

**ASSESSMENT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON STATISTICS**

Bangkok, Thailand  
12-14 December 2012

## **Summary Assessment**

The third session of the Committee on Statistics was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12-14 December 2012. A questionnaire was distributed towards the end of the session to obtain feedback from participants on its relevance, effectiveness and quality, with a view to enabling the secretariat to improve on its preparations for and servicing of future sessions. The response rate to the questionnaire was relatively high with 27 of 39 (69.2%) participating delegations responding.

The present assessment was conducted on the basis of the feedback received from delegations together with a qualitative analysis of the draft report of the session, bearing in mind the terms of reference for the Committee on Statistics as contained in resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission.

### **I. Attendance**

The Committee session was attended by 63% (N=39/62) of ESCAP members and associate members.

Almost all delegations were headed by senior officials (albeit not at ministerial level) from the respective Capital (92%, N=36/39), whereas the remaining 8% (N=3/39) were represented through their embassies in Bangkok.

The responding delegations offered suggestions to encourage higher and wider representation from their country at the Committee session, among which the following: (a) more in-depth explanation of the session documents; (b) representation of other Statistics partners and bodies depending on the agenda items; (c) financial support for attending delegations; and (d) extension of the meeting period by one day.

### **II. Ownership**

The sense of ownership by participants of the Committee was strong, with the majority of respondents indicating that the Committee session was owned and driven by member States (85%, N=23/27), that the overall outcome of the deliberations was a result of a collaborative effort (96%, N=26/27), and that the draft report adequately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Committee (85%, N=23/27). Further, a large majority of respondents indicated that the secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session (96%, N=26/27).

### **III. Relevance**

The feedback indicates that participants regarded the Committee on Statistics as a highly relevant mechanism for discussing statistics development in the region. All respondents (100%, N=27/27) agreed that the agenda items of the Committee were timely and relevant to issues and trends regarding statistics development in the Asian and Pacific region, and that the benefits of their delegation's attendance justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office). In addition, a majority of respondents

indicated that the agenda items reflected the needs and priorities of their countries (85%, N=23/27).

Although three responding delegations indicated that they found all agenda items to be of high relevance and importance, the following agenda items were additionally highlighted for their relevance (in order):

- (1a) Agenda item 3a, Regional initiatives: Economic statistics (mentioned by 19% of respondents);
- (1b) Agenda item 3b, Regional initiatives: Social statistics (also mentioned by 19% of respondents);
- (2) Agenda item 5b, Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities: Regional Partnership (mentioned by 11% of respondents);
- (3a) Agenda item 3d, Regional initiatives: Modernization of statistical information systems (mentioned by 7% of respondents);
- (3b) Agenda item 4b, Global initiatives: (b) Environment statistics (also mentioned by 7% of respondents);
- (3c) Agenda item 5a Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities: Statistical training (also mentioned by 7% of respondents);
- (4a) Agenda item 3c, Regional initiatives: Civil registration and vital statistics (mentioned by 4% of respondents);
- (4b) Agenda item 4a, Global initiatives: Agricultural and rural statistics (also mentioned by 4% of respondents);
- (4c) Agenda item 6, Items for information (also mentioned by 4% of respondents).

#### **IV. Efficiency**

The feedback indicates that member States were satisfied with the efficiency of organization and conduct of the Committee session. A majority of respondents agreed that the pre-session documents conveyed clear messages (93%, N=25/27) and were issued in a timely manner (85%, N=23/27); that the Committee used the time provided efficiently (93%, N=25/27); and that the conference services provided by the secretariat were efficient (93%, N=25/27). Further, a majority of respondents indicated that the organization of work prior to/in-between Committee sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Committee (89%, N=24/27).

#### **V. Outcomes in light of ESCAP resolution 64/1**

A large majority of respondents agreed that the third session of the Committee on Statistics addressed effectively the issues outlined in resolution 64/1 that should be addressed by all Committees subsidiary to the Commission, including: to review and analyze regional trends (85%, N=23/27), identify priorities and emerging issues (93%, N=25/27), promote dialogue on regional and subregional approaches (93%, N=25/27), and promote a collaborative approach to address development challenges at the regional and sub regional levels (100%, N=27/27). Overall a large majority of respondents felt that the Committee was able to fulfill its terms of reference to a reasonable extent.

