# Economic and Social Council

## Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

**Seventy-second plenary session**
Geneva, 20 and 21 June 2024
Item 11 (b) of the provisional agenda
**Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme**
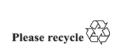**of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:**
**Matters arising from the 2024 United Nations Statistical Commission session**

# Matters arising from the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

## Prepared by the Secretariat

*Summary*

      The document presents the key outcomes the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (27 February–1 March 2024) that have a bearing on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians.

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## I.  Introduction

1.      The document presents the key outcomes of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) (27 February–1 March 2024) having a bearing on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

2.      The following sections include extracts of summaries of discussions and key decisions of the Statistical Commission. For the full text, please consult the report of the UNSC session at https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/55.

## II.  Decision 55/101: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

3.      "*The Statistical Commission:*

*(a)      Endorsed the proposal to prepare two sets of implementation guidelines tailored to different audiences, to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in 2025;*

*(b)      Reiterated its support for the establishment of an independent advisory board on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;*

*(c)      Requested the Bureau of the Statistical Commission to advance, through a transparent and inclusive consultation process, the terms of reference, composition of the Board and criteria for the selection of experts, and requested the Bureau to report back to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in 2025, presenting the outcomes of the consultations, an amended version of the terms of reference and a report comprising the aforementioned items, as well as the financial implications and arrangements associated with the Board.*"

4.      Since their adoption by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 1992, the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics underlie everything that the producers of official statistics do: from the methods for collecting, processing and storing data to the ways that statistical offices disseminate statistics and communicate with those who use them and remain a collective manifesto for serving society with impartial, relevant and accurate information to guide decisions. The work of the Conference of European Statisticians and UNECE has been supporting the CES member countries in their implementation through number of completed and ongoing activities, such as:

(a)      UNECE works with countries to strengthen their capacity to effectively implement international standards and good practices, and to produce high-quality statistics in accordance with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The capacity development cycle typically starts with Global Assessments of national statistical systems carried out in cooperation with Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) at the request of the country. The reports provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country and help national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics;

(b)      The *Generic Law on Official Statistics* (2016) and the *Guidance on Modernizing Statistical Legislation* (2019) were developed together with EFTA and Eurostat. Aligning with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the documents provide guidance on developing the statistical legislation needed to support the modernization of statistical systems and unleash the full value of official statistics. Since 2020, regular meetings of legal and managerial experts have been organized to continue working on this topic;

(c)      Set of Core Values of Official Statistics and the *List of behaviours demonstrating the implementation of the core values and the Fundamental Principles in practice*, which provide practical guidance on what it means to implement the Core Values and Fundamental Principles in practice, were elaborated and endorsed by the Conference in 2022 and 2023;

(d)	UNECE continues to promote the Fundamental Principles which provide a basis for impartial, high-quality statistics, using the wide range of materials that were prepared on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Principles in 2022.

## III. Decision 55/103 Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5.	*"The Statistical Commission:*

*(d)	Expressed its appreciation for the Group's ongoing efforts in compiling and showcasing good practices for monitoring the Goals, and invited more countries and partners to share their good practices;*

*(e)	Endorsed the specific criteria and detailed submission requirements for the 2025 comprehensive review, as proposed in section III of the Group's report, and emphasized the importance of not imposing an additional burden on national statistical systems;*

*(g)	Stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for the production and monitoring of and reporting on Goal indicators, including the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange and implementing the SDGs geospatial road map;*

*(h)	Encouraged the Group to continue its work on data innovation, data integration and the use of non-traditional data, such as geospatial information, administrative records and citizen data for Goal monitoring;"*

6.	In 2021, the Conference endorsed a second edition of its flagship publication, the *CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* that is widely used by countries and international organizations. In 2024, UNECE will continue work on supporting countries in implementing the second edition of the Road Map. UNECE work in this area is steered and coordinated through the CES Steering Group on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that establishes priorities and identifies concrete actions and tools that can support countries in their work in this area. In 2024, the priority items include the development of a concept for training material on the role of national statistical offices (NSOs) for SDGs intended primarily for new NSO staff, and work on SDG indicator availability assessments. An important focus of work will be analysing the lessons learned for NSOs from the SDG process through a CES in-depth review.

