



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
13 April 2023

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

#### Seventy-first plenary session

Geneva, 22–23 June 2023

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda

#### Programme planning documents for the Statistics

subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

## Draft Programme of work of the United Nations Statistics subprogramme for 2024

Prepared by the Secretariat

### *Summary*

The draft Programme of Work of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme is prepared in a format that was introduced in line with the change of the UN budget planning from biannual to annual budgets, which started in 2020. The new approach aims to simplify the presentation of the work programme, and to use a ‘storytelling’ approach focusing on the most significant results expected in a given year.

The text is an excerpt from the draft UNECE proposed programme plan for 2024, which is issued as an official UN document by the end of April. It is prepared following strict guidance and a template from the Programme Management Officers in Geneva and New York. The Programme informs about the status of results planned in Programmes of Work for 2022 and 2023 (results 1 and 2), and presents one, most significant result expected in 2024 (result 3).

The draft Programme of Work for 2024 is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for adoption and for recommending it to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for approval.



## I. Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Statistics subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2024. The Conference of European Statisticians is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for approval. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over deliverables will be reflected in UN Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge<sup>1</sup>. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

## II. Objective

5. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians.

## III. Strategy

6. The strategy of the subprogramme is guided by the priorities and needs of member States and is based on the core interlinked functions: the streamlining of international statistical work in the ECE region by promoting policy dialogue; methodological work to develop and promote guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics; and the statistical capacity development of ECE member States with less developed statistical systems.
7. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
  - (a) Promote in-depth statistical dialogue at the Conference of European Statisticians and expert meetings;
  - (b) Launch regional and country-specific initiatives related to methodological work to develop and disseminate statistical models, guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics and to support modernization of national statistical offices

---

<sup>1</sup> The ECE nexus areas are as follows: 1) Sustainable use of natural resources; 2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 4) Measuring and monitoring SDGs.

and their changing role to become data stewards, as well as the promotion of the use of official statistics;

(c) Maintain and develop the ECE statistical database;

(d) Establish and strengthen partnerships between geospatial experts and statisticians to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information, in cooperation with statistical departments of other regional entities, as well as international specialized agencies active in the region;

(e) Facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices in the fields of population and housing censuses, price statistics and environment statistics, including adaptations owing to COVID-19 restrictions;

(f) Provide support to countries in planning and conducting their census and developing their statistical capacity, including cross-cutting topics such as statistics on the Goals, statistical legislation, data collection, data integration, dissemination and human resource management.

8. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Improved statistical methodology and capacity of member States to measure and monitor the Goals and develop evidence-based policies to manage their post-pandemic recovery;

(b) Member States using innovative and efficient approaches to conduct censuses that result in improved cost-efficiency, coverage, accuracy, comparability and timeliness of dissemination of the census results.

## IV. Programme performance in 2022

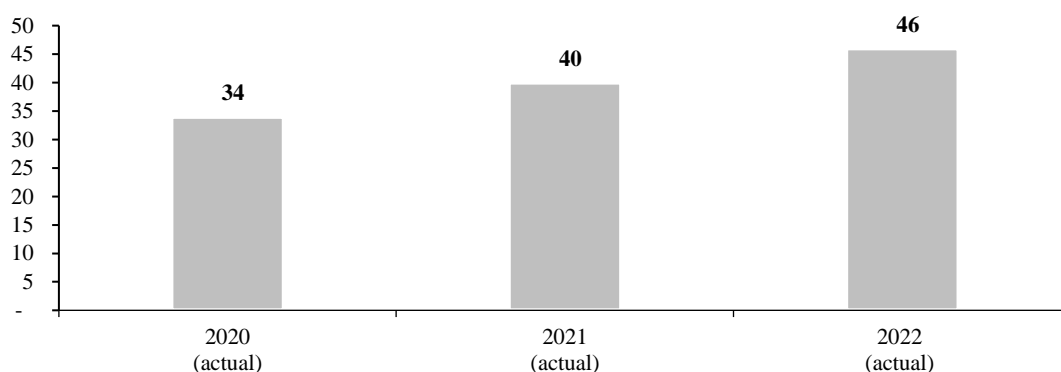
### A. Improved climate change-related statistics in the Economic Commission for Europe region