Suggestions on how to become more effective included the following: consult and collaborate more among member countries on the various topics to enrich the contents of the documents; introduce a “rolling” agenda so that agenda items can be addressed in alternate sessions; and limit the agenda to fewer topics and discuss those in depth.

The qualitative analysis of the session documentation (contained in Annex III) concurred with the results of the questionnaire. For example, the Committee recommended the use of the core set of population and social statistics as a regional framework for focusing efforts, coordinating training and mobilizing donor support for capacity development, and endorsed the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

## **VI. Most and least successful**

According to the respondents, the objectives of the session were achieved, and a rich array of Committee session features and agenda items were successful. Several responding delegations commended the quality of the work and support by the Secretariat and the staff involved in organizing the Committee session. It was highlighted that the strong prior work of steering and working groups resulted in well-developed, high quality papers and reports. Further, respondents positively noted that the session environment was conducive to open knowledge sharing and a wide range of deliberations among all participants.

Specifically highlighted as successful were (a) the parts of the session regarding economic, social, environment, and agriculture statistics, as well as modernization of statistical information systems, (b) the side event (on ICT statistics), (c) the identification of emergent needs, (c) the Committee session's role in increasing member State preparedness for playing a better role in the regional activities and (d) the endorsement of action plans that will serve as guideline for member States to improve various areas of statistics

Areas for improvement included a paper on environment statistics, as well as possible instructions to speakers to focus on the objectives at hand. One respondent also wished that there had been a more detailed discussion on budgetary and other realities of actually achieving the ambitious programme of work; another mentioned that the post 2015 development agenda needed further discussion for consensus-building. Further, it was mentioned that the preparation of best practice cases, and earlier provision of the documents, would further enhance the Committee session.

Finally, one respondent noted that "In the context of upcoming conference structure reform, it is most desirable to retain a Committee on statistics in the new conference structure".

## **VII. Conclusion**

In general, participants at the third session of the Committee on Statistics were very satisfied with the ownership, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Committee.

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**Annex I**  
**Questionnaire results**

**Overall relevance of the session**

<b>1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
a. The agenda items were timely and relevant to issues and trends regarding statistics in the Asian and Pacific region.	21(78%)	6(22%)	0	0	0
b. The agenda items reflected the needs and priorities of my country.	14(52%)	9(33%)	4(15%)	0	0
c. The benefits of my delegation's attendance justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office).	17(63%)	10(37%)	0	0	0

**Organization**

<b>2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
a. The pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda.	17(63%)	8(30%)	2(7%)	0	0
b. The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner.	13(48%)	10(37%)	3(11%)	1(4%)	0
c. The Committee used efficiently the time available for discussions.	14(52%)	11(41%)	1(4%)	1(4%)	0
d. The conference services provided by the secretariat were efficient.	19(70%)	6(22%)	2(7%)	0	0
e. The organization of work prior to/in between Committee sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Committee.	15(56%)	9(33%)	3(11%)	0	0

**Substantive outcome of the session**

<b>3. To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
a. Agenda item 2a, Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics: Proposal of the Bureau for future work <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse the proposal of the Bureau.</i>	12(44%)	13(48%)	2(7%)	0	0

<b>3 To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
b. Agenda item 2b, Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics: Review of the functioning of the Committee <i>Expected outcome: Member States discuss and decide on issues related to the functioning of the Committee since its inaugural session.</i>	10(37%)	15(56%)	2(7%)	0	0
c. Agenda item 2c, Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics: Monitoring the work of the Committee <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse the proposed approaches to monitoring the work of the Committee.</i>	12(44%)	14(52%)	1(4%)	0	0
d. Agenda item 3a, Regional initiatives: Economic statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse the implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, as the guide for national capacity development in the area of economic statistics.</i>	10(37%)	15(56%)	2(7%)	0	0
e. Agenda item 3b, Regional initiatives: Population and social statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States discuss and endorse the Core set of population and social statistics as a guide for national statistical capacity development; discuss and endorse the strategic approaches and work plan of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics.</i>	10(37%)	15(56%)	2(7%)	0	0
f. Agenda item 3c, Regional initiatives: Civil registration and vital statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse the regional strategic plan for improving civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and provide guidance on approaches to ensure the successful implementation of the regional strategic plan.</i>	14(52%)	11(41%)	1(4%)	0	0
g. Agenda item 3d, Regional initiatives: Modernization of statistical information systems <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse the workplan to modernize official statistics in the Asia-Pacific region.</i>	14(52%)	9(33%)	3(11%)	0	0
h. Agenda item 4a, Global initiatives: Agricultural and rural statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics as well as approve the proposal on the composition of the Regional Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.</i>	13(48%)	13(48%)	1(4%)	0	0