7.	Since 2020, UNECE maintains its regional platform on statistics for SDGs, consisting of a knowledge hub and a dashboard and database of selected SDG indicators. The purpose of the platform is to communicate developments on measuring SDGs in the UNECE region, provide easy access to up-to-date indicators on implementing SDGs, and to disseminate data and metadata. Based on the database, annual reports on the progress towards SDGs in the UNECE Region are prepared as input to the annual Regional Fora on Sustainable Development.

## IV. Decision 55/105: Data Science

8.	*"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a)	Acknowledged the 10-year review outcomes and the achievements of the Committee in its methodological work, and supported updating the Committee's mandate to reflect current needs, including data science and private sector partnerships;*

*(b)	Acknowledged the crucial role of regional and global hubs in enhancing capacity in big data and data science and supported the proposal for these hubs to expand their partnerships with national statistical offices, international organizations, academia, and the private sector, while requesting to pay close attention to data ethics;*

*(c)	Supported the creation of a new task team on data science and Sustainable Development Goal localization, in close collaboration with the Data Science Leaders*

*Network, and encouraged in this regard a closer collaboration between the Committee and the geospatial community;*

*(d) Requested the creation of a task team on large language models in the production and dissemination of official statistics and noted that the Africa group volunteered to take the lead;*

*(e) Supported developing a playbook for integrating data science into the work of statistical offices, as well as guidelines for skills and IT infrastructure required to use big data and data science in producing official statistics;*

*(f) Strongly reiterated the need for further capacity-building in using big data and data science in official statistics, encouraged using the maturity matrix as a tool for regularly assessing countries' progress in this area, requested continuing focus on challenges still encountered in use of Big Data and data science, encouraged increased resource mobilization to make such capacity-building effective and noted the offer by the Maldives to establish an international data science and research center for official statistics for Small Island Developing States; and*

*(g) Requested to improve the UN Global Platform for easier access and to enhance the communication of the work of the Committee through user-friendly website updates, newsletters, and social media engagement".*

9. The CES work on data science and artificial intelligence (AI) is largely carried out under the umbrella of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) which is supported by UNECE. In addition to its early work on machine learning (ML) from 2019 to 2022,[1] recent activities include the following:

(a) Reflecting the increasing importance of new data sources and methods for the compilation of official statistics, HLG-MOS established a modernisation group dedicated to data science and modern methods, known as the "Applying Data Science and Modern Methods Group", in 2022. The group aims to go beyond experimenting with new methods and explore the challenges and opportunities of integrating them in the statistical organizations;[2]

(b) In late 2023, HLG-MOS released a white paper on "Large Language Models (LLMs) for Official Statistics". The paper provides an overview of where they can be used in the statistical production, associated risks, concrete uses cases from statistical organizations, and main considerations that should be taken into accounts for moving forward with this new technology;

(c) In early 2024, HLG-MOS launched a project on generative AI for official statistics. Building on the LLM white paper, the project aims to further investigate the potential of generative AI, strategic considerations arising when statistical organizations want to use generative AI effectively and responsibly (e.g., governance, open models), as well as identify opportunities to actually co-develop concrete solutions.

10. Regarding the plan to create a task team on LLMs (item (d) of Decision 55/105), UNECE Secretariat contacted the secretariat of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science to ensure that the new team is aware of the LLM paper developed in 2023 and builds onto it.

## V. Decision 55/107: National accounts

11. *"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a) Endorsed the programmes of work for 2024 of the Working Group and the AEG;*

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[1] For more information, see ECE/CES/2024/17.

[2] For more information about the work of the group in 2023 and 2024, see ECE/CES/2024/9 and ECE/CES/2024/10.

