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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**



## **Report**

### **Fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee Online, 10-11 February 2021**

#### **Summary**

The Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fourteenth session online, on 10 and 11 February 2021. The Committee considered the items on the session agenda, including the implementation of statistics-related activities, technical cooperation activities, and recommendations made by the Committee at its thirteenth session. The Committee also reviewed technical papers on demographic, social and economic statistics, and statistics on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and discussed regional priorities for the coming years in the field of statistics in the Arab region. The session also featured a webinar on localized big data for effective decision-making in crisis situations.

The present report sets out the recommendations issued by the Statistical Committee at its fourteenth session, and a summary of the discussions under each agenda item.

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## **Introduction**

1. The Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fourteenth session online, on 10 and 11 February 2021, pursuant to resolution [179 \(XVI\)](#) of 2 September 1992, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993, concerning the establishment of a statistical committee at ESCWA, and in accordance with the recommendations issued at the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee, held in Beirut on 29 and 30 January 2019.
2. The present report sets out the recommendations issued by the Statistical Committee at its fourteenth session, and a summary of the discussions under each agenda item.

## **I. Recommendations**

3. At its fourteenth session, the Statistical Committee made the following recommendations to member States and to the ESCWA secretariat.

### **A. Recommendations to ESCWA member States**

4. The Statistical Committee issued the following recommendations to ESCWA member States:

(a) Welcome the activities implemented in follow-up to the recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its thirteenth session, and the activities of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of statistics; benefit from ESCWA services under the technical cooperation framework and planned projects; and welcome the reports of the Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics and the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics and the recommendations included therein;

(b) Focus on the role of alternative data sources, such as big data, geospatial technologies and administrative registers, employ modern technologies in censuses and surveys, and adopt alternative, complementary and up-to-date methodologies that help bridge statistical gaps in line with international recommendations and standards;

(c) Welcome the ESCWA Data Portal, the Arab SDG Gateway and the Arab SDG Monitor established by ESCWA, and the Commission's efforts in setting up and developing national reporting platforms for SDG indicators; and invite all countries to establish national platforms and benefit from ESCWA support in that field;

(d) Reaffirm the importance of strengthening coordination in the national statistical system, and call on all national data-producing bodies to consult with the national statistical apparatus before reporting national data to relevant United Nations organizations and others;

(e) Welcome the guide for a generic law on official statistics for Arab States as a guiding framework for updating national statistical legislation, and urge all Arab countries to update their statistical legislation in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and in response to emerging challenges in data collection and dissemination, while taking into account countries' comments on the guide before discussing its final draft at a special meeting of the Statistical Committee;

(f) Emphasize the importance of strengthening partnerships and coordination in the field of statistics between United Nations specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations through existing mechanisms, and of involving national statistical offices in planning, preparing and implementing programmes.

## **B. Recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat**

5. The Statistical Committee made the following recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat:

(a) Disseminate national experiences on establishing and developing mechanisms for collecting statistics in traditional and emerging fields; strengthen regional cooperation and the transfer of expertise and best practices between countries; and continue translating and providing Arabic versions of important statistical publications, manuals and glossaries issued by ESCWA;

(b) Provide assistance in using mobile data, big data, geospatial information and other non-traditional sources of data as modern data collection mechanisms, especially in crisis conditions such as the COVID-19 pandemic that has negatively affected field statistical work; and focus on building the capacity of conflict-affected member States to benefit from these non-traditional data sources;

(c) Build the capacity of the ESCWA secretariat in data science, software and artificial intelligence, and prioritize these areas in statistical work for the coming years, with the aim of providing support to member States in those areas;

(d) Continue supporting Arab countries in developing national reporting platforms for the SDGs and related indicators, and follow up on capacity-building efforts to increase the availability and quality of disaggregated data and their dissemination at the national, regional and global levels;

(e) Collaborate with international and regional organizations to consider adapting SDG indicators to current conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and its drastic effects on social and economic conditions, and take into account its effects on statistical work;

(f) Strengthen communication between relevant United Nations organizations and countries to support the use of national data in general, and especially in calculating SDG indicators and updating them from national sources;

(g) Emphasize the importance of benefiting from available data issued by national statistical offices when preparing studies or reports, and of working with them to build their capacity to provide these data at a later stage in case of gaps in national data;

(h) Coordinate the Arab position on the agenda items for the fifty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, to be held online in March 2021, and prepare a paper reflecting this position by 17 February 2021 for submission to the Statistical Commission.

