>Illustrative examples of possible related indicators</b>
<b>Population</b>	<i>Population numbers</i>	Age, gender, geography, country of birth	Total population, average annual population growth rate
	<i>Births</i>	Age of mother, geography, gender of child	Number of births, crude birth rate, adolescent fertility rate
	<i>Deaths</i>	Age, gender, geography	Number of deaths, crude death rate, infant mortality rate
	<i>International migration</i>	Age, gender	Number of permanent migrants in and out of the country, migrants share of the total population
	<i>Population mobility (internal migration)</i>	Age, gender, geography (origin, destination)	Number of people moving from rural to urban areas
	<i>Urbanization</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion living in urban and rural areas
<b>Health</b>	<i>Mortality</i>	Age, gender, geography	Number of deaths, age specific mortality rates, crude death rate, life expectancy
	<i>Causes of death</i>	Age, gender, geography	Death rates by causes, such as cancer, malaria and coronary heart disease
	<i>Health risk factors</i>	Age, gender, geography, income quintiles, level of education	Proportion of adults with risky health behaviours, such as alcohol consumption, smoking, diet, physical activity and exercise; Body Mass Index
	<i>Prevalence (and incidence) of disease</i>	Age, gender, geography	HIV prevalence, incidence of malaria and tuberculosis
	<i>Reproductive and maternal health</i>	Age, gender, geography, age of mother (birth statistics), birth-weight	Number of maternal deaths, prevalence of anaemia deficiency among pregnant and lactating women
	<i>Child health</i>	Age, gender, geography, age of mother (birth statistics), birth-weight	Number of births by weight of child, infant mortality rate, proportion of children under 5 years who are underweight, proportion immunized against measles
	<i>Access to, affordability and provision of health services</i>	Age, gender, geography, income quintiles, level of education	Number of physicians per capita, total public expenditure on health (% of GDP), and per capita

Table: (cont. 1)

Domain	Statistics (themes)	Possible relevant characteristics	Illustrative examples of possible related indicators
<b>Income, wealth and expenditure</b>	<i>Household income (level and distribution) and main source of income</i>	Household size and composition (age and gender), characteristics of individuals, such as education level, labour force status, employment status, full-time/part-time status and geography	Gross household income, equivalized household income, Gini coefficient, proportion of household and population receiving social assistance/social protection
	<i>Household wealth (level and distribution)</i>	Household size and composition (age and gender), characteristics of individuals, such as education level, labour force status, employment status, full-time/part-time status and geography.	Household net worth quintiles
	<i>Household expenditure (level and distribution)</i>	Household size and composition (age and gender), characteristics of individuals, such as education level, labour force status, employment status, full-time/part-time status and geography	Average weekly expenditure by broad expenditure group, share of poorest quintile population in national consumption
	<i>Poverty and inequality</i>	Household size and composition (age and gender), characteristics of individuals, such as education level, labour force status, employment status, full-time/part-time status and geography	Gini coefficient, population in severe poverty
	<i>Financial stress</i>	Household size and composition (age and gender), characteristics of individuals, such as education level, labour force status, employment status, full-time/part-time status and geography	Number of people who often go without meals; number of people who seek financial help from family/friends

Table: (cont. 2)

Domain	Statistics (themes)	Possible relevant characteristics	Illustrative examples of possible related indicators
<b>Employment</b>	<i>Labour force status of the population</i>	Age, gender, occupation or skill level, industry (economic activity) education level, status in employment, geography, formal/informal employment, full-time/part-time status, residency status	Proportion of working age population employed, employment to population ratio, labour force participation
	<i>Labour underutilization</i>	Age, gender, occupation or skill level, industry (economic activity), education level, status in employment, geography, formal/informal employment, full-time/part-time status, residency status	Unemployment rate, proportion in time related underemployment, long -term unemployment rate, youth not in employment or education, barriers to employment
	<i>Earnings or wages</i>	Age, gender, occupation or skill level, industry (economic activity), education level, status in employment, geography, formal/informal employment, full-time/part-time status, residency status	Mean and median earnings, mean and median daily wages, earnings by hours worked
	<i>Hours worked</i>	Age, gender, occupation or skill level, industry (economic activity), education level, status in employment, geography, formal/informal employment, full-time/part-time status, residency status	Actual hours worked, usual hours worked
	<i>Unpaid work</i>	Age, gender, family type and composition	Hours worked by men and women in unpaid work
	<i>Occupational safety</i>	Age, gender, occupation or skill level, industry (economic activity)	Number of workers experiencing fatal or non-fatal occupational injuries and disease (with lost workdays)
	<i>Strikes and lockouts</i>	Industry (economic activity)	Number of strikes and lockouts, number of workers involved in strikes and lockouts
	<i>Labour inspection</i>	Industry (economic activity)	Number of labour inspectors, number of labour inspection visits to workplaces during the year
	<i>Trade union membership</i>	Age, gender, industry (economic activity), occupation	Number of trade union members
	<i>Collective bargaining</i>	Gender, industry (economic activity)	Number of workers covered by collective bargaining



