

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

Statistical Committee
Twelfth session
Beirut, 4-5 April 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Actions taken in the field of statistics since the previous session of the Statistical Committee:
 - (a) Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics;
 - (b) Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics;
 - (c) Implementation of statistics-related activities under the programme of work for 2015 and 2016;
 - (d) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee.
5. Role of official statistics in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region:
 - (a) Data availability on the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) Assessments by national statistical offices of national data availability;
 - (c) Proposed Arab regional action plan for sustainable development data.
6. Technical cooperation and statistical capacity development in the Arab region.
7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of statistics.
8. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its twelfth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The twelfth session of the Statistical Committee will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 April 2017 at United Nations House in Beirut.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission 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. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”.^{*} Pursuant to that rule, Qatar shall chair the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee, succeeding the State of Palestine, which chaired the eleventh session from February 2015 to April 2017. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur among its member representatives.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.” Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will review the provisional agenda for this session in document E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/L.1. It will also review the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Actions taken in the field of statistics since the previous session of the Statistical Committee
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/3)

The Committee will consider the following documents:

(a) Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/3(Part I))

The Committee will have before it the report of the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics in the Arab Region, which was held in Tunis on 17 and 18 October 2016. The report presents the outcomes and recommendations of the meeting and summarizes the discussions which addressed the availability of demographic and social statistics in Arab countries; a list of proposed demographic and social indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals; and the draft terms of reference of the Group. The terms of reference and the demographic and social indicators adopted by the Technical Advisory Group are presented in annexes to the report.

(b) Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/3(Part II))

The Committee will have before it the report of the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics in the Arab Region, which was held in Cairo, on 9 and 10 November 2016. The report presents the outcomes and recommendations of the meeting and summarizes the discussions which addressed global priorities and their relevance to national priorities; progress made in designing national strategies for the development of statistics; the implementation of international standards and methodologies related to the 2008 System of National Accounts;

^{*} ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

regional guidelines for economic statistics and purchasing power parities; capacity-building; and a proposed core set of economic indicators including SDG indicators.

(c) Implementation of statistics-related activities under the programme of work for 2015 and 2016
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/3(Part III))

This document presents the statistics-related activities undertaken by ESCWA under its programme of work during 2015 and 2016, including capacity development, data collection and dissemination and regional cooperation in the area of official statistics.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the status of implementation and make comments in that regard.

(d) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/3(Part IV))

This document presents an overview of the action taken by ESCWA to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its eleventh session, as well as on-going implementation of recommendations made at previous sessions.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the status of implementation and make comments in that regard.

5. Role of official statistics in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Development in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/4)

The Committee will discuss this item on the basis of the following documents:

(a) Data availability on the Sustainable Development Goals
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/4(Part I))

This document provides an analytical assessment of data availability in the Arab region for monitoring and reporting on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the Global SDG Indicators Database. It also establishes a baseline for tracking indicators to monitor progress made in data availability, dissemination, and communication practices. The document also sets out recommendations and a work plan at the national and regional levels to support increasing demand for data in the Global SDG Indicators Database, in line with the commitment made by countries at the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission to monitor and report on the Goals.

Representatives of member States are invited to consider the issues raised in the document and provide a guidance for the future work on statistics for SDG indicators.

(b) Assessments by national statistical offices of national data availability
(Reports by national delegations)

National statistical offices are invited to make up to 15 minutes presentations on national initiatives and challenges related to SDGs, and on availability of data from the national perspective. Presenters may wish to address the following issues in their presentations:

- (i) National coordination on sustainable development, and the role of the national statistical office;
- (ii) National statistical strategy;
- (iii) Capacity of the national statistical system to produce data needed for SDGs monitoring.

(c) Proposed Arab regional action plan for sustainable development data
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/4(Part II))

Based on the Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session (New York, 7-10 March 2017), ESCWA is proposing an action plan for the Arab region, the outline of which is presented in this document. The proposed Arab regional action plan reflects the Global Action Plan, which comprises six strategic areas:

- (i) Coordination and leadership;
- (ii) Innovation and modernization of official statistics;
- (iii) Strengthening basis statistical activities and programmes;
- (iv) Dissemination and use of data;
- (v) Multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development data;
- (vi) Mobilizing resources and coordinating efforts for statistical capacity-building.

Representatives of member States are invited to consider the proposed action plan and make suggestions thereon.

6. Technical cooperation and statistical capacity development in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/5)

This document provides an overview of advisory services, workshops, fellowships and capacity-building projects in the field of statistics projected for the biennium 2018-2019. It also proposes ways to strengthen regional cooperation on statistical matters, particularly in the context of monitoring and reporting on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Representatives of member States are invited to review those activities and provide guidance.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of statistics
(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/6)

This document presents the proposed programme of work in the area of statistics during the biennium 2018-2019. It is based on subprogramme 5 concerning statistics for evidence-based policy making, of the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium, which was adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

The representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed programme of work and recommend any necessary amendments.

8. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its thirteenth session.

9. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its twelfth session

The Committee will review the draft recommendations of the twelfth session, for discussion and adoption.