## **II. Topics of discussion**

### **A. Follow-up issues**

#### *1. Activities implemented in the field of statistics* (Agenda item 4)

6. The present item comprises five subitems on activities implemented in the field of statistics since the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee, held in Beirut on 29 and 30 January 2019. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat said that the documents related to these subitems and the activities contained therein were all interlinked under an integrated framework that included the normative work of ESCWA on studies and reports, the technical cooperation activities that it provided to member States upon their request, and the meetings of the specialized technical committees aimed at building consensus around the challenges faced by statistical offices and ways to tackle them, in addition to projects under implementation.

2. *Follow-up on recommendations made by the Statistical Committee  
at its thirteenth session and previous recommendations*  
(Agenda item 4(a))

7. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat said that the Statistical Committee, at its thirteenth session, had issued 14 recommendations to member States and 14 recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat. Document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3\(Part I\)](#) provided a summary of activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat over the period January 2019 - January 2021 to implement the recommendations addressed to it, and presented the challenges faced by ESCWA in implementing those recommendations. The document also included activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat during that period to implement previous recommendations. Representatives of member States commended the activities implemented by the secretariat in its follow-up on recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its thirteenth session, and its follow-up on recommendations issued at previous sessions.

3. *Activities under the programme of work*  
(Agenda item 4(b))

8. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3\(Part II\)](#), the Committee discussed key activities and achievements in the field of statistics since its thirteenth session, which were included in the ESCWA programme of work on statistics to develop evidence-based policies. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat reviewed publications, reports and technical material in the areas of statistical systems management, economic statistics and national accounts, demographic and social statistics, and gender and disability statistics, referring to the activities included under the United Nations Development Account and those funded from extrabudgetary sources. He also noted activities related to statistical systems, such as the guide for a generic law on official statistics, the ESCWA Data Portal, the Arab SDG Gateway and the Arab SDG Monitor, the regional guidelines for Arab countries on supply and use tables in the System of National Accounts, and technical papers on complementary or alternative sources, big data in SDG indicators, transport and price statistics.

9. He said that ESCWA has become the main supplier of foreign trade data on Arab countries for the United Nations Comtrade Database. Regarding demographic and social statistics, he highlighted the support provided to national statistical offices on technology uses in the 2020 census round (electronic census) and on linking them to geospatial information (for families and households), in addition to preparing a methodology for evaluating the completeness of births and deaths statistics, and a regional strategy to develop civil registration and vital statistics systems. He commended the *Insaf* bulletin, the e-learning platform on gender statistics, and the disability statistics framework prepared by ESCWA based on the Washington Group, consisting of 115 indicators to bridge the gap in disability statistics and create the Arab disability database. He also noted other projects undertaken by ESCWA, such as the Programme on Statistics and Data, the Statistical Arabic Glossaries, and the International Comparison Programme.

10. The Committee welcomed the implemented activities and called for the continued development of statistical methodologies to ensure data quality and adherence to approved statistical standards for updating data, while stressing the importance of obtaining countries' prior approval in the event of an update by regional and international bodies. The Committee also promoted technology and modern data science for developing, collecting and using information and data, and the role of alternative data sources, such as big data, geospatial technologies, administrative registers and modern technologies, in censuses and surveys. Representatives of member States called for the adoption of alternative, complementary and updated methodologies to help bridge statistical gaps in line with international recommendations and standards. They praised the data portal developed by ESCWA and urged the Commission to continue developing it and updating the data and indicators presented therein according to existing mandates. They also requested the establishment of a regional platform to present countries' experiences in traditional statistics and emerging fields.