*(b)     Commended the outreach activities to keep countries informed about the transparent process and inclusive approach to seek the views of countries through the global consultations on the guidance notes, the recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA, and the draft chapters of the 2025 SNA;*

*(e)     Noted the concerns of some Member States about the impact of selected recommendations and emphasized the importance of addressing conceptual uncertainties; stressed the importance of continuing in developing implementation guidance on the new recommendations to facilitate the implementation of the 2025 SNA in an internationally comparable way;*

*(f)     Welcomed the initiation of a work programme to develop guidance on the recommendations that have an impact on key national accounts aggregates and those that involve significant methodological challenges in implementation;*

*(g)     Emphasized the need for capacity building and funding for Member States with limited resources ... and expressed appreciation for international organizations and countries for providing the technical support for national account statistics in particular and economic statistics in general;*

*(h)     Encouraged Member States to take ownership of developing strategies, including the mobilization of national resources, to facilitate the implementation of the 2025 SNA, noting that guidance on this will be developed as part of the proposed 2025 SNA implementation strategy;*

*(i)     Requested the timely translation of the 2025 SNA into the official United Nations languages; and*

*(j)     Encouraged the continued reporting and evaluation of the availability and scope of official national accounts data reported by Members States and noted the importance of quality data, including the availability of quarterly national accounts data, in support of international comparisons and a global understanding of the World economy."*

12.     The CES work programme on national accounts is closely aligned with the global work process, including the following current work areas:

(a)     UNECE organizes regular meetings of the Group of Experts on National Accounts. These meetings provide an important platform for discussing common challenges of national accounts, balance of payments and related economic statistics, and for monitoring the implementation of global standards and related UNECE guidelines. The meetings, which have been organized in close cooperation with the UNECE Steering Group on National Accounts and the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), have provided a forum for discussing progress with the System of National Accounts (SNA) update and consulting the proposed changes. The meetings will also serve for sharing country experience from the testing of the new recommendations and present the developed implementation guidance on issues that have an impact on key national accounts aggregates. Furthermore, the discussions at the meetings of the Group will inform the development of the implementation strategy for the 2025 SNA and assist CES countries in preparing their national implementation plans;

(b)     UNECE has involved the member countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in the consultation on the SNA update by circulation of draft chapters and related questionnaires and translation of relevant documents in Russian. Furthermore, online information sessions and outreach seminars have been organized together with partner organizations;

(c)     UNECE, in collaboration with partner organizations such as EFTA, Eurostat and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), facilitates the implementation of the 2008 SNA and Balance of Payments Manual, sixth edition as well as on related economic statistics in countries outside the EU and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) through the organization of training workshops;

(d)     UNECE has published and monitors the implementation of several guides that support the implementation of new SNA recommendations in the area of globalization, well-being and sustainability. Furthermore, an online inventory of thematic and satellite accounts

published by countries serves as a knowledge sharing platform on all supplementary accounts and extensions recommended in the 2025 SNA;

(e)     UNECE supports the reporting and evaluation of official national accounts data to UNSD by organizing, translating and collecting the United Nations national accounts questionnaire from the SEE and EECCA countries.

## VI.   Decision 55/108: Economic statistics

13.     *"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a)     Commended the Network of Economic Statisticians on: (i) successfully organizing the "beyond gross domestic product" sprint 2023 and the international statistical classifications sprint; (ii) increasing communication and engagement with Network members through quarterly and informal meetings; and (iii) organizing an online consultation with regional commissions to determine and scope the statistical priorities of the global South;*

*(c)     Endorsed the creation of a multidisciplinary expert group to take forward the recommendations presented in the report of the Network (E/CN.3/2024/10) and to develop a framework for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being, recognized the potential synergies between the Network and the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, and encouraged collaboration between the two initiatives".*

14.     The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in October 2023 established a Task Force to develop guidelines on the measurement of wellbeing 'here and now'. The guidelines will adopt the multidimensional approach to measuring well-being of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report on measurement of economic performance and social progress (2009) and draw on existing framework such as the Conference of European Statisticians *Recommendations on Measuring Sustainable Development* (2014), OECD Framework for measuring Well-being and Progress and Eurostat's Quality of Life Indicators. The Task Force is chaired by Israel. The Task Force plans to submit its draft report to the CES Bureau in February 2025 with a view to have it circulated for consultation among CES members and submitted to the CES plenary session in 2025 for endorsement.