Table 1: (cont. 3)

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Statistics (themes)</b>	<b>Possible relevant characteristics</b>	<b>Illustrative examples of possible related indicators</b>
<b>Education and training</b>	<i>Early childhood attendance</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of children attending early childhood preschools/nursery schools (by age groups)
	<i>Primary, secondary and tertiary enrolments</i>	Age, gender, geography	Net enrolment ratio in primary education, vocational and tertiary enrolment rates
	<i>Primary, secondary and tertiary attendance</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of children attending secondary school (by age groups), proportion of young adults attending tertiary education
	<i>Primary, secondary and tertiary completion</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach the last year of primary, mean years of schooling
	<i>Qualifications/attainment</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of population that has attained at least upper secondary education, proportion with a tertiary or vocational qualification
	<i>Literacy and numeracy for school children</i>	Age, gender, geography	Performance in reading, mathematics and science
	<i>Adult literacy and numeracy</i>	Age, gender, geography	Adult literacy rate
	<i>Lifelong learning</i>	Age, gender, geography, labour force status	Number of workers receiving work-based training
	<i>Provision of education and training</i>		Public expenditure per pupil (primary, secondary and tertiary, total public expenditure on education (as per cent of GDP), and per capita, pupil-teacher ratios

Table 1: (cont. 4)

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Statistics (themes)</b>	<b>Possible relevant characteristics</b>	<b>Illustrative examples of possible related indicators</b>
<b>Housing and infrastructure</b>	<i>Housing stock and conditions</i>	Geography	Proportion of housing stock in good repair, proportion of households living in separate dwellings
	<i>Housing affordability and tenure</i>	Household type and composition, household income quintiles, age and gender and labour force status of household reference person	Proportion of household income spent on housing, proportion of dwellings owned outright/rented
	<i>Housing needs</i>	Geography, type of dwellings	Unmet housing needs - dwellings required
	<i>Access and proximity to services</i>	Geography	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility, proportion of households with children under 5 years that live more than x kms from a health centre or clinic, proportion of households with access to electricity
	<i>Overcrowding</i>	Geography, age, gender	Proportion of population living in overcrowded dwellings, proportion of urban population living in overcrowded dwellings
	<i>Homelessness</i> <i>Government expenditure on public housing and housing assistance</i>	Geography, age, gender Geography	Number of persons who are homeless Proportion of population receiving housing assistance, proportion of population living in public housing
<b>Information and communication</b>	<i>Households with TVs, radios, computers and Internet access</i>	Household type and composition, household income quintiles	Proportion of households with a telephone, proportion of households with a computer, proportion of households with Internet access
	<i>Use of Information and communication technologies (ICT) by individuals and location</i>	Age, gender, labour force status, occupation, income quintiles, geography	Proportion of population who used the Internet within the last 12 months, proportion of individuals who used a mobile cellular phone within the last 12 months
	<i>Use of ICT in education</i>	Geography	Proportion of schools with a TV used for educational purposes, proportion of schools with Internet access

Table 1: (cont. 5)

Domain	Statistics (themes)	Possible relevant characteristics	Illustrative examples of possible related indicators
<b>Crime and justice</b>	<i>Number of reported offences by type and whether occurred inside or outside of the household</i>	Age, gender, geography	Homicide rate per 100,000
	<i>Number and characteristics of victims of (reported and unreported) crimes by type and whether occurred inside or outside of the household</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of population who were victims of an assault, proportion of victims who knew the perpetrator, prevalence of domestic and family violence
	<i>Number and characteristics of offenders</i>	Age, gender, geography	Offender rate
	<i>Domestic/family violence</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of women who have experienced physical or mental violence in the last 12 months by an intimate or other than intimate partner
	<i>Number and characteristics of prisoners</i>	Age, gender, geography	Size of prison population, proportion of prison population who are unsentenced, extent of prison overcrowding
	<i>Perception of crime and feelings of safety</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of population who feel safe at home alone/alone in public places
	<i>Functioning of the judicial system</i>		

