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

**Fifth session**

Bangkok, 14-16 December 2016

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports brought to the attention of the Committee: Bureau**

**Report on the activities of the Bureau since the  
fourth session of the Committee**

**Note by the secretariat\*\***

*Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the work carried out by the Bureau since the fourth session of the Committee. The Committee may wish to take note and provide comments on the report.

**I. Introduction**

1. The Committee on Statistics at its fourth session, in March 2015, elected the Bureau to perform its functions over the intersessional period until the fifth session of the Committee. The elected members of the Bureau were: Ms. Aishath Shahuda of Maldives (Chair); Mr. Alexander Surinov of the Russian Federation; Mr. Hyungsoo Park of the Republic of Korea and Mr. Suryamin of Indonesia (Vice-Chairs); Mr. Simil Johnson of Vanuatu (Member); and Ms. Theresa Dickinson of New Zealand (Rapporteur). During its tenure Mr. Gyeongjoon Yoo replaced Mr. Hyungsoo Park as the member representing the Republic of Korea.

2. The present document covers the activities of the Bureau during the period of April 2015 to November 2016.

**II. Activities of the Bureau**

3. During the period under review, the Bureau held six regular teleconference meetings and one in-person informal meeting.

4. At the meeting on 30 April 2015, the Bureau reviewed and discussed proposals for membership of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), in response to request received from the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

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\* E/ESCAP/CST(5)/L.1.

\*\* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

5. At the meeting on 11 June 2015, the Bureau endorsed the secretariat's proposal to conduct a full review of the functioning and positioning of the existing regional initiatives, as per Committee on Statistics decision 4/1 and supporting guidance.<sup>1</sup> The Bureau recommended that the secretariat complemented the proposed framework for the review with a timeframe with milestones, specifying governance and oversight, and that progress with the review be shared with all members of the Committee.

6. The Bureau also considered priorities during its tenure for follow-up to decision 4/1 on the strategic direction of the Committee.<sup>2</sup> In this regard, the Bureau broadly supported the next steps proposed by the secretariat and identified the following priorities: improve the coordination of regional support; monitor the goals of the committee; and review the functioning of the Bureau. The Bureau further decided to strengthen its engagement with international organisations and enhance accessibility to information on the Bureau's activities.

7. At the meeting on 13 July 2015, the Bureau discussed facilitating regional consultation for input into the IAEG-SDGs as suggested by member States that had attended the first meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in June 2015. The Bureau decided that a regional consultation meeting should be organized and provided recommendations on its preparations, including timing and participation. The regional consultation meeting was held on 21-23 September 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.<sup>3</sup>

8. Continuing its discussions on Committee decision 4/1 on the strategic direction of the Committee, the Bureau supported the proposal by the secretariat to form a task force for the design and monitoring of the Committee's goals be formed once the review of the Committee's regional initiatives has progressed further.<sup>4</sup>

9. At the informal meeting held in New York on 6 March 2016, the topics discussed included: review of the agenda items for the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, review of the decisions of the fourth session of the Committee and recommendations for the fifth session of the Committee.

10. At the meeting on 21 April 2016, the Bureau reviewed and recommended follow up actions on the following decisions of the fourth session of the Committee:<sup>5</sup>

(a) On decision 4/1 on the Strategic direction of the Committee on Statistics, the Bureau endorsed and provided suggestions for the secretariat's framework for follow up to the decision;

(b) On decision 4/3 on Population and social statistics, the Bureau agreed to form an interim Friends of the Chair group prior to establishing a steering group for the implementation of the strategy to improve population and social statistics;

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14 section I, para. 2, and section II, paras. 6-7.

<sup>2</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14 section I, para. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the meeting available on:  
[www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report\\_SDGs\\_Reg\\_Consultation\\_21-23Sep2015\\_0.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report_SDGs_Reg_Consultation_21-23Sep2015_0.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14 section II, para. 7.

<sup>5</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14 section I, paras. 2, 4 and 7.

(c) On decision 4/6 on Modernization of statistical production and services, the Bureau agreed to organize further consultation with and among the current members of the Strategic Advisory Body for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services in Asia and the Pacific.

11. The Bureau supported the proposed concept for the Asia-Pacific Conference on Transforming Official Statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and provided some specific suggestions to the Conference programme and suggested dates.

12. At the meeting on 30 June 2016, the Bureau discussed the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming official statistics for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, the Bureau reviewed the draft outline of the main Conference document prepared by the secretariat and provided recommendations on the purpose and development of the document.

13. The Bureau approved the draft provisional agenda and agreed that the fifth session of the Committee should aim for consensus on a “Collective Vision and Action Framework” to guide regional collaboration on statistics and the SDGs towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

14. At the meeting on 9 August 2016, the Bureau reviewed the progress on the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming official statistics for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Conference was held on 24-26 August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.<sup>6</sup>

15. The Bureau was also updated on the Terms of Reference for the Friends of the Chair group on population and social statistics, including its proposed membership that had been developed by the secretariat and approved by the Chair of the Committee.

### **III. Conclusion**

16. The activities of the Bureau have during the period under review focused on guiding the implementation of decisions made by the Committee at its fourth session, supporting regional implementation of decisions made by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 46th session.

17. The Committee is invited to take note and provide comments on the present report.

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<sup>6</sup> Proceedings available on:  
[www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Transformative\\_Agenda\\_for\\_Official\\_Statistics\\_Proceedings\\_24-26Aug2016.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Transformative_Agenda_for_Official_Statistics_Proceedings_24-26Aug2016.pdf).