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

Fifth session

Bangkok, 14-16 December 2016

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community.
3. Achieving the vision through existing regional initiatives:
 - (a) Economic statistics;
 - (b) Population and social statistics;
 - (c) Civil registration and vital statistics;
 - (d) Disaster-related statistics;
 - (e) Agricultural and rural statistics.
4. The framework for action, partner coordination and stakeholder responsibilities:
 - (a) Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the secretariat;
 - (b) Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific;
 - (c) Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 21 and 22 November 2016.

5. Items for information.
6. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
 - (a) Bureau;
 - (b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
7. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/3)

Annotation

The tentative programme for the session will be made available in due course.

(b) Election of officers

Documentation

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/2)

Annotation

The Committee will elect a chair, three vice-chairs and two other members, one of whom will serve as rapporteur, to form the Bureau. The term of the incoming Bureau will commence immediately and last until the sixth session of the Committee.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/L.1)

Annotation

The annotated provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to any necessary changes.

2. Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community

Documentation

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1)

Data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: outcomes of subregional consultations on the collective vision and framework for action (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/4)

Annotation

The document (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1), prepared by the Bureau, contains a proposed collective vision and framework for action formulated under the Bureau's guidance by the Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming Official Statistics for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 August 2016. The document provides a vision and framework for multi-stakeholder action in the Asia-Pacific region to advance official statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular emphasis on strengthening statistical capacity. The vision communicates the shared level of ambition to 2030.

The framework translates the vision into collective action to be taken at the national, subregional and regional levels that place emphasis on advocacy, investment, user engagement and enabling of the production and use of integrated statistics through methodological work and skills strengthening.

The Committee is invited to review the proposed collective vision and express its views, including on the suitability of the vision to supersede the existing 2020 goals of the Committee set at its second session. The Committee is also invited to review the framework for action and its underlying principles of building on existing commitments and building on and adding value to national action, as well as the proposed implementation mechanisms, action areas and indicative collaborative activities, and to provide guidance on priorities and issues that need further consideration.

Members of the Committee may also wish to make concise statements to share their country's perspectives and priorities for implementing the vision, by supplying the statistical evidence necessary for progress monitoring and integrated policy analysis for the 2030 Agenda. They may further inform the Committee about their national approaches to implementing the action areas of the framework, and provide guidance on how regional collaboration would best support and strengthen their capabilities.

The Committee is invited to endorse the 2030 collective vision and framework for action, which would serve as its reference for strengthening statistical capacity in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. Achieving the vision through existing regional initiatives

At its fourth session, the Committee endorsed the general direction and focus of a strategic approach outlined by the Bureau for strengthening data and statistics for the development agenda beyond 2015 in Asia and the Pacific and entrusted the Bureau with their further elaboration and prioritization.¹ The Bureau has since formulated a collective vision and framework for action, to be presented for discussion and endorsement under agenda item 2. A guiding principle for the framework for action is to build on existing commitments, including the existing regional initiatives endorsed by the Committee at previous sessions.

The Committee is invited to review progress made in implementing five key existing initiatives, namely in the areas of: (a) economic statistics; (b) population and social statistics; (c) civil registration and vital statistics; (d) disaster-related statistics; and (e) agricultural and rural statistics.

Further to general consideration of progress made in implementation, the Committee is invited to express its views on how each initiative could most effectively contribute to implementing the collective vision and framework for action for advancing statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provide guidance on any necessary adjustment or revision.

In reference to the action areas contained in document E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1 and to the guidance provided at its fourth session,² the Committee may wish to provide specific guidance on approaches and mechanisms to ensure that the initiatives, henceforth and in a coordinated manner, address cross-cutting and institutional issues, assess constraints and priorities in statistical systems and improve integration across statistical domains and regional programmes.

(a) Economic statistics

Documentation

Progress in implementing the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/2)

Annotation

The document contains an account by the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific of progress in implementation of the Programme since the fourth session of the Committee, during which it reaffirmed its strong commitment to the Programme.³

The document contains proposals for a number of recommendations on future implementation of the Programme, taking into account the considerable demand for high-quality economic statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and suggests ways in which the Programme can contribute to the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action, bearing in mind the request by the Committee at its

¹ E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14, section I, para. 2.

² E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14, section I, para. 2, and section II, paras. 1-12.

³ E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14, para. 3.

fourth session for increased attention to institutional and cross-cutting issues and improved integration across statistical domains and regional programmes.

The Committee is invited to endorse the recommendations and consider the suggestions made by the Steering Group. The Committee is also invited to provide guidance on future implementation of the Programme in view of the progress made to date.

