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

Eighth session
Bangkok and online, 23–25 August 2022
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session

Draft report

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The Committee on Statistics requests that the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) support the Bureau of the Committee as it conducts a review of the groups and communities of practice supporting the Committee’s work.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Commission:

Decision 1

The Committee endorses the revised terms of reference of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics as contained in the annex to ESCAP/CST/2022/4.

Decision 2

The Committee decides that the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific shall continue its work.

Decision 3

The Committee decides to feature data governance in its future work with an emphasis on sharing country experiences and facilitating the provision of technical assistance. It requests its Bureau to propose, in consultation with the secretariat, draft recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.
Decision 4

The Committee decides to feature the production and use of complementary progress measures in its future work with an emphasis on climate change-related statistics. It requests its Bureau to propose, in consultation with the secretariat, draft recommendations to that end for consideration by the Committee, while bearing in mind the need to stay within existing regular budget resources.

Decision 5

The Committee decides that its Bureau shall, with the support of the secretariat, conduct a review of the groups and communities of practice supporting the Committee’s work and provide recommendations to streamline, consolidate and improve those groups and communities to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose. This could include moving towards less formal collaboration mechanisms that may be better suited to the complex world in which national statistical offices now operate. Particular attention should be paid to arrangements and mechanisms to support statistical offices in their efforts to meet the growing demand for climate change-related statistics and to navigate complex data governance choices.

Decision 6

The Committee endorses the revised terms of reference of its Bureau as contained in ESCAP/CST/2022/7.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

3. The Committee held its eighth session in Bangkok and online from 23 to 25 August 2022. The session was opened by the Minister of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand, Mr. Chaiwut Thanakamanusorn. The Executive Secretary, the Chair of the seventh session of the Committee, Mr. Gogita Todradze, and the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made statements.

B. Attendance

4. The Committee session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission: Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Fiji; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Tonga; Türkiye; United States of America; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of Mexico, a Permanent Observer to ESCAP, attended.

6. A representative of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs attended.

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asian Development Bank; Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretariat; Eurasian Economic Commission; Pacific Community; and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.

9. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies; and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century.

10. In accordance with rule 12 of the Commission’s rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives of member States and reported upon them to the Committee. The credentials of 37 member States were found to be in order. The Bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the eighth session of the Committee pending a decision by the General Assembly on the representation of Myanmar and in line with General Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950 and acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

11. The Committee took note of the oral report of the Bureau on credentials.

C. Election of officers

12. The Committee elected the following officers:

   Chair: Mr. Batdavaa Batmunkh (Mongolia)
   Vice-Chairs: Ms. Maria Musudroka (Fiji)
                Mr. Gobinda Prasad Samanta (India)
                Mr. Bakhodir Begalov (Uzbekistan)
   Member: Ms. Piyanuch Wuttisorn (Thailand)
   Rapporteur: Mr. Eng Chuan Koh (Singapore)

D. Agenda

13. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

   1. Opening of the session:

      (a) Opening statements;
      (b) Election of officers;
      (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up on decisions made at the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics.

3. Progress on strengthening national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
   
   (a) Monitoring progress in line with 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” and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind;
   
   (b) Monitoring progress in response to the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics.

4. Regional initiatives and partnerships for strengthening national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
   
   (a) Progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat;
   
   (b) Initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations in support of the collective vision and framework for action.

5. Emerging issues:
   
   (a) Measuring progress beyond gross domestic product;
   
   (b) Data governance in a changing world.

6. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.