Table 1: (cont. 6)

Domain	Statistics (themes)	Possible relevant characteristics	Illustrative examples of possible related indicators
<b>Family and community</b>	<i>Family type and composition, formation and dissolution</i>	Age and gender of family household members, geography, labour force status of household reference person	Proportion of single-person households, proportion of children living in a one parent family, number of divorces, number of marriages, age of brides, proportion of families with dependent children with a parent working overseas
	<i>Disability and carers</i>	Family type and composition, employment status of household reference person, age (of person with disability), labour force status	Proportion of families containing a person with a disability, proportion of the population who are carers
	<i>Work/life balance</i>		Whether member State has ratified International Labour Organization Convention No. 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities, <sup>a</sup> proportion of workers with access to maternity/paternity leave
	<i>Social cohesion and social isolation</i>	Age, gender, geography	Drug induced deaths, proportion of population who volunteer, proportion of population who feel that they can rely on their neighbours in a crisis, proportion of population who have daily contact with family and friends
	<i>Community participation and community diversity</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of population who participate in common social activities, population by country of birth
	<i>Life satisfaction</i>	Age, gender, geography, labour force status	Proportion of population satisfied with life and degree of satisfaction
	<i>Presence of family friendly policies</i>	Age, gender, geography, occupation, industry of activity	Whether the member State has ratified International Labour Organization Convention No. 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities, proportion of workers with access to maternity/paternity leave
	<i>Child marriage and forced marriage</i>	Age, gender, geography, religious affiliation	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in union before age 18

Table 1: (cont. 7)

Domain	Statistics (themes)	Possible relevant characteristics	Illustrative examples of possible related indicators
<b>Culture and leisure</b>	<i>Languages spoken</i>	Age, gender, ethnicity, country of birth, income quintiles, educational attainment, labour force status	Languages most often spoken at home; proportion of the population able to speak more than one language
	<i>Participation in cultural activities and events</i>	Age, gender, geography, income quintiles	Attendance rate at cultural venues, such as theatre and museums, participation rates for formal and informal events
	<i>Participation in leisure activities</i>	Age, gender, geography, income quintiles	Participation in organized sport, attendance at sporting events
	<i>International tourism arrivals and departures</i>	Age, gender, country of residence	Number of short-term arrivals and departures
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Participation in electoral processes</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of the population who were eligible to vote in the last election, proportion of the population who voted in the last election
	<i>Participation in decision-making</i>	Age, gender, geography	Women's share of government ministerial positions, proportion of seats held by women in national parliament, women's share of managerial positions, women's participation in local government
	<i>Perceptions of satisfaction with governance processes across public and private institutions</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of the population satisfied with the integrity of the electoral process, proportion of the population satisfied with the accountability and transparency of the government
	<i>Satisfaction with delivery of specified services</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of population satisfied with public/private health services, proportion of population satisfied with educational services, proportion of population experiencing difficulty in accessing services
	<i>Feelings of trust in public institutions</i>	Age, gender, geography	Proportion of population who trust public institutions, such as the police, the judiciary and hospitals
	<i>Effectiveness of the legal system and the rule of law</i>	Age, gender, geography	Length of time taken to go to trial after being charged, number of unsentenced prisoners
	<i>Extent of country commitment to human rights</i>		Existence of laws on domestic violence; whether or not reservation has been made to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> See [www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS\\_114192/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS_114192/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>b</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1490, No. 25573.

### **III. National and international consultations**

12. A wide community of producers and users of population and social statistics expressed support for the core set in its domains and statistics through a series of national and international consultations.<sup>8</sup> No specific domain was considered as missing in the current draft and the comments received were generally related to additional details and specificities, which the Technical Advisory Group plans to incorporate in the following stages of work. The above presented core set incorporates the results from these consultations.

13. The participants in the consultations, namely member States and international partners, have commented favourably on the 11 domains identified by the Technical Advisory Group. However, two domains, namely governance and family and community, were considered more aspirational than the others as they deal with emerging issues.

#### **A. Governance and family and community domains**

14. Regarding the domain of governance, member States and international partners were supportive of it but cautious at the same time. Comments from the consultations pertained to the need for methodological guidelines, clarity about definitions and technical guidance, and also highlighted a role for both subjective and objective measures within this domain. These comments are not surprising given that this is a relatively new and emerging area of social concern.

