

## **Regional initiative to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

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In response to existing and emerging demand for high-quality population and social statistics, national governments in the region through the Committee on Statistics of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific set out to ensure that by 2020 all countries will have the capacity to produce a basic range of such statistics. A group of national and international experts was tasked to provide recommendations on the strategy to achieve this goal. The group developed a framework for national statistical capacity strengthening. Anchoring to a core set of population and social statistics, the framework introduces the policy context that give rise to the core set of statistics; tools and options of data collection, compilation, processing, analysis, dissemination and use; technical standards and guidelines; roles responsibilities of various national and international stakeholders, including the national statistical offices. The framework is to be used as a guide to focus national efforts, improve regional cooperation and mobilize support of all relevant partners. The session should be of interest to academics, students of statistics programs, private sector statistical companies, as well as staff members of national and international statistical agencies.

**Key Words:** National statistical capacity, official statistics