7. Reports brought to the attention of the Committee:
   
   (a) Report of the Bureau;
   
   (b) Reports of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
   
   (c) Report on the working group on Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session.
E. Other events

14. The following events were held in conjunction with the Committee session:

   (a) 22 August 2022, expert dialogue on strengthening national statistical systems – sharing country experiences on data governance;

   (b) 22 August 2022, expert dialogue on strengthening national statistical systems – linking country experiences to global and regional initiatives;

   (c) 22 August 2022, visit to the National Statistical Office of Thailand, organized by the National Statistical Office of Thailand and ESCAP;

   (d) 23 August 2022, side event: “Child and environment-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators: adoption, gaps and sources”, organized by UNEP, UNICEF and ESCAP;

   (e) 23 August 2022, side event: “Innovative methodology to monitor Sustainable Development Goal 16”, organized by UNODC and UNODC-Statistics Korea Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific;

   (f) 23 August 2022, side event: “High-frequency data collection using telephone interviews and real-time reporting: tested methodologies and country experiences”, organized by UNICEF;

   (g) 24 August 2022, side event: “Role of regional statistics strategies in strengthening people-centred development”, organized by the Pacific Community;

   (h) 24 August 2022, social event: “Speed dating – getting to know you”;

   (i) 24 August 2022, side event: “Launch of the Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report 2021”, organized by IOM;

   (j) 24 August 2022, side event: “Leaving no one behind: strengthening statistical inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations at the national level”, organized by the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics;


   (l) 25 August 2022, side event: “National Sustainable Development Goal tracker clinic”;

   (m) 26 August 2022, meeting of the Bureaux of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Committee.

III. Account of proceedings

15. The discussions held during the session will be summarized in an account of proceedings that will become available within a week following the conclusion of the session and be annexed to the present report.
Annex I

List of documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General series</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/1</td>
<td>Report on progress with regard to decisions made at the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/2</td>
<td>Summary of progress towards commitments contained in the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind</td>
<td>3 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/3</td>
<td>Report on the 8th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>3 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/4</td>
<td>Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress in implementing regional initiatives with respect to the collective vision and framework for action</td>
<td>4 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/5</td>
<td>From gross domestic product to well-being and sustainability</td>
<td>5 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/6</td>
<td>Data governance in a changing world</td>
<td>5 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/7</td>
<td>Terms of reference of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics</td>
<td>7 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/77/6 (Sect. 19)</td>
<td>Proposed programme budget for 2023, section 19, on economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/77/12</td>
<td>Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its sixteenth session</td>
<td>7 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/78/25</td>
<td>Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventeenth session</td>
<td>7 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Limited series</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/L.1/Rev.1</td>
<td>Annotated provisional agenda</td>
<td>1 (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/L.2</td>
<td>Draft report</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbol</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Agenda item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/1</td>
<td>Report on progress towards commitments contained in the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind</td>
<td>3 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/2</td>
<td>Reports on the 10th and 11th meetings of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>4 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/3</td>
<td>Report on the 3rd meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics</td>
<td>4 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/4</td>
<td>Report on the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>4 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/5</td>
<td>Reports on the 6th and 7th meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>4 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/6</td>
<td>Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations with respect to the collective vision and framework for action</td>
<td>4 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/7</td>
<td>Report on the activities of the Bureau since the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics</td>
<td>7 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/8</td>
<td>Report on the working group on Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>7 (c)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Information available online**

- [www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-statistics-eighth-session](http://www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-statistics-eighth-session) Information for participants
- [www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-statistics-eighth-session](http://www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-statistics-eighth-session) List of participants
- [www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-statistics-eighth-session](http://www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-statistics-eighth-session) Tentative programme
Annex II

List of publications and webinars

I. Publications issued since the seventh session of the Committee


Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021. ST/ESCAP/2935 (Sales No. E.21.II.F.4)

*Getting Every One in the Picture: A Snapshot of Progress Midway through the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade* (United Nations publication, 2021)

*Harnessing Time-Use Data for Evidence-based Policy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Platform for Action* (ST/ESCAP/2949)

Working Paper Series*

SD/WP/14: “Beyond GDP: the idea of global sustainability accounting”

SD/WP/13: “Big data for environment and agriculture statistics”

SD/WP/12: “Big data for the SDGs: country examples in compiling SDG indicators using non-traditional data sources”

Stats Briefs*

Issue no. 31: “Tapping into administrative data in census-taking: an emerging trend in Asia and the Pacific”

Issue no. 30: “Are population censuses in Asia and the Pacific evolving?”