(b) Population and social statistics

Documentation

Meeting the data and statistics needs for socially inclusive development for all: proposed implementation plan for the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/3)

Annotation

At its fourth session, the Committee endorsed the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific and requested the Bureau to establish a steering group on population and social statistics to oversee the implementation of the regional strategy.⁴ The Bureau decided to create the Friends of the Chair Group as an interim mechanism with the mandate to develop a plan for implementing the regional strategy.

The document contains the proposed implementation plan developed by the Friends of the Chair Group. The proposal is positioned as an integral component of the collective vision and framework for action contained in document E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1, translating the goals of the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific into a series of collaborative activities, with a particular focus on supporting informed decision-making for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee is invited to review and provide advice on the proposal of the Friends of the Chair Group, in particular on its appropriateness for contributing to the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action, and to endorse the proposal.

(c) Civil registration and vital statistics

Documentation

Report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its 2nd meeting (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/4)

Annotation

The report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its 2nd meeting, held on 6 and 7 September 2016, contains a number of recommended actions for the statistical community to take to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in view of the varying levels of progress made at the country level across the region to achieve the vision of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015-2024.

⁴ E/ESCAP/CST(4)/14, para. 4.

The Committee is invited to take note of the outcomes of the Regional Steering Group meeting and provide guidance to the statistical community on implementing the recommendations made by the Regional Steering Group to advance the Regional Action Framework. The Committee is also invited to express its views on the role and responsibilities of statisticians in achieving the goals defined in the Regional Action Framework.

(d) Disaster-related statistics

Documentation

Progress towards the development of a statistical framework and guidance for a basic range of disaster-related statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/5)

Annotation

The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific works pursuant to Commission resolutions 70/2 and 72/11 and comprises experts from the fields of statistics and disaster risk reduction. As such, the document presents lessons from an effort to develop integrated statistics through collaboration between different entities of the national statistical system, directly contributing to action areas B and C contained in the collective vision and framework for action.

The Committee is invited to consider how the lessons from the work of the Expert Group could be applied to the further development of collaborative activities to implement the collective vision and framework for action. The Committee is also invited to provide guidance on future work by the Expert Group in view of the progress made to date.

The Committee is further invited to provide guidance on how the efforts of the Expert Group can contribute to ensuring that the disaster-related indicators under discussion by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction benefit fully from international standards for official statistics.

(e) Agricultural and rural statistics

Documentation

Progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/6)

Annotation

The document contains an account by the Regional Steering Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics of progress made on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, focusing on elements that contribute to implementing the collective vision and framework for action, such as integrating multiple data sources, strengthening institutional coordination and modernizing agricultural statistics business processes.

The Committee is invited to provide guidance and recommendations to ensure the continued successful implementation of the Regional Action Plan, including on how linkages to the action areas of the collective vision may be further strengthened.

4. The framework for action, partner coordination and stakeholder responsibilities

The collective vision and framework for action focus on collaborative activities that add value to national efforts. Hence, development partners at all levels play important roles as facilitators, advocates and coordinators.

The Committee is invited to express its views on how the secretariat, as well as the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific – both established by and working subsidiary to the Committee – could most effectively contribute to implementing the collective vision and framework for action for advancing statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Committee is also invited to provide general guidance to the Partners and the Network on the basis of the progress made to date.

(a) Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the secretariat

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide its views on how the secretariat may best focus its work in support of the collective vision and framework for action.

(b) Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific

Documentation

Report on the activities of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/7)

Annotation

The report will be supplemented by an oral update given by the co-chairs of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific on the most recent developments.

The Committee may wish to review the work of the Partners and provide guidance on their appropriate roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the collective vision and framework for action.

(c) Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/8)

Annotation

The report presents the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, held on 4 March 2016.

The Committee is invited to provide guidance on the past and future implementation of the Network's work programme, including on its appropriate roles and responsibilities in coordinating cross-cutting training tools and initiatives and activities under action area E of the collective vision and framework for action.

5. Items for information

Documentation

Documents for the information of the Committee on Statistics on item 5 of the provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/5)

Annotation

The Committee is invited to take note of and comment on the information provided.

6. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee

(a) Bureau

Documentation

Report on the activities of the Bureau since the fourth session of the Committee (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/INF/6)

Annotation

The report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Chair. The Committee may wish to take note of the report.

(b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eleventh session (E/ESCAP/72/23)

Annotation

The Chair of the twelfth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific will provide an oral report of the outcomes of the meeting.

7. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals for and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to statistics for the consideration of the Commission at its seventy-third session.

8. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its fifth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session, to be held in May 2017.