11. Representatives of member States called on the ESCWA secretariat to collaborate with them on developing mechanisms to collect data in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the specific circumstances in Arab countries, including crises, and to use sources that did not depend on traditional field surveys, such as administrative registers, while making use of country experiences. They also requested that ESCWA provide guidelines, training manuals and tools, expressing their hope that they would be made available in Arabic whenever possible.

4. *Technical cooperation activities*  
(Agenda item 4(c))

12. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3\(Part III\)](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA since January 2019, including advisory services, workshops and capacity-building activities at the national or regional levels. He made proposals to enhance technical cooperation services in line with the needs and priorities of member States, including the readiness of the ESCWA secretariat to establish bilateral cooperation frameworks with member States wishing to do so, thus facilitating the planning and implementation of such activities. Representatives of member States commended the recommendations set out in the document and the activities undertaken, and stressed the importance of following them up in line with country needs and of increasing regional cooperation among member States, especially with regard to the transfer of experiences and best practices.

5. *Activities of the Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics*  
(Agenda item 4(d))

13. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3\(Part IV\)](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat presented the report of the third meeting of Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics, which was held online from 13 to 16 July 2020. The report included the outcomes of the meeting, the resulting recommendations, and a summary of the discussions. He also addressed the issue of data availability for the list of key indicators on demographic and social statistics in Arab countries, and the issue of bridging data gaps in each of the thematic areas. The Committee noted the outcomes of the meeting and approved the report and recommendations.

6. *Activities of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics*  
(Agenda item 4(e))

14. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3\(Part V\)](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat presented the report of the third meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics, which was held in Riyadh on 21 and 22 January 2020. The report set out the outcomes of the meeting, the resulting recommendations, and a summary of the discussions on regional priorities and challenges facing the conceptual update of the system of economic statistics in view of emerging global policies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also contained information on existing initiatives at the regional and international levels on new data sources, successful applications, and modernizing statistical infrastructures. He reviewed examples from Australia, Canada and Latin America, and informed participants about economic statistics governance processes at the regional level.

15. Participants commended the efforts of the ESCWA secretariat in implementing the recommendations addressed to it, and praised the activities under the programme of work that it had undertaken, especially given the difficult period the region was witnessing because of the pandemic. The Committee noted that there was a need to focus on methodologies and means of obtaining data during the pandemic, and to bridge the gaps resulting from the circumstances that it had imposed. The representatives of member States also commended efforts by countries and ESCWA in exchanging expertise and successful experiences in data collection. The Committee noted the outcomes of the meeting and approved the report and recommendations.

## **B. Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### *1. Sustainable Development Goals: monitoring challenges* (Agenda item 5)

16. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat presented document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/4](#), which outlined challenges, activities and achievements in the statistical monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. The presentation also dealt with issues of data availability, relevant publications provided by ESCWA in Arabic, the effectiveness of data in public policymaking, tools developed by ESCWA based on that data, and the role of ESCWA in coordinating between statistical offices and specialized agencies to provide sustainable development data.

17. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat made a presentation on the Arab SDG Monitor; a regional user-friendly platform developed by ESCWA dedicated to statistical monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the SDGs. The platform benefited all types of users, including analysts, policy experts, civil society organizations and students, and provided them with information on the abundance of data available on the SDGs and in the global database. It also sets out the current situation and expectations for 2030 at the national and regional levels for 278 indicators with regional targets to measure progress. Moreover, she covered the steps needed to establish a regional statistical system, and the importance of establishing national platforms.

18. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of member States noted problems in disaggregating some data, particularly on disability. They also indicated challenges related to SDG aggregation. Participants reported that some countries had established national SDG monitors or platforms. They commended ESCWA efforts to follow up on monitoring. Participants stressed the need to strengthen coordination and consultation between ESCWA and statistical offices to provide and update data, and the need to seek approval from national statistical offices to use non-national data for inclusion in the platform to ensure consistency with national data. They also stressed the importance of displaying maps on the ESCWA website, if possible, and the importance of continuing SDMX training. They enquired about the possibility of linking national monitors to Arab monitors, so that they would reflect updates. They requested integrating data to reduce duplication between regional and national platforms, and to enhance collaboration in the field of capacity exchange and technical cooperation. They also stressed the importance of committing to standardizing the methodology and metadata, and the necessity of resorting to official statistical data as a data source. They requested global action to monitor the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDG indicators, which had affected all sectors, which might require developing a new methodology for collecting and calculating indicators while taking the impact of the pandemic on development processes and priorities into account.