<b>3. To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
<p>i. Agenda item 4b, Global initiatives: Environment Statistics</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States are updated on recent developments in the area of environment statistics, including the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environment-Economic Accounting. Member States also consider approaches to regional cooperation towards improved and more integrated environment statistics in the context of sustainable development and green economy policies.</i></p>	12(44%)	10(37%)	5(19%)	0	0
<p>j. Agenda item 4c, Global initiatives: Monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States discuss possible mechanisms to ensure the engagement of national statistical systems in shaping and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda; suggest its role in promoting and coordinating efforts in the Asia-Pacific region in pursuing the work on measuring well-being and express support for the proposal to establish a regional Wikiprogress network as well as provide guidance on the concrete steps to be taken.</i></p>	9(33%)	12(44%)	6(22%)	0	0
<p>k. Agenda item 5a, Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities: Statistical training</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States review and endorse the overall strategy proposed by the Working Group on Coordination of Statistical Training.</i></p>	15(56%)	8(30%)	4(15%)	0	0
<p>l. Agenda item 5b, Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities: Regional partnership</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States review and discuss the work of the Partnership for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific and provide guidance on its future work.</i></p>	12(44%)	12(44%)	3(11%)	0	0
<p>m. Agenda item 6a, Items for information: International Comparison Programme</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States are updated on the results of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme.</i></p>	8(30%)	14(52%)	5(19%)	0	0
<p>n. Agenda item 6b, Items for information: Informal sector and informal employment statistics</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States gain an overview of the work and recent developments in the area of informal sector and informal employment statistics and the plan for future work in the region.</i></p>	8(30%)	12(44%)	5(19%)	0	1(4%)
<p>o. Agenda item 6c, Items for information: Gender statistics</p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Member States gain an overview of the recent developments in the area of gender statistics and the plan for future work in the region.</i></p>	11(41%)	9(33%)	5(19%)	0	1(4%)

<b>3. To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
p. Agenda item 6d, Items for information: Disability statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States gain an overview of the work and recent developments in the area of disability statistics and the plan for future work in the region.</i>	11(41%)	9(33%)	4(15%)	2(7%)	0
q. Agenda item 6e, Items for information: Tourism statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States are updated on the implementation of programme by the World Tourism Organization to build capacity on tourism statistics in Asia and the Pacific.</i>	7(26%)	13(48%)	3(11%)	3(11%)	0
r. Agenda item 6f, Items for information: Statistics of international trade in services <i>Expected outcome: Member States gain an overview of work and recent developments in the area of statistics of international trade in services and highlight the relevant issues in the region.</i>	8(30%)	11(41%)	5(19%)	2(7%)	0
s. Agenda item 6g, Items for information: Labour statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States gain an overview of a process for updating the international standards for labour force and related statistics and provide its views on this matter.</i>	9(33%)	11(41%)	5(19%)	1(4%)	0
t. Agenda item 6h, Items for information: Disaster statistics <i>Expected outcome: Member States gain an overview of the importance of disaster statistics and their standardization in triggering and supporting informed policy decisions by governments and other stakeholders.</i>	7(26%)	13(48%)	4(15%)	1(4%)	1(4%)
u. Agenda item 7a, Reports brought to the attention of the Committee: Bureau <i>Expected outcome: Member States are reported on the activities of the Bureau since the second session of the Committee.</i>	9(33%)	13(48%)	4(15%)	0	0
v. Agenda item 7b, Reports brought to the attention of the Committee: Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific <i>Expected outcome: Member States review and comment on the outcomes of the eighth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.</i>	10(37%)	13(48%)	3(11%)	0	0
w. Agenda item 8, Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the ESCAP secretariat <i>Expected outcome: Member States provide recommendations and guidance on the focus of the short- and longer-term work in the area of statistics, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the programme of work for 2012-2013 and the draft strategic framework for 2014-2015.</i>	10(37%)	12(44%)	3(11%)	0	0

