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

Ninth session
Bangkok, 11–13 December 2024

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee on Statistics (sect. I) and the annotations thereto (sect. II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:

   (a) Opening addresses;

   (b) Election of officers;

   (c) Adoption of the agenda.

High-level segment

2. Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind.

Senior officials segment

3. Emerging issue: agile statistical systems that are fit for the future.

4. Progress made since the eighth session of the Committee on Statistics:

   (a) Progress made in implementing the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighth session;

   (b) Report of the bureau;

   (c) Reports of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

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5. Other matters.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session.

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II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

Opening addresses will be delivered by the Executive Secretary, other senior officials and government representatives.

(b) Election of officers

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 tenth session of the Committee.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/CST(9)/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CST(9)/1/Add.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

The list of participants and the programme for the session will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2024/committee-statistics-ninth-session.

High-level segment

2. Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind

Documentation

Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind: reflections on the status of implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind (ESCAP/CST(9)/2)

Annotation

The high-level segment will be held pursuant to the request made in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind for the secretariat to organize a midpoint conference in 2024, as appropriate, to gauge the extent of success and to reflect on the commitment expressed by members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. On this occasion, policymakers, other high-level users of statistics and producers of statistics will assess the progress made by statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific on the action areas and commitments set out in 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”, which was endorsed by the Committee at its fifth session (see E/ESCAP/CST(5)/9, decision 5/1), and in the Declaration,

which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fifth session (see resolution 75/9).

Ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to deliver brief statements on efforts being made to implement the commitments in the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration at the national level.

Moreover, the Committee will consider the document on harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind, prepared pursuant to the request made in the Declaration for the secretariat to prepare an overview of progress, including a status update on implementing the Declaration, every two years, for review by the Committee. In the document, the secretariat considers the possible reasons why progress towards achieving commitments has been slow and presents three draft recommendations and two draft decisions for priority action to accelerate progress between now and 2030. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft recommendations and draft decisions.

Senior officials segment

3. Emerging issue: agile statistical systems that are fit for the future

Documentation

Agile statistical systems that are fit for the future (ESCAP/CST(9)/3)

Annotation

The bureau of the Committee has identified building agile statistical systems that are fit for the future as an emerging priority issue for the region. In an era of rapid change and technological advancements, as well as of increasing demands for real-time, granular data, national statistical offices need to enhance their institutional and technical capacities and move beyond traditional methods and practices.

In the document, the secretariat presents information on national, regional and global initiatives being implemented to support the development of statistical systems that are agile and responsive to rapidly changing demands. It also identifies opportunities for members and associate members to become engaged.

The Committee may wish to adopt the draft decision contained in the document and provide further views and guidance on opportunities for regional collaboration and action to develop agile statistical systems.

4. Progress made since the eighth session of the Committee on Statistics

(a) Progress made in implementing the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighth session

Documentation

Progress made in implementing the decisions taken by the Committee on Statistics at its eighth session (ESCAP/CST(9)/4)

Annotation

In the document, the secretariat provides a summary of the progress made in implementing the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighth session, including decision 5, in which the Committee decided that its bureau should conduct a review of the groups and communities of practice supporting the Committee's work and propose recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee to streamline, consolidate and improve those groups and communities to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose.

The Committee may wish to adopt the draft decision on streamlining the Committee's structure and provide the secretariat with guidance on the organization of the future work of the Committee.

In addition, the Committee may wish to provide comments and guidance on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighth session, as detailed in the document.

(b) Report of the bureau

Documentation

Activities of the bureau since the eighth session of the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST(9)/5)

Annotation

In the document, the secretariat provides a summary of the activities of the bureau since the eighth session of the Committee. The Committee is invited to take note of the document and offer feedback to the bureau on its activities.

Furthermore, considering that the bureau has been operating in line with the terms of reference endorsed by the Committee at its eighth session (see ESCAP/CST/2022/7, annex), the Committee may wish to share its views on the effectiveness of those terms of reference.

(c) Reports of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/19)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its nineteenth session (ESCAP/80/19)

Annotation

The Committee may wish to take note of the reports of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions.

5. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CST(9)/L.1)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its ninth session, for submission to the Commission at its eighty-first session.