15. Regarding the family and community domain, member States and international partners were generally supportive. Comments from the consultation focused on two main statistical themes: work-life balance and family-friendly policies. Greater clarification and elaboration was sought on these themes and the feedback provided will be part of the next stages of the work of the Technical Advisory Group. The comments also highlighted the importance of internationally endorsed guidelines for this domain and several of its themes, and a role for both subjective and objective measures within this domain.

16. The Technical Advisory Group recognizes the importance of both the “governance” and “family and community” domains to current and emerging social concerns and policy issues and the need to closely follow international developments that will affect these domains in the coming years. Furthermore, as the core set aims to be a relevant set of statistics by 2020, its aspirational nature is important to ensure that it can evolve over time in line with the emerging policy priorities in the member States.

#### **B. Comments from national and international consultations**

17. More detailed comments on each domain are summarized in the annex. Overall, member States and international partners provided supportive feedback and constructive comments on the core set. The detailed feedback and comments will be used during the next stages of its work plan.

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<sup>8</sup> Additional information on the consultative process on the core set is presented in document E/ESCAP/CST(3)/ 5.

18. Even though several of the identified themes within each domain are still under statistical development, no member State or international partner has indicated a strong preference to not include any of them in the identified domains and themes. All participants in the consultations have been supportive of further development of the themes.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

19. Following its strategic approach and work plan, and in pursuance of the strategic goal set by the Committee that all countries in the ESCAP region by 2020 have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics, the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics has developed a proposal for a core set.

20. The proposed core set in the present document is the result of reflections of the group and studies of existing national and international experiences in the area of social measurement, with a particular focus on the regional perspective. Furthermore, the proposed core set is based on the results of a broad consultative process with ESCAP member States and international partners. Both of these groups have expressed overall support for the core set and its objective to meet the most basic and relevant policy needs of the region.

21. The Committee may wish to review and endorse the core set of population and social statistics as a regional guideline for improving national capacity in the areas of population and social statistics.

**Annex****Analysis of outcomes of national and international consultation process on the proposed core set of population and social statistics for Asia and the Pacific**

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Member States</b>	<b>International partners</b>	<b>Consultation comments</b>
Population	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main comment was related to whether urbanization was a statistical theme or cross-cutting issue.</li> </ul>
Health	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linkages between the health, population and work domains were noted.</li> <li>• Both subjective and objective measures could apply.</li> <li>• Policy indicators will need careful consideration.</li> </ul>
Income, wealth and expenditure	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household and person level statistics should be considered.</li> <li>• Further work on financial stress is needed. Financial stress could possibly be merged with poverty and inequality.</li> <li>• OECD guidelines for several themes in this domain will shortly be available.</li> </ul>
Employment	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main comment was related to whether some of the statistical themes needed to be themes or were actually characteristics of employment, such as labour underutilization.</li> <li>• The International Labour Organization provided very constructive guidance on this domain for the Technical Advisory Group's consideration.</li> </ul>
Education and training	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration should be given to outcome measures as well as input/activity measures for several of the themes.</li> <li>• The lifelong learning theme will benefit from clarification.</li> </ul>
Housing and infrastructure	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several of the themes will require improved understanding and specificity.</li> <li>• Both subjective and objective measures could apply.</li> </ul>
Information and communication	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion to expand to other forms of ICT, such as smartphones.</li> <li>• Suggestion to consider penetration rates, such as broadband penetration.</li> </ul>
Crime and justice	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both subjective and objective measures could apply.</li> <li>• International guidelines for several of the themes would be beneficial, such as functioning of the judicial system.</li> </ul>



Domain	Member States	International partners	Consultation comments
Family and community	Generally supportive	Generally supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the work-life balance theme was mixed, however, most comments sought greater clarification and elaboration rather than asking for it to be removed from the core set.</li> <li>• The family-friendly policy theme will benefit from further review and clarification.</li> <li>• Internationally endorsed guidelines for this domain and several of its themes will be important.</li> <li>• Both subjective and objective measures could apply.</li> </ul>
Culture and leisure	Supportive	Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most comments were related to the need for clear definitions in this domain.</li> </ul>
Governance	Generally supportive but were also cautious about such a new domain for population and social statistics	Generally supportive but were also cautious about such a new domain for population and social statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodological guidelines, clarity about definitions, and technical guidance will be required for this newer domain.</li> <li>• Both subjective and objective measures could apply.</li> </ul>