## VII.   Decision 55/109: Environmental-economic accounting

15.     *"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a)     Endorsed the proposed update of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework, noting that the Framework should remain responsive to emerging demands for integrated environmental and economic data in support of climate change, the circular economy, disaster risk reduction, resource management, green growth and jobs, biodiversity and other policies and be aligned with the updated System of National Accounts and balance of payments and other recently revised standards, classifications and manuals, as appropriate, and requested the Committee to submit, at the next session of the Commission, the list of issues and the road map for its update;*

*(e)     Encouraged the Committee to continue its involvement in the Data Gaps Initiative, in particular to support closing data gaps related to climate change, and to promote the accounts;*

*(g)     Welcomed the progress in country implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, noted the importance of partnerships, regional collaboration, communities of practice and the System's focal points network in supporting implementation and encouraged the Committee to further accelerate implementation of the Framework and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting;*

*(h)     Supported the efforts of international organizations, regional commissions and statistical training institutes in providing technical assistance, organizing workshops and training and developing compilation tools, and noted the importance of ensuring that resources continue to be made available for this work;"*

16.     UNECE supports the use of the global System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the region, jointly with OECD and in close alignment with the global work programme. This includes building capacity in support of SEEA, providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and experience, assessing data availability and developing methods and sources for the necessary data. In 2024, the work will continue with a focus on using SEEA for producing statistics and indicators on disaster-risk and circular economy, identifying new techniques and data sources for compiling SEEA accounts (including Ecosystem Accounts), policy uses, communication strategies and coordination of work in the region. UNECE will also support building capacity for environment statistics and SEEA in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

17.     OECD and UNECE jointly organize regular seminars on the implementation of SEEA. These seminars provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience and support the coordination of capacity development. The topics discussed at the seminar are aligned to a large extent with the work programme of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), with a focus on priority issues for the UNECE and OECD regions. The last seminar, held on 18–20 March 2024, discussed utilizing SEEA for measuring circular economy and informing climate-change-adaptation and response policies with SEEA.

18.     UNECE participates in the UNCEEA working group on coordination and communication, and continues to collaborate with partners in activities aimed at improving the usefulness of official statistics for climate policy and analysis, including advancing the use of the SEEA for climate change indicators. In particular, the working group has contributed to the work of the Task Force on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives, developing guidance on the role of national statistical offices in reporting under the Paris Agreement, meeting information needs of national policymaking in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and informing the public about climate-related issues.

## VIII.     Decision 55/111: Social statistics

19.     *"The Statistical Commission:*

(a)     *Endorsed the proposed work priorities and activities of the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, in particular the research towards an overarching conceptual framework for social and demographic statistics, including harmonized concepts, definitions, terminology and classifications across subdomains, in line with the group's objective of formulating strategic recommendations for strengthened social and demographic statistics that better reflect society and its connections with the environment and the economy;*

(b)     *Commended the review of national practices for improved timeliness, frequency, disaggregation and granularity in social and demographic data, which will also facilitate an intersectional approach to the analysis, as well as the work done on communication strategies to elevate the role of social and demographic statistics in the eyes of users and producers;*

(c)     *Agreed on the need to integrate a wide range of data sources, including geospatial information and administrative data, and, in this context, encouraged the group to place special emphasis on issues related to data protection and technological infrastructure;*

(d)     *Recognized the potential synergies between the Friends of the Chair group and the Network of Economic Statisticians, and encouraged collaboration between the two initiatives;*

(e)     *Took note of the expressions of interest of countries to share their experiences, and welcomed the addition to the group of six new Member States from the global South, which will ensure that the Group's recommendations reflect different national contexts."*

20.     In UNECE countries there is an increasing policy demand for data on people's well-being, social environment and demographic change. The CES work programme on social and demographic statistics focuses on poverty and inequality, migration, gender, children and population and housing censuses. Many challenges relate to the need to increase the use of administrative data and to measure hard-to-reach population groups, and a task force has started to address this. UNECE secretariat and many countries from the region are contributing to the work of the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics.