9. National statistical offices (NSOs) can play an important role in providing climate change-related statistics, but this area still requires methodological development, coordination, and exchange of experiences and good practices. The subprogramme developed the first international *Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* in 2014 and has supported member States in implementing them through annual Expert Forums, development of indicators, collecting and disseminating good practices. In 2022, a new Task Force started developing guidance on the role of NSOs in meeting national climate objectives. Since the adoption of the first Recommendations, the work of the subprogramme has contributed to an increased number of member States undertaking the work on climate change-related statistics, in line with the ECE recommendations, through the involvement of NSOs in compilation of greenhouse gas inventories, production of national climate change-related indicators and improved collaboration with other national producers of climate-related data.

10. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 1).

Figure 1

**Performance measure: number of countries implementing ECE recommendations on climate change-related statistics (cumulative)**



## V. Planned results for 2024

### A. Result 1: increasing the number of countries that report sex-disaggregated statistical indicators

#### Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

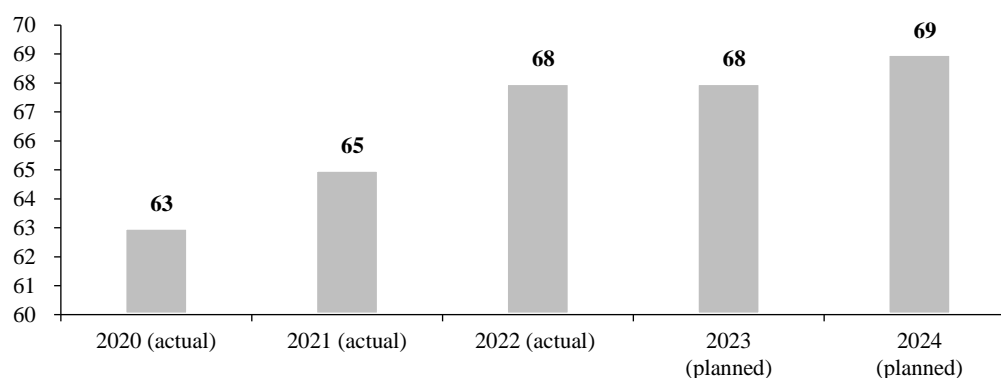
11. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 68 percent of ECE member states reporting sex-disaggregated indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals database, which exceeded the planned target of 67 percent.

12. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 2).

Figure 2

**Performance measure: sex-disaggregated indicators available for Economic Commission for Europe member States in the ECE Sustainable Development Goals database (cumulative)**

(Percentage)



### B. Result 2: increased number of countries collaborating on developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics

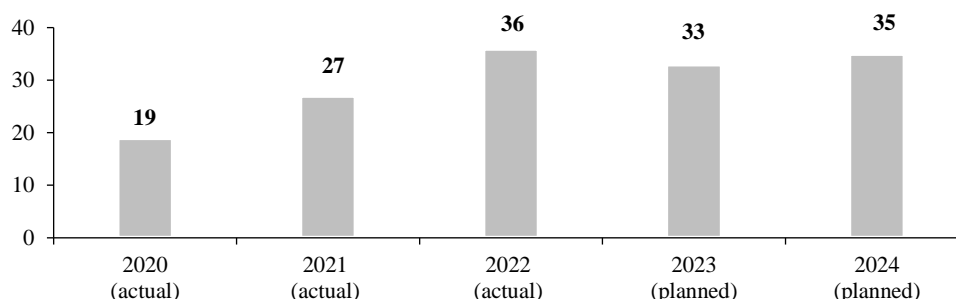
#### Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

13. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 36 member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics, which exceeded the planned target of 30 member States.

14. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 3).