19. In response, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat thanked national statistical offices for their desire to intensify efforts to update ESCWA data. She also stressed the need to find a way to link national monitors with the ESCWA Arab SDG Monitor, and to enable member States to update or correct ESCWA data available on the Arab SDG Monitor. She said that ESCWA would take into account all the comments and recommendations of participants. The representative of the secretariat added that work had begun with countries that did not have a national platform to monitor the SDGs. She stressed the need to assess the extent of disparities between national and non-national data, build capacity to address those disparities, and modernize and work according to country needs to face challenges.

### *2. Regional priorities for the coming years in the field of statistics* (Agenda item 6)

20. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/5](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat addressed statistical development in the Arab region, its priorities, challenges and achievements, and collaboration between the statistical subprogrammes of the United Nations regional commissions. He highlighted the directions and priorities of ESCWA work in the field of statistics. In specific sections, the document covered statistical coordination and collaboration between agencies and Governments in the Arab

region; data dissemination platforms; managing data and statistics related to the SDGs with an emphasis on leaving no one behind; integrating geospatial information and technology into official statistics; and increasing the use of advanced technology in official statistics in the Arab region. The sectoral thematic areas covered in the report included the population and housing censuses; civil registration and civil status statistics; social indicators; integrated economic statistics; financial prices and statistics; transport statistics; gender statistics; statistics on persons with disabilities; development indicators; environment statistics; and environmental economic accounting.

21. Representatives of member States noted the list of key priorities and stressed the need to focus on developing official statistics, especially due to the impact of the pandemic, particularly its impact on statistics related to education, health, tourism, services, transport, food security, commodity prices, national accounts, administrative registers and vital statistics. Some also called more priorities related to completing surveys or studies on the impact of the pandemic on the population, identifying alternative data or sources, and developing methodologies. They emphasized that ESCWA was required to keep pace with countries with regard to progress and the technological revolution, and to provide technical support. Participants also presented some solutions, such as assigning a national ID number, relying on administrative registers, increasing collaboration and coordination, and taking electronic technological progress into consideration. Some participants discussed methods that had been employed to tackle the pandemic, and to provide data. Moreover, they all expressed the need to share expertise and successful experiences. Representatives also called for strengthening partnerships and enhancing coordination in the field of statistics between specialized United Nations bodies and agencies and international and regional organizations, through existing and new mechanisms, while focusing on the importance of coordinating the various work programmes to avoid duplication. Participants agreed on the necessity of issuing ESCWA publications and statistical documents in Arabic.

22. In response, the representative of the United Nations Statistics Division highlighted the continuing need to develop countries' statistical capacity, and to find new methodologies for data collection during crises. He also insisted on taking into account official data generated by national statistical offices, and continuing to use them as a primary source of data. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat emphasized the continued collaboration and coordination between ESCWA and national statistical offices, and with international organizations. He said that it was currently difficult to conduct traditional face-to-face censuses or surveys, which meant resorting to other means, such as administrative registers or self-enumeration via the Internet or telephone, hence the need to update and develop such methods. He suggested that a meeting be held in the week following the current meeting to deliberate on matters that would be discussed at the fifty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, so as to agree on coordinated and consistent positions of the ESCWA group regarding the agenda items of the United Nations Statistical Commission, noting that such a measure did not negate countries' freedom to express their opinion individually on some items. The Committee approved the proposed meeting.

### **C. Guide for a generic law on official statistics for Arab States** (Agenda item 7)

23. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/6](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat presented the guide for a generic law on official statistics for Arab States. She said that the ESCWA secretariat had prepared a guide on a draft law for official statistics for Arab countries, in line with the United Nations Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, and in implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics. The guide provided guidance for countries to enact the necessary statistical legislation to fully benefit from the value of official statistics. She added that the guide was based on the General Law on Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and Guidance on Modernizing Statistical Legislation issued by the Economic Commission for Europe, and that the ESCWA secretariat had adapted them to the specificities of the Arab region, with contributions from Bahrain, Iraq, the State of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates, and from the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.

24. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the necessity of standardizing country names between the presentation and the proposed guide and made other comments on the guide. Some emphasized the need to clarify or revise the definition of some terms, such as ‘authorization’, ‘assignment’, ‘violations and irregularities’, ‘the central bank’ and ‘the national bank’, which required submitting the document to a legal specialist. Participants suggested adding sections to the document, such as the definition of the advisory board in chapter IV and the monitoring of urgent plans in chapter V, and adding a glossary at the beginning of the guide. They also stressed that the guide should indicate the need to ensure independence, privacy and transparency when dealing with statistical offices. Participants asked country representatives to exchange statistical laws, if any. They noted the importance of the guide and its use as a reference in reviewing and updating countries' statistical laws, while respecting the specificities and terminology of each country. They also agreed to send all their comments on the present item to the ESCWA secretariat, to be taken into account when updating the guide, which would be presented to countries in its semi-final form at a special meeting of the Statistical Committee.

#### **D. Webinar on localized big data for effective decision-making in crisis situations**

(Agenda item 8)

25. At the opening of the webinar on localized big data, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat made two presentations: one on “Leveraging behavioural and humanitarian data sources to analyse the development challenges faced by Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon”, and another on “Leveraging big data sources for policy evaluation and analysis in crisis settings: COVID-19 in Lebanon and Jordan”. He referred to the guide prepared by ESCWA, following a request by the Statistical Commission at its thirteenth session, to benefit from international principles on big data and related ethical standards, and to assess the readiness of statistical offices to use big data. He also set out guidance for public sector organizations to consider developing limited big data applications and aligning them with their current systems. He reviewed the experiences of Jordan and Lebanon, the two countries participating in the project, and noted the challenges facing the use of big data, especially in relation to legislation; and indicated the inclusion of capacity-building activities within the project. He stressed the importance of partnerships and collaboration in managing information to implement decisions, and emphasized the need to respect statistics principles and the ethics of statistical work.

26. The representatives of Jordan and Lebanon who participated in the project thanked the ESCWA secretariat for its efforts in improving the quality of statistics, and for the efforts made in this project, which had been the first opportunity to apply big data. They also stressed that big data were complementary to and not a substitute for official statistics, and that the success of the project depended on expanding and respecting partnerships between the private and public sectors, while ensuring privacy, collaboration, coordination, transparency and credibility. Participants also indicated the need to compare big data with official data to assess their accuracy and to integrate them in official statistical work; and to develop a legal framework for drafting legislation related to access and use of big data. State representatives called for implementing a similar experimental application project involving willing countries, and documenting its results as a clear introductory methodology to be employed when using big data.

27. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat concluded the discussion by referring to a new project proposed by ESCWA on cost, privacy and global platforms to take advantage of new technologies and methods, while preserving national sovereignty over information and decision-making.

#### **E. Date and venue of the fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee**

(Agenda item 12)

28. The fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut in January 2022.

## **F. Other matters**

(Agenda item 13)

29. No issues were raised under this item.

## **III. Organization of work**

### **A. Date and venue**

30. The Statistical Committee held its fourteenth session online on 10 and 11 February 2021.

### **B. Opening**

31. The session was opened by Mr. Adel Khudada, the representative of Kuwait who chaired the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee. He welcomed participants, and thanked ESCWA for following up with the chairship of the thirteenth session since 2019. He highlighted the role of statistical offices in producing and providing reliable and updated statistical data, especially during crises, and in the development process through censuses and surveys. He also stressed the importance of developing and updating statistical data to keep pace with future development trends, using modern technologies and regular and irregular data. He emphasized the need to build the capacity and competence of workers in the statistical field, to exchange expertise and experiences, and to strengthen partnerships.