## IX.     Decision 55/112: Gender statistics

21.     *"The Statistical Commission:*

        *(a)     Highlighted the importance of time-use data for informing key policy concerns, such as gender equality, quality of life, people's well-being and progress that goes beyond gross domestic product, as well as for measuring unpaid domestic and care work and for compiling related extended national accounts;*

        *(b)     Endorsed the revised Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use, took note of the interest expressed by countries in using the proposed methods, and requested the Statistics Division and partners to support countries in the implementation of the Guide, in collaboration with regional actors, to ensure its national relevance and effective implementation;*

        *(c)     Commended the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics on its work on integrating a gender perspective into the work of the Commission, in collaboration with other subject matter experts, took note of the note on mainstreaming a gender perspective into trade and business statistics, and took note of the progress made on mainstreaming gender into climate change statistics;*

        *(d)     Welcomed the progress made on measuring technology-facilitated violence against women, and requested the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and other partners: (i) to conduct technical consultations, testing and piloting, in close collaboration with and with the active contribution of national statistical offices; and (ii) to propose a statistical framework for standardized internationally comparable measures on the topic;*

        *(e)     Approved the work priorities of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme;*

        *(f)     Reiterated the need for capacity-building and resources to support countries in the area of gender statistics, including on time use and violence against women, and requested the Statistics Division and partners to support countries to that end;*

        *(g)     Welcomed the organization of the tenth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, and took note of the countries that expressed an interest in hosting it in 2025."*

22.     UNECE work on gender statistics aims to share knowledge and experience and to develop capacity in areas where data and indicators of gender equality are insufficient or lacking. This includes promotion of time-use surveys and the related novel methodologies. Linking to the global initiative, the CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics is planning to support the collection of emerging national practices of measuring technology-facilitated violence against women in the UNECE region. UNECE participates in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. In May 2025, it will hold the biennial session of its Group of Experts on Gender Statistics that addresses key issues in the region and links to the implementation of the initiatives of the (global) Inter-Agency and Expert Group in the region.

## X.     Decision 55/113: Population and housing censuses

23.     *"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a)    Reiterated its concern regarding the negative impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on census-taking, including postponements of the conduct of censuses and challenges in ensuring the quality of census planning and operations and the resulting statistics;*

*(b)    Encouraged Member States to assess the quality of their censuses in terms of both their coverage and their comparability over time, taking into consideration the implications of changes in methods, procedures and technologies introduced as a result of the pandemic;*

*(c)    Requested the Statistics Division, in its role as the secretariat of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to continue to monitor the implementation of the Programme, to prepare a comprehensive report highlighting achievements and challenges faced by countries, and to take measures to improve the global discourse on the experiences of the 2020 round of censuses;*

*(d)    Expressed its appreciation to the Statistics Division for the preparations for the 2030 round of censuses and for the ongoing work, in collaboration with an international expert group, on the fourth revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, and noted that the expert group should have regional representation to identify good practices and challenges that countries had during the 2020 round;*

*(e)    Recognized that an increasing number of countries are modernizing their census operations, including through the use of alternative methodologies and advanced technologies, encouraged countries to enhance the use of administrative data in census-taking, and requested the Statistics Division and partners to provide guidance, support capacity-building activities and maintain knowledge-sharing platforms;*

*(f)    Requested the Statistics Division to prepare a draft resolution to launch the 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme at the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission, in 2025, for adoption by the Commission and endorsement by the Economic and Social Council."*

24.    UNECE supports countries in preparing for, conducting, processing and disseminating data from their population and housing censuses. Since 2022, thirteen task forces under the CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses are developing the *CES Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* of the 2030 Round. In 2024, they will analyse results of the comprehensive survey of national practices in censuses of the 2020 round and develop the text of the recommendations for the 2030 round. An expert meeting and capacity-development workshop in October 2024 will provide an opportunity for the task forces to present their progress to the entire community of census experts, engaging them to tackle any challenges brought to light during the work. The results of the comprehensive survey will be compiled into a publication and online interactive tool to permit detailed analyses of how countries across the region conduct their censuses. The entire process is carried out in close coordination with the preparation of the global United Nations principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses.

