

Recalling that, in response to the recognition by member States of a need to improve economic statistics in developing economies of the Asia-Pacific region, the Commission's Committee on Statistics at its first session, held in Bangkok from 4 to 6 February 2009, decided, among other things, the following:

(a) To adopt a coordinating governance structure that would guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To establish a technical advisory group to advise its Bureau...and to formulate a minimum core set of economic statistics that each country in the Asian and Pacific region would be in a position to produce,⁷⁹

Having considered and taken note of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session,⁸⁰

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of economic statistics⁸¹ as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building,⁸²

2. *Recommends* that members and associate members use, as appropriate, the core set of economic statistics as a framework and guide in the development of their national statistical systems.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/11
Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific⁸³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁸⁴

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁸⁵ in which Heads of State and Government strongly reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit,

Recalling further the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994,⁸⁶

Recalling its resolution 62/10 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific,

⁷⁹ See E/ESCAP/65/13, chap. I, decision 1/2.

⁸⁰ E/ESCAP/67/12.

⁸¹ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4.

⁸² See E/ESCAP/67/12, chap. I.

⁸³ See paras. 210 to 223 above.

⁸⁴ See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

⁸⁵ See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

⁸⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9* (E/1994/29), chap. V, para. 59.

Recalling also its resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, in which it re-established the Committee on Statistics as the highest-level intergovernmental body on statistics in Asia and the Pacific to discuss and coordinate matters related to statistics development,

Recalling further its resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to continue to assist members and, as appropriate, associate members in strengthening their statistical capacity, in accordance with Commission resolution 62/10,

Having considered the report on the implementation of resolutions 62/10 and 65/2,⁸⁷

Having also considered the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session,⁸⁸ including its recommendation on the strategic direction for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific towards 2020 and decisions on coordination and cooperation among national statistical systems and development partners,

Recognizing the difficulties that many developing countries face in meeting needs for official statistics in support of economic and social development, including the introduction of some of the major international statistical standards,

Encouraged by the capacity-building and other initiatives that are taking place at the national and international levels, in response to relevant international plans and programmes,

1. *Endorses* the strategic direction of the Committee on Statistics, as proposed by the Committee at its second session, with the two overarching goals of (a) ensuring that all countries in the region have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics by 2020, and (b) creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration;⁸⁹

2. *Calls on* members and, as appropriate, associate members to prioritize the strengthening of their national statistical systems and to align resources and institutional arrangements to support the achievement of the two goals described in paragraph 1 above for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific by 2020;

3. *Encourages* members and, as appropriate, associate members with advanced statistical systems, as well as relevant international organizations and institutions, to share expertise and information on their methodological, technological and managerial practices for the benefit of other countries in the region, taking into particular consideration the constraints faced by countries with special needs;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and, as appropriate, associate members, upon request, in developing their statistical systems and strengthening their capacity with a view to achieving the two goals for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 above, by 2020;

⁸⁷ See E/ESCAP/67/3, chap. IV.

⁸⁸ E/ESCAP/67/12.

⁸⁹ See E/ESCAP/67/12, chap. I, recommendation 2/1.

(b) To promote the importance of developing the capacity of not only national statistical offices but also, where appropriate, other parts of national statistical systems across the region;

(c) To provide members and, as appropriate, associate members with assistance in strengthening their capacity to monitor the progress made in achieving development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals;

(d) To facilitate the coordination of international capacity-building activities related to the development of official statistics in the region, including cooperation among the national statistical offices of developing countries;

(e) To raise awareness of the significance of enhancing the use of administrative data as a means of increasing the effectiveness of the production of official statistics;

(f) To report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its seventy-second session.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/12
Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific⁹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁹¹ and the Declaration on the Right to Development,⁹²

Noting the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems for improving development outcomes, enabling the observation and assessment of a country's progress towards nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the significant role of civil registration within a country's legal systems for recognizing the rights and privileges of individuals and enabling the progressive realization of those rights,

Recognizing that civil registration systems capable of generating reliable and timely vital statistics contribute significantly to improved evidence-based planning and increased efficiency in resource allocation,

Recognizing also the importance of civil registration and vital statistics in raising the visibility of and improving policy focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women and children in poverty, migrants and other marginalized groups, and providing a basis for designing social protection schemes that reduce risks and vulnerabilities,

Emphasizing the fundamental responsibility of members and associate members in establishing, operating and maintaining reliable civil registration and vital statistics systems,

⁹⁰ See paras. 210 to 223 above.

⁹¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁹² General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.