Figure 3

**Performance measure: number of member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics (cumulative)**



### C. Result 3: improved environmental statistics and indicators in the ECE region

#### Proposed programme plan for 2024

15. Among the three pillars of sustainable development – economy, society, and environment – data availability for the environmental pillar is the lowest. According to estimates, for about 58 per cent of the environment-related SDG indicators there is insufficient data, making it difficult to assess progress and understand the environmental challenges. The subprogramme has been working with member States to improve their environment statistics through a Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, in cooperation with the ECE Environment subprogramme. The Task Force supports the implementation of the *ECE Guidelines on environmental indicators* in member States. Until now, the work has mostly focused on East and South-East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

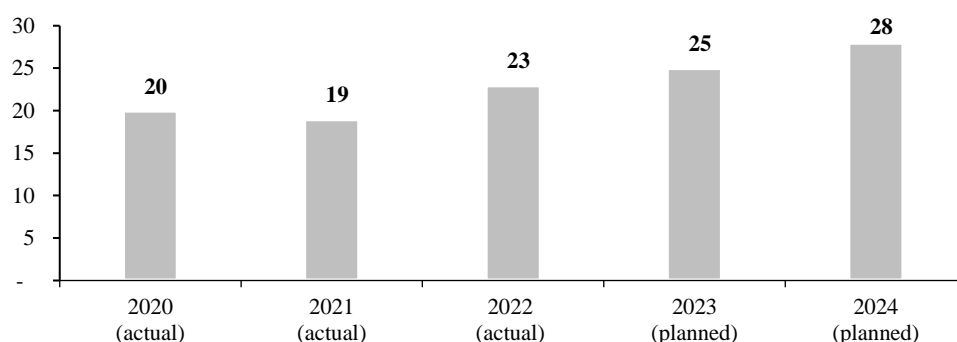
#### *Lessons learned and planned change*

16. The lesson for the subprogramme was that there was a strong need to further develop environment statistics in all member States, because providing data on environment-related SDGs and other emerging policy areas, such as circular economy, are common challenges in the ECE region. In response, the subprogramme will extend its work to be open to all member States providing a platform to exchange knowledge and experience on common challenges in implementing the UNECE Guidelines on environmental statistics and indicators, and identifying emerging policy areas where further guidance is needed. The work will be organized jointly by the environmental and statistical subprogrammes.

17. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 4).

Figure 4

**Performance measure: number of countries improving environmental statistics and indicators through the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (annual)**



## VI. Deliverables to be implemented in 2024

18. The table below lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Category and subcategory		2024 plan
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>		
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)		<b>69</b>
1.	Documentation for the Conference of European Statisticians	43
2.	Documentation for groups of experts on statistical issues	26
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)		<b>85</b>
3.	Meetings of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau	13
4.	Meetings of groups of experts on statistical issues	72
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>		
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)		<b>1</b>
5.	On social and economic statistics	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)		<b>6</b>
6.	Workshops on social and economic statistics	3
7.	Workshops on innovating statistical production	3
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)		<b>7</b>
8.	On topics covering multiple statistical areas, including social, environmental and economic statistics	7
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>		
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services for more than 100 government officials (staff of national statistical systems) and other stakeholders of up to 4 countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe on economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, statistics for the Goals, geospatial statistics and institutional issues and modernization of official statistics.		

---

*Category and subcategory*

*2024 plan*

---

**Databases and substantive digital materials:** ECE statistical databases (Goals, population and gender statistics database; economic statistics database); hosting of the transport and the forestry databases.

**D. Communication deliverables**

**External and media relations:** articles for the “UNECE Weekly” and “EnvStats” newsletters for regional access.

**Digital platforms and multimedia content:** interactive digital workspaces (wikis, including the ECE census wiki); website of the subprogramme.

---

## Annex I

### Details of proposed publications for 2024

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language (s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Guide on measuring subjective poverty	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Print and electronic	A4	120	E		100E
2.	Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Electronic	A4	76	E		
3	Guide on macroeconomic statistics	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Print and electronic	A4	100	E	Russian (RB)	50E, 50R
4	The 2020 round of population housing censuses in the UNECE region	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	Russian (RB)	150E, 50R
5	Statistical Modernisation Monograph (based on 2022-2024 work programme tbd)	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Print and electronic	A4	120	E		300E
6	Guidelines for measuring hazardous events and disasters	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Print and electronic	A4	100	E		300E
7	Guidance on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives	Mandate expected to be provided by the meeting of the CES in June 2023.	Print and electronic	A4	120	E	Russian (RB)	200E, 50R