<b>3. To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
x. Agenda item 9, Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session <i>Expected outcome: Member States consider possible draft resolutions on priority issues relating to statistics for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.</i>	11(41%)	13(48%)	1(4%)	0	0

### Committee's general terms of reference

<b>5. To what extent did the Committee session succeed in addressing its terms of reference?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
a. Review and analyze regional trends.	11(41%)	12(44%)	2(7%)	0	1(4%)
b. Identify priorities and emerging issues, particularly those with implications for the work of the secretariat.	15(56%)	10(37%)	2(7%)	0	0
c. Promote dialogue on regional and subregional approaches and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes.	14(52%)	11(41%)	2(7%)	0	0
d. Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges at the regional and subregional levels.	13(48%)	14(52%)	0	0	0

### Participation

<b>7. To what extent do you feel that...</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
a. the Committee session was owned and driven by member States?	17(63%)	6(22%)	4(15%)	0	0
b. the overall outcome of the deliberations is a result of a collaborative effort by members of the Committee?	19(70%)	7(26%)	1(4%)	0	0
c. the draft report adequately reflects the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Committee?	13(48%)	10(37%)	0	0	0
d. the secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session?	18(67%)	8(30%)	0	0	0

### 8 My delegation's attendance at the Committee session was:

18(67%)	mainly from the Capital	
0	mainly from the Capital – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
3(11%)	mainly by representatives in Bangkok (Embassy)	
3(11%)	a combination of the above	
2(4%)	other:	

## **Annex II**

### **Questionnaire comments**

*[Verbatim from the completed questionnaires]*

#### **What was the most relevant agenda item for your delegation?**

- All items on the agenda are very important and relevant. However, the most important and relevant topic is on capacity building.
- All
- - Civil registration and vital statistics; - Economic statistics
- Agenda 3b, 4b, 5b
- Agenda item 6.
- 3a, 3b, 4a, 5a
- 3a
- Modernization of statistical information systems, social statistics and economic statistics, environmental statistics.
- Social Statistics.
- Economic statistics.
- Item 3b.
- All items is relevant to our activity.
- Modernization of statistical information systems; and Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities: Regional partnership.

#### **How can the Committee more effectively address its terms of reference (5 (a-d) above)?**

- With more collaboration with member States in different topics.
- The broader consultation among the member countries will enrich the contents of the documents.
- Well selected agenda in depth and rather limit the agenda to be discussed every year and some agenda can be discussed in alternate year.
- I do not think that the Committee session can effectively address (a) except in the context of the monitoring framework.
- Addresses effectively enough.

#### **Is there anything that could have been done to encourage higher and wider representation from your country at the Committee session?**

- It is nice for us, if you have a report about the level and position of real participants in the meeting for future direction.
- Invitation with provision of findings.
- Everything is changing in Myanmar. The role of CSO is more playing as vital role. How do we collect the data from private sector is the main problem at the present. The NSDs is really needed in Myanmar.

- Since CBS is under National Planning Commission, NPC member's participation in the meeting would care to approve the programs of CBS.
- We need to invited also other partners of Statistics depending on the topics/agenda.
- Russia was adequately represented.
- Extend the period by one day and give little more explanation on the reports.
- To support fund for more participants.

**What was the most successful feature of the Committee session?**

- I think the session were well planned and supported in terms of the topics, presentations and discussions. The session was also supported wonderfully by the staff involved.
- It was that floor was open so that every participant could make address without any difficulties.
- The discussion on Economic Social and Environment Statistics were quite comprehensive.
- Sharing knowledge between countries; preparedness for playing a better role in the regional activities; endorsing very good action plans in different aspects in the region and clarifying the future works.
- Side event.
- The Committee is highly achieved the objectives of the session, where Committee has endorsed most of the documents, which proposed by secretariat and steering groups. Those documents will serve as guideline for member States to implement in each field, such as economic statistics includes agricultural statistics, social statistics, environment statistics as well as capacity building and partnership.
- Very conducive environment which give us to make wide-range of deliberation.
- All were good.
- I gained wide understanding on the matters concerned with the region and to assets Myanmar's position. I expect to get technical assistances to promote, complete of quality statistics.
- Strong prior work of working groups/steering groups that led to well-developed and consulted papers (e.g. statistical training, social stats etc).
- Session on the ICT. Use of ICT on data collection/storage/analysis dissemination.
- Identifying emerging needs and having section agendas to make statistics relevant trend needs.
- 1. High-level meeting before the Committee; 2. A large number of substantive Committee decisions; 3. Song (final) of course.
- Quality of reports and work of the Secretariat.
- Agriculture Statistics.