## XI.    Decision 55/116: Business and trade statistics

25.    *"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a)    Endorsed the amended mandate and governance of the Committee to facilitate stronger integration between business and trade statistics and stronger coordination across other statistical domains and with the macroeconomic frameworks;"*

26.    In cooperation with Eurostat and OECD, UNECE organizes the biennial meetings of the Group of Experts on business registers. The next meeting will take place in October 2024. It will discuss the following issues: use of administrative data and big data; modernization of the register; classification on statistical units; producing statistics based on the statistical business register; covering the green and the digital economy; the maturity model for statistical business registers; and publication and confidentiality. The Expert Group meetings

serve as a forum for sharing experiences and best practices for the development and maintenance of statistical business registers. The work is coordinated with the Wiesbaden Group on Business registers, and with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics.

## XII. Decision 55/118: Climate change statistics

27. *"The Statistical Commission:*

*(a) Approved the renaming of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics as the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics to cover both topics, given their close interrelationship;*

*(b) Requested the amendment of the work programme of the Commission to combine environment and climate change statistics into a single agenda item, with one joint report;*

*(c) Encouraged countries to apply the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, regional indicator sets such as the gender and environment indicators for the Asia-Pacific region, the set of core climate change-related indicators of the Conference of European Statisticians, and the self-assessment tool and implementation guidelines to assist in establishing national programmes on climate change statistics, which will contribute to the reporting under the Paris Agreement;*

*(d) Encouraged further collaboration between the Statistics Division, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other key partners to continue to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, as well as to minimize any possible overlap of efforts, by undertaking joint initiatives, training and capacity-development efforts, including on reporting tools;*

*(e) Urged countries to increase collaboration between the national statistical office and the national authorities responsible for reporting climate change-related information to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;*

*(f) Took note of the work undertaken to develop methodologies for prioritized topics, and encouraged the further integration of gender, health, disasters and other statistical areas into environment and climate change statistics;*

*(g) Urged the donor community to mobilize additional substantial resources to enable capacity development in environment and climate change statistics in countries with less developed statistical systems;*

*(h) Encouraged national statistical systems to invest in the development of climate change statistics by enhancing the use of administrative data, designing specialized surveys or other data collection tools, and including climate- and environment-related questions in relevant censuses and sample surveys, as appropriate."*

28. The work on climate change-related statistics under the Conference of European Statistician aims to improve the usefulness of official statistics for climate change policy and analysis. Over the years, it resulted in developing the *CES Recommendations on Climate change-Related Statistics*, and the *CES Core Set of CC-Related Statistics and Indicators* and its implementation guidelines. In 2022, the CES Task Force on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives was established to contribute to bridging the gap between statistics and policy and identify concrete ways in which NSOs can be involved and showcase what the statistical system already offers to support climate action. The final report, showcasing also the use of existing indicator sets, is submitted to the Conference for endorsement under agenda item 10a.

29. The UNECE annual Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics provides a platform for collaborating, sharing ideas and experience, discussing concepts and measurement issues, and identifying areas where practical guidance is needed.

30.    UNECE will continue working together with UNSD, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and all other relevant international organizations on improving the availability and quality of climate change-related statistics and strengthening the link between statistics and policy at the national and international levels in this area. The UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics will continue to collect good practices in climate change-related statistics through a wiki platform and an annual good practice sharing exercise *Climate Change-Related Statistics in Practice*, and support the implementation of the existing recommendations and indicator sets proposing holistic and systemic approaches to the development of climate change-related statistics.

31.    A significant new development to follow is the adoption of the UAE Framework for global climate resilience in Dubai at COP28 and establishment of a 2-year UAE – Belém work programme to on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the thematic targets around water, food, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, poverty and cultural heritage.

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