32. Mr. Juraj Riecan, Leader of the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, made a statement on behalf of the ESCWA secretariat, in which he welcomed participants and the new ESCWA member States (Algeria and Somalia), praising the continued collaboration between member States' national statistical offices and ESCWA. He noted the increasing demand for data, especially in times of crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and during times of rapid technological advancements. He also commended work by statistical offices to provide the data required by statistical systems. He expressed his hope that the session would result in recommendations that would serve member States.

33. Ms. Maral Tutelian, Director-General of the Central Administration of Statistics of Lebanon, who chaired the fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee, made a statement in which she welcomed participants and thanked Kuwait, which had chaired the previous session. She commended ESCWA efforts to build statistical capacity in member States, and support countries in developing their statistical systems. She noted that strengthening joint statistical work and institutional collaboration, with various regional and international organizations, was necessary to improve administrative data and enhance their use. She expressed her hope that the session would result in practical and feasible recommendations that would serve member States and statistical work.

34. Mr. Stefan Schwenfest, Director of the Statistics Division at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made a statement in which he highlighted the close collaboration between ESCWA and the Statistics Division over several decades, aimed at defining global methodologies in relevant specialized areas, and resulting in several outputs, including Islamic banking. He noted that ESCWA was a major provider of international trade data for the Arab region to the Comtrade database. He reiterated the need for data to be integrated, high-quality, continuously disaggregated, timely and comparable between countries, despite the pandemic and crises. He added that the Statistics Division relied on national official data issued by national statistical offices. He said that they produced good-quality and sustainable development data, and that they were quick to respond to new challenges through the use of innovative data sources and the integration of big data, especially geospatial data. He encouraged representatives of national offices to participate in the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission to discuss all issues related to statistical work, especially in view of rapid changes and emerging challenges. He stressed the necessity of collective investment and building countries' capacity to establish flexible and sustainable national information structures, based on

statistics, big data and geospatial information, as endorsed in the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

### **C. Participants**

35. The session was attended by representatives of 19 ESCWA member States and of various regional and Arab organizations involved in statistics, in addition to experts and consultants. The list of participants is set out in annex I to the present report.

### **D. Election of officers**

36. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA states: “Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations”. In accordance with this rule, the representative of Lebanon chaired the fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee. Participants elected the representatives of Kuwait and Libya as vice-chairs, and of Egypt as rapporteur.

### **E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

37. At its first meeting, the Statistical Committee adopted the provisional agenda of its fourteenth session, as set out in document E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/L.1. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of work of the session as set out in document E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/L.2.

### **F. Documents**

38. A list of the documents presented at the fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee is set out in annex II to the present report.

## Annex I

### List of participants

#### A. Member States of ESCWA

##### Algeria

Mr. Hamid Zaidouni  
Assistant Director General  
Algerian National Office of Statistics

##### Bahrain

Mr. Nabeel Mohammed Ben Shams  
Deputy CE, Statistics & Population Registry  
Information & eGovernment Authority

##### Egypt

Mr. Abdul Hamid Sharaf al-Din  
Adviser to the Director  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mrs. Mervat Muhammad Yahya  
Project Development Department  
IT Sector  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mrs. Amira Atwa  
Central Administration for Population Studies and  
Research, Population Statistics Sector  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mrs. Noora Abdul Khaleq  
Central Administration for Population Studies and  
Research, Population Statistics Sector  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mrs. Rehab Abduljalil  
Sustainable Development Unit  
Economic Statistics and Mobilization Sector  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mr. Muhib Victor

Sustainable Development Unit  
Economic Statistics and Mobilization Sector  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mr. Mohammed Ezzat  
Central Department of Legal Affairs  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mrs. Hoda Anwar El Azb  
Geographic Information Systems  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics

Mr. Daa Awad Kazem  
Head of the Central Bureau of Statistics  
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Shaher Al-Shawabkeh  
Director-General  
Department of Statistics

Dr. Tayseer Miqdadi  
Assistant Director-General for technical affairs  
Department of Statistics

Mr. Thamer Barakat  
Director of Economic Statistics  
Department of Statistics

Mr. Mohammed Al-Jundi  
Director of Population and Household Surveys  
Department of Statistics