**What was the least successful feature of the Committee session?**

- Speakers weren't reminded of objectives, in most cases speakers deviate from the subjects.
- Gathering the experts from statistic sectors of the country level in the region for more relation and more integrity and cooperation.
- A paper on environment statistics.
- A paper on environment statistics.
- Discussion of ESCAP secretariat programme of work and budgetary – we didn't confront the reality of achieving the ambitious programme of work.
- Session on global/regional partnerships where Committee must effectively coordinated.
- Agenda 4c is an important one. Needs to be further discussed and thought through as consensus is difficult.

**Please provide any additional comments you may have on the Committee session and further suggestions on how we may improve on secretariat preparations for and the servicing of future session:**

- Side-events very well featured.
- 1. Being in touch with member States during the time between sessions; 2. Some meetings of steering groups and subcommittees can be hold in candidate countries such as Iran.; 3. The documents should be prepared more earlier. Thank you again for your efforts.
- I would suggest to prepare more cases on best practices in member countries in different areas of statistical activity.
- Organizing side events were very good. ICT session would have been better if slides of the presentation were distributed. When no side events are organized probably lunch can be reduced to one hour and finish early. Lunches are better than dinners.
- More priorities should be given in the regional program to strengthen ICT use in the countries lagging behind in the region. (Myanmar is one of lagging behind countries in the region and open door policy is adopted in every field. We want to produce better quality statistics but we have no capacities.)
- Priorities should be given in the regional program to strengthen ICT use in countries lagging behind in the region.
- In the context of upcoming conference structure reform, it is most desirable to retain a Committee on statistics in the new conference structure.
- It's very good and efficient.

**Annex III**  
**Achievement of substantive outcomes**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Substantive Outcome</b>	<b>Quantitative survey response</b>	<b>Qualitative assessment based on a review of the draft report of the session</b>
Agenda item 2a, Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics: Proposal of the Bureau for future work	Member States review and endorse the proposal of the Bureau.	93% (25/27) agree to a great or good extent	The Committee recognized the importance of continuing the ongoing regional initiatives to achieve its overarching strategic goals, and expressed profound appreciation to its Bureau.
Agenda item 2b, Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics: Review of the functioning of the Committee	Member States discuss and decide on issues related to the functioning of the Committee since its inaugural session.	93% (25/27) agree to a great or good extent	<p>After weighing different modalities and implications, the Committee expressed that the current frequency of the Committee session should be maintained. The members expressed openness to considering alternative arrangements, to engage Committee members for consultations.</p> <p>The Committee also recommended that the Commission maintain the current reporting arrangements regarding the Governing Council of SIAP.</p>
Agenda item 2c, Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Statistics: Monitoring the work of the Committee	Member States review and endorse the proposed approaches to monitoring the work of the Committee.	96% (26/27) agree to a great or good extent	Recognizing the importance of monitoring for direction and accountability, the Committee stressed that monitoring should be embedded in individual statistical programmes to assess the achievement of strategic goals of the Committee.
Agenda item 3a, Regional initiatives: Economic statistics	Member States review and endorse the implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,	93% (25/27) agree to a great or good extent	The Committee commended the successful development of the Implementation Plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific; reaffirmed that the Core Set of Economic Statistics was a regional guideline for the development

	as the guide for national capacity development in the area of economic statistics.		of capacities to produce and disseminate basic economic statistics; requested the Bureau to reconstitute the Steering Group with suitable terms of reference; recommended that the implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 takes into account the Implementation Plan; stressed the importance of quality assurance and metadata guidance for successful implementation of the Regional Programme; emphasized the need for the implementation of the Regional Programme to link with other ongoing initiatives, such as in the area of agricultural and financial statistics; and strongly encouraged member States to develop national strategic plans for the improvement of economic statistics as a part of the implementation of the Regional Programme
Agenda item 3b, Regional initiatives: Population and social statistics	Member States discuss and endorse the Core set of population and social statistics as a guide for national statistical capacity development; discuss and endorse the strategic approaches and work plan of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics.	93% (25/27) agree to a great or good extent	<p>The Committee agreed to the inclusion of population statistics in the scope of the work of the Technical Advisory Group; discussed and endorsed the Core set of population and social statistics; and expressed support for using the core set as a basis for reviewing current national statistical practices and capacities and developing a regional programme to address gaps.</p> <p>The Committee further expressed appreciation for the strategic approach taken by the Technical Advisory Group in developing a core set of population and social statistics, and requested that the Technical Advisory Group develop a more detailed work plan for 2013-2014.</p> <p>In endorsing the proposed core set, the Committee recognized its establishment as an important global milestone in the area of social statistics development.</p>
Agenda item 3c, Regional initiatives:	Member States review and endorse the regional strategic	96% (26/27) agree to a great	The Committee recognized that the identification of a core set of vital statistics could encourage improvement