## Annex II

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

##### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
<a href="#">67/10</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
<a href="#">67/290</a>	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
<a href="#">69/277</a>	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
<a href="#">69/283</a>	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
<a href="#">69/313</a>	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
<a href="#">70/1</a>	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<a href="#">71/16</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
<a href="#">71/256</a>	New Urban Agenda
<a href="#">72/279</a>	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
<a href="#">73/10</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
<a href="#">73/195</a>	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
<a href="#">74/122</a>	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
<a href="#">74/128</a>	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
<a href="#">74/144</a>	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
<a href="#">74/216</a>	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
<a href="#">74/231, 76/215</a>	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
<a href="#">74/235</a>	Women in development
<a href="#">74/271</a>	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
<a href="#">74/297</a>	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution <a href="#">71/243</a> on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
<a href="#">75/8, 77/15</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
<a href="#">75/9, 77/16</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
<a href="#">75/12</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
<a href="#">75/216, 76/204</a>	Disaster risk reduction
<a href="#">75/221</a>	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
<a href="#">75/233</a>	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

<a href="#">75/290 B</a>	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution <a href="#">72/305</a> on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions <a href="#">67/290</a> on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and <a href="#">70/299</a> on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level High-level political forum on sustainable development
<a href="#">75/324</a>	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
<a href="#">77/185</a>	South-South cooperation

## 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
<a href="#">1998/46</a>	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
<a href="#">2006/38</a>	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
<a href="#">2013/1</a>	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
<a href="#">2022/18</a>	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

## 3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
<a href="#">A (64)</a>	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
<a href="#">A (65)</a>	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
<a href="#">A (66)</a>	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
<a href="#">A (69)</a>	High-level statement
<a href="#">B (69)</a>	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
<a href="#">C (69)</a>	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

## B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
<a href="#">67/144</a>	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
<a href="#">68/261</a>	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
<a href="#">69/210</a>	Entrepreneurship for development
<a href="#">69/282</a>	World Statistics Day
<a href="#">72/234</a>	Women in development
<a href="#">73/148</a>	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment
<a href="#">76/140</a>	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
<a href="#">76/141</a>	Violence against women migrant workers

## 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity
<a href="#">2014/7</a>	Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
<a href="#">2015/10</a>	2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme
<a href="#">2016/27</a>	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management
<a href="#">2017/7</a>	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<a href="#">2018/5</a>	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
<a href="#">2018/7</a>	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
<a href="#">2020/5</a>	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system
2021/7	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations
2022/3	Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem (paras. 4, 9 and 10)

## 3. Economic and Social Council decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2013/235	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session (Statistical Commission decision 44/105: Environment statistics)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth (Statistical Commission decisions 45/101: Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics); 45/103: Programme review: broader measures of progress); 45/110: Big data and modernization of statistical systems)
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session (Statistical Commission decisions 46/101: Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda; 46/102: Population and housing censuses; 46/107: International trade and economic globalization statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (Statistical Commission decisions 48/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 48/103: Transformative agenda for official statistics; 48/107: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; 48/108: Integration of statistical and geospatial information; 48/114: Business registers)
2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decisions 49/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 49/102: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 49/108: Regional statistical development; 49/113: Climate change statistics; 49/114: Statistical classifications)
2019/210	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decisions 50/101: Global indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 50/103: Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 50/106: National quality assurance frameworks; 50/116: Disaster-related statistics; 50/117: International migration statistics)
2020/211	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-first session (Statistical Commission decisions 51/101: Global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda; 51/104: Coordination of statistical programmes; 51/106: National accounts; 51/107: International trade and business statistics; 51/108: Price statistics; 51/110: Environmental-economic accounting; 51/112: Demographic statistics;

	51/115: Gender statistics; 51/120: Management and modernization of statistical systems; 51/123: Integration of statistical and geospatial information)
2021/224	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-second session (Statistical Commission decisions 52/102: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 52/10:3 Partnership, coordination and capacity-building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 52/105: Economic statistics; 52/106: National accounts
2022/324	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session (Statistical Commission decisions 53/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 53/104: Data stewardship, 53/106: Regional statistical development, 53/107: Population and housing censuses, 53/111: Gender statistics, 53/115: Environmental-economic accounting, 53/116: Climate change statistics , 53/117: National accounts, 53/119: Business and trade statistics, 53/123: Informal economy statistics, 53/124: Big data, 53/127: Integration of statistical and geospatial information)

---