Mrs. Ahlam Al-Rousan  
Director of Electronic Transformation and  
Information Technology  
Department of Statistics

##### Jordan (continued)

Mr. Mohammad Khalaf  
Director of Sustainable Development Unit  
Department of Statistics

Mrs. Maha Dawas  
Data Management Directorate  
Department of Statistics

Mr. Walid Battah  
National Accounts Directorate  
Department of Statistics

Mrs. Abeer Rahil  
Director office  
Department of Statistics  
Kuwait

Mr. Adel Khudada  
Acting Director General  
Central Statistical Bureau

Mrs. Munia Al-Qabandi  
Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Work  
Sector  
Central Statistical Bureau

Mr. Mohammed Al-Rashidi  
Surveyor of Agricultural Statistics  
Central Statistical Bureau

Mrs. Nouf Al-Khulaifi  
Census and Sampling Design Surveyor  
Central Statistical Bureau

Mrs. Fatima Almutairi  
Statistical Analyst  
Central Statistical Bureau

Mrs. Mariam Al Subaih  
Member of the SDG goals monitoring and follow-  
up team  
Central Statistical Bureau

Mr. Imad Sadad  
Expert  
Central Statistical Bureau Lebanon

Mrs. Maral Tutelian  
Director-General  
Central Administration of Statistics

Mrs. Marleine Bakhos  
Administrative Department Central Administration  
of Statistics Mrs. Mayssaa Daher  
Math Statistician  
Central Administration of Statistics

Mr. Ziad Abdallah  
IT Department  
Central Administration of Statistics Libya

Mr. Abdella Zidan Amhemad ALLAG  
General Director  
Bureau of Statistics and Census Morocco

Mr. Mohamed Salimi  
Deputy Director of Statistics  
Head of statistical methodologies and regional  
coordination  
High Commission for Planning

Mr. Moulay Abdullah Al-Sekrati  
General Engineer  
Statistics Directorate  
High Commission for Planning Oman

Mr. Yusuf bin Mohammed Al-Riyami  
Director General of Economic Statistics  
National Center for Statistics and Information

Mrs. Halima bint Yusuf Al-Wahibia  
Director General in charge of Social and  
Population Statistics  
National Center for Statistics and Information

Mrs. Kawthar bint Hamad Al-Farsia  
Director of the National and International  
Information Department  
National Center for Statistics and Information

#### State of Palestine

Mr. Ahmed bin Muslim Al-Mafraji  
Director of the Applications Department  
National Center for Statistics and Information

Dr. Ola Awad  
President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of  
Statistics

Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Attia  
Acting Director of the Statistical Monitoring  
Department

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National Accounts Statistics Department  
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Mr. Daham bin Nasser Al-Daham  
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Mrs. Wijdan Al-Hudayani  
International Relations Specialist  
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Mrs. Asmaa Alshaya  
Statistical Researcher  
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Mr. Hamad Alshaya  
Statistical Researcher  
General Authority for Statistics Somalia

Mr. Ahmed Hassan Ismail  
Economic Statistics  
Somalia National Bureau of Statistics

Mr. Abdul Razzaq Abdullah Carey  
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Mr. Mohammed Hussein Abdullah  
Socio-demographic statistics  
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Somalia National Bureau of Statistics Sudan

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Central Bureau of Statistics

Mrs. Sumaya Khaled

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Mrs. Majida Al-Jaali  
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Mr. Ihsan Amer  
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Mr. George Azar  
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Central Bureau of Statistics Tunisia

Mr. Adnen Lassoued  
Director General  
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Mr. Elias Al-Assimi  
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National Institute of Statistics

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Director for SDG coordination  
National Institute of Statistics

Mr. Musaab Derkaa  
Publishing Director in charge of the SDG follow-  
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National Institute of Statistics

Mr. Tarek Tkitek  
Head of Department in the big data team  
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Mr. Mohsen Al-Hajjaj

Deputy Director in charge of international  
coordination and cooperation  
National Institute of Statistics