<p>Civil registration and vital statistics</p>	<p>plan for improving civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and provide guidance on approaches to ensure the successful implementation of the regional strategic plan.</p>	<p>or good extent</p>	<p>and could be used to monitor progress in the implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>The Committee also recognized the diversity of country systems across the region; urged member States to develop national multisectoral improvement strategies for improving their CRVS system; encouraged effective coordination and cooperation among relevant government entities; and urged development partners to effectively coordinate support at the global, regional and national levels.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to the proposed arrangement for linking the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan to the Regional Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Agenda item 3d, Regional initiatives: Modernization of statistical information systems</p>	<p>Member States review and endorse the workplan to modernize official statistics in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>	<p>85% (23/27) agree to a great or good extent</p>	<p>Recognizing the importance and urgency of modernizing national statistical information systems for addressing the evolving field of statistics, and the relevance of statistics across developed and developing countries, the Committee recommended that the strategic body be linked with the newly named global High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services to avoid duplication and maximize efficiency.</p>
<p>Agenda item 4a, Global initiatives: Agricultural and rural statistics</p>	<p>Member States review and endorse Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics as well as approve the proposal on the composition of the Regional Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.</p>	<p>96% (26/27) agree to a great or good extent</p>	<p>The Committee fully endorsed the structure and content of the Regional Action Plan, noting with appreciation the development of a dedicated training component, and considered it a model to be followed in the development of other regional statistics development initiatives.</p>

<p>Agenda item 4b, Global initiatives: Environment Statistics</p>	<p>Member States are updated on recent developments in the area of environment statistics, including the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environment-Economic Accounting. Member States also consider approaches to regional cooperation towards improved and more integrated environment statistics in the context of sustainable development and green economy policies.</p>	<p>81% (22/27) agree to a great or good extent</p>	<p>The Committee recognized that countries in the region were at different stages of development of environment statistics and would continue to face diverse environmental challenges; stressed the importance of SEEA implementation while recognizing the challenges faced by countries and the need for flexibility; noted the pressing need for increased knowledge of the present and emerging international methodologies and agreed standards and guidelines; and encouraged national statistical offices to engage with groups working in the area of environment statistics.</p>
<p>Agenda item 4c, Global initiatives: Monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015</p>	<p>Member States discuss possible mechanisms to ensure the engagement of national statistical systems in shaping and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda; suggest its role in promoting and coordinating efforts in the Asia-Pacific region in pursuing the work on measuring well-being and express support for the proposal to establish a regional Wikiprogress network as well as provide guidance on the concrete steps to be taken.</p>	<p>77% (21/27) agree to a great or good extent</p>	<p>While taking note of the multiple ongoing processes to consult on the global development agenda beyond 2015, including the development of global sustainable development goals, the Committee stressed that national experiences and lessons learned from the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals could be valuable inputs to the global, regional and national consultations on the global development agenda beyond 2015. The Committee welcomed the report by OECD on measuring well-being and fostering the progress of societies; recognized the important initiatives undertaken by a number of member States to develop measures that complement the gross domestic product; and suggested that, as an initial step, an informal group of experts currently actively among countries be formed to share experiences and ideas.</p>
<p>Agenda item 5a, Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities:</p>	<p>Member States review and endorse the overall strategy proposed by the Working Group on Coordination of Statistical</p>	<p>86% (23/27) agree to a great or good extent</p>	<p>The Committee endorsed the strategy for improving regional coordination of statistical training as proposed by the Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training.</p>