Issue no. 29: “Big data for population and social statistics”

Issue no. 28: “Big data for economic statistics”

Issue no. 27: “Geospatial information and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Issue no. 26: “Population registers: a key resource for producing vital statistics”

Blog posts*

15 June 2022: “Improving our skills for mainstreaming gender statistics”

6 June 2022: “Beyond buzzwords: actioning gender mainstreaming in official statistics”

27 April 2022: “Getting everyone in the picture through assessing inequalities”

22 April 2022: “Innovation meets tradition: administrative data shaping censuses in Asia and the Pacific”

19 January 2022: “Building a more resilient future with inclusive civil registration and vital statistics”

* An asterisk denotes publications that are available online only.
27 October 2021: “Ocean accounts inform evidence-based sustainable development of the ocean economy”

19 May 2021: “Measuring SDG progress at the national level”

11 May 2021: “Celebrating the 1st anniversary of the data integration community of practice”

6 May 2021: “Every policy is connected: developing and monitoring inclusive policies”

5 May 2021: “Harnessing time-use data for gender equality policies and beyond”

28 April 2021: “A new tool to help register every birth and death”

23 April 2021: “Why big data is all the buzz for statisticians”

7 April 2021: “Statisticians connect for impactful South-South collaboration”

6 April 2021: “Partnership for the Goals: Earth observation and statistical communities unite for the SDGs”

2 April 2021: “Understanding human mobility with mobile phone data”

31 March 2021: “Surviving the COVID stress test: the leading experience of KOSTAT”

26 March 2021: “Are we REALLY getting everyone into the picture”?  


20 October 2020: “Connecting the Asia-Pacific region with data we can trust”

15 October 2020: “Communities of practice – a stop-gap solution during a pandemic or here to stay?”


Op-eds

17 March 2022: “Pandemic pushes SDGs further out of reach of Asia and the Pacific”

16 November 2021: “Push for civil registration set to hit key milestone in Asian and Pacific countries”

28 June 2021: “Universal civil registration and vital statistics are critical for truth, trust and COVID recovery in Asia and the Pacific”

20 April 2021: “Making oceans count”

16 March 2021: “Sustainable Development Goals can guide Asia and the Pacific to build back better, says UN report”

Other publications

“Ocean accounting briefs: China, Malaysia, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam”

“Assessment, analysis and redesign of civil registration and vital statistics processes – Maldives”

“How does the health sector accelerate improvements in civil registration and vital statistics?”, Policy brief

“Building identity management systems in Asia and the Pacific, the role of civil registration”, Policy brief
Emerging Trends in Census Approaches in Asia and the Pacific
“Guidelines for estimating completeness of civil registration of vital events”

Mapping Population Exposure to Flood Hazards: Step by Step Guide on the Use of QGIS
“Report of the expert group meeting on the uses of big data for official statistics: data governance and partnership models”

“Exposure to hazards assessment based on ‘POP-to-GUF’ methodology”

“Regional situation analysis: the state of production, dissemination, and use of disaster-related statistics in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific”

“Water and waste accounts reports”

“National SDG Tracker user manual”

Asia-Pacific Guidelines to Data Integration for Official Statistics

“Producing urban hotspot maps: step by step guide on the use of QGIS”

Producing land cover change maps and statistics: step by step guide on the use of QGIS and RStudio

Producing land cover change maps and statistics: guide on advanced use of QGIS and RStudio

“Constructing a new benchmark for Cambodian National Accounts: documentation of process and results”


“Monitoring the state of statistical operations under the COVID-19 pandemic in the Asia-Pacific region: highlights from a global COVID-19 survey of national statistical offices”


“Final report on youth consultations and regional virtual forum in preparation for the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific”

“Technical report for Getting Every One in the Picture: A Snapshot of Progress Midway through the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade”

Gap Analysis of Current CRVS Registration Practices and Mapping of Potential Data-Sources Focusing on Marginalized Populations in Pakistan

II. Webinars (Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe series)

Information about all Asia-Pacific Stats Cafe sessions is available at www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics/stats-cafe. The web page includes links to the recordings and presentations as well as descriptions of the sessions. Since the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics more than 50 Stats Cafe sessions have been held.