Mr. Murad Al-Aouni  
Deputy Director in charge of classification and  
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National Institute of Statistics  
United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohamed Hassan  
Executive Director of the Data and Statistics  
Sector  
Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre  
Mrs. Badria Abdulla  
Director of Economic Statistics Department  
Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre  
Mrs. Noora Ali  
Director of Methodology and Quality Department  
Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre

Mrs. Ohood Al-Munthiri  
Director of Population and Social Statistics  
Department  
Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre

Mrs. Hind Al-Shamsi

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Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre

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Mrs. Ghaya Almidfa  
Head of Competitiveness Culture  
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Head of Smart Data Department  
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Mr. Hatem Elsherif  
Data future management Expert  
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Mr. Tariq Saeed Saleh Al-Madhaji  
Assistant Undersecretary – Technical Office  
Director  
Central Statistical Organization  
Mrs. Zahra Saleh  
Ali Salem  
Central Statistical Organization

#### **B. United Nations Specialized Agencies**United Nations Statistics Division

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest  
Director

Mrs. Francesca Perucci  
Chief of Development Data and Outreach Branch

Ivo Havinga  
Assistant Director

#### UN-Habitat

Mr. Charbel Abou Chakra  
GIS/Information Management Coordinator  
Doctorate in Geography – Environment/Surveyor Engineer

#### UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

Mr. Leonardo Mancini  
Child Rights Monitoring Consultant

#### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mrs. Nancy Chen  
Regional Statistician for the Near East and North Africa

Regional Bureau for Arab States (UNDP RBAS)

Mrs. Layal Wehbe  
Project Coordinator and Research Analyst  
Arab Development Portal

United Nations Population Fund

Mrs. Hala Youssef  
Population and Development Adviser  
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator  
for Lebanon – Office of the Resident  
Coordinator

Mrs. Kristine Najjar  
Development Coordination Officer  
Data Management & Results  
Monitoring/Reporting

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and  
Training Centre for Islamic Countries

Mr. Atilla Karaman  
Director, Statistics and Information Department

Mrs. Ninden O. Shanti  
Researcher, Statistics and Information Department

GCC-STAT

H.E. Mr. Saber Saeed Rashed Al-Harbi  
Director-General

Mr. Salah Nasser Khalfan Al Muzahmi  
Researches and Development Indicators  
Department

Mrs. Duaa Sultan Mohamed  
Population and Social Statistics Department

Mrs. Soha Zahran Muhsen Al Ruqaishi  
Director of the Communication Department

British Embassy in Beirut

Mr. Yousuf Rafique  
Chief Adviser – Economic Reform

United Nations Office for Project Services in  
Lebanon

Mrs. Angela Santucci  
Officer in Charge

International Labour Organization

Mr. Nader Keyrouz  
Regional Labour Statistician  
Regional Office for Arab States

**C. Governmental and non-governmental  
organizations**

British Embassy in Beirut  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Arab Industrial Development and Mining  
Organization

Mrs. Naima Tchaabat  
Statistics Departments/Relevant service

Mr. Mohamed Laaraj  
Statistics Department/Relevant service International  
Monetary Fund  
Mrs. Najla Nakhle  
Head of Local Office – Economist

Arab Monetary Fund  
Mr. Mostafa El Bentour  
Research and Statistic Division  
Economic Department  
Mr. Jamal Qassem  
Research and Statistic Division  
Economic Department

Mr. Tarek Ismail  
Loans and Economic Programs Division  
Economic Department

## Annex II

### List of documents

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/INF.1
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Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/L.2
Activities implemented in the field of statistics	4	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3
Follow-up on recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its thirteenth session and previous recommendations	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3(Part I)
Activities under the programme of work	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3(Part II)
Technical cooperation activities	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3(Part III)
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Activities of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics	4 (e)	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/3(Part V)
Sustainable Development Goals: monitoring challenges	5	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/4
Regional priorities for the coming years in the field of statistics	6	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/5
Guide for a generic law on official statistics for Arab States (Arabic only)	7	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/6
Webinar on localized big data for effective decision-making in crisis situations	8	E/ESCWA/C.1/2021/CRP.1