Statistical training	Training.		
Agenda item 5b, Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities: Regional partnership	Member States review and discuss the work of the Partnership for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific and provide guidance on its future work.	89% (24/27) agree to a great or good extent	The Committee expressed appreciation for the work of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific, and encouraged partners to continue to collaborate and to further align their work and available resources with the Committee's regional statistics development programmes, in particular their training components.
Agenda item 6a, Items for information: International Comparison Programme	Member States are updated on the results of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme.	82% (22/27) agree to a great or good extent	Item included.
Agenda item 6b, Items for information: Informal sector and informal employment statistics	Member States gain an overview of the work and recent developments in the area of informal sector and informal employment statistics and the plan for future work in the region.	74% (20/27) agree to a great or good extent	Item included.
Agenda item 6c, Items for information: Gender statistics	Member States gain an overview of the recent developments in the area of gender statistics and the plan for future work in the region.	74% (20/27) agree to a great or good extent	Item included.
Agenda item 6d, Items for information: Disability statistics	Member States gain an overview of the work and recent developments in the area of disability statistics and the plan for future work in the region.	74% (20/27) agree to a great or good extent	Item included.
Agenda item 6e, Items for information: Tourism statistics	Member States are updated on the implementation of programme by the World Tourism Organization to build capacity on tourism statistics in	74% (20/27) agree to a great or good extent	Item included.

	<b>Asia and the Pacific.</b>		
<b>Agenda item 6f, Items for information: Statistics of international trade in services</b>	<b>Member States gain an overview of work and recent developments in the area of statistics of international trade in services and highlight the relevant issues in the region.</b>	<b>71% (19/27) agree to a great or good extent</b>	<b>Item included.</b>
<b>Agenda item 6g, Items for information: Labour statistics</b>	<b>Member States gain an overview of a process for updating the international standards for labour force and related statistics and provide its views on this matter.</b>	<b>74% (20/27) agree to a great or good extent</b>	<b>Item included.</b>
<b>Agenda item 6h, Items for information: Disaster statistics</b>	<b>Member States gain an overview of the importance of disaster statistics and their standardization in triggering and supporting informed policy decisions by governments and other stakeholders.</b>	<b>74% (20/27) agree to a great or good extent</b>	<b>Item included.</b>
<b>Agenda item 7a, Reports brought to the attention of the Committee: Bureau</b>	<b>Member States are reported on the activities of the Bureau since the second session of the Committee.</b>	<b>82% (22/27) agree to a great or good extent</b>	<b>The Committee expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its excellent work, and welcomed the establishment, on the initiative of its outgoing Chair, of an informal network of the Chairs of the regional statistical intergovernmental forums.</b>
<b>Agenda item 7b, Reports brought to the attention of the Committee: Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</b>	<b>Member States review and comment on the outcomes of the eighth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.</b>	<b>85% (23/27) agree to a great or good extent</b>	<b>Several countries recognized the importance of the courses by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and expressed concern that two such courses would be discontinued based on the result of the recent training needs survey by JICA. The Committee emphasized the necessity of improving communication between JICA country offices and national statistical offices of member States to ensure that the surveys properly reflect the training needs of national statistical systems.</b>

<p><b>Agenda item 8, Consideration of the future focus of the statistics subprogramme of the ESCAP secretariat</b></p>	<p><b>Member States provide recommendations and guidance on the focus of the short- and longer-term work in the area of statistics, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the programme of work for 2012- 2013 and the draft strategic framework for 2014-2015.</b></p>	<p><b>82% (22/27) agree to a great or good extent</b></p>	<p><b>One delegation drew the attention of the Committee to the importance of the work on ICT indicators and associated emerging issues, such as trade in ICT services and gender dimensions. That delegation recalled the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and expressed appreciation for the organization of the side event on ICT statistics.</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda item 9, Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session</b></p>	<p><b>Member States consider possible draft resolutions on priority issues relating to statistics for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.</b></p>	<p><b>89% (24/27) agree to a great or good extent</b></p>	<p><b>The Committee welcomed the commitment by member States to sponsor and co-sponsor draft resolutions as follows: (a) In connection with recommendation 3/1, Australia expressed its intention to sponsor a draft resolution. Indonesia and Samoa and offered to co- sponsor the draft resolution; (b) In connection with recommendation 3/2, the Philippines expressed its intention to sponsor a draft resolution. Australia offered to co-sponsor the draft resolution.</b></p>