Statistical Commission

Background document

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Items for information: Demographic Statistics

**Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated statistics:
Programme of Work, 2018 to 2023**

Prepared by Titchfield City Group on Ageing
and Age-disaggregated statistics:

Introduction
The Titchfield City Group on Ageing statistics was created at the forty-ninth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2018 (ref 49/118). The purpose of the group is to contribute to identifying gaps and establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics and data on the major of dimensions related to ageing and age-disaggregated data across the life course. This work will be carried out in collaboration with United Nations bodies and other organizations concerned with multiple aspects of ageing-related and age-disaggregated statistics. The overall objective of the Titchfield Group is to develop standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data, and encourage countries to do so, by playing a leading role in the dissemination of good practices across the world and in facilitating collaborations between National Statistics Organisations. The Titchfield City Group will also address existing issues and deficits in data on ageing.

The Titchfield City Group will carry out its work through holding face-to-face meetings, with technical sessions (once a year); through task team meetings and electronic discussion forums on specific strands, with designated membership from national statistical offices and other participants of the Group, including civil society and academia; through commissioned documents; and through representation and information-sharing at ageing-related conferences and proceedings. National statistical offices will assist the Chair by taking leadership roles in task teams set up to address specific issues and deliverables.

This report is transmitted for information to the 50th session of the Statistical Commission, and provides the Commission will an update on the progress in the establishment of the Titchfield City Group.

Work strands
The objectives of the group will be delivered within six strands of work. These are:

1. **Assessment of current evidence and identifying gaps**

The first work strand will aim to provide a thorough assessment of the availability of the age-disaggregated data in the existing surveys of countries around the world. In the process, it will draw conclusions on lessons learned from countries at different stages of production of evidence on ageing-related and age-disaggregated data. It will review critically some of the international survey instruments currently available and provide recommendations towards their improvement in the collection of age-disaggregated data. This strand will also provide information to advise Work Strand 4 on what are the data gaps in meeting the 'leaving no one behind' pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Work Strand 1 may lead to recommendations for the development of a

platform to disseminate the baseline information about the availability of age-disaggregated data in the most recent year.

2. Horizon scanning / future needs of data users

This strand is closely linked with the assessment of current evidence, but with a focus on anticipating future data needs and how well countries are currently set up to meet these needs. For example, will countries be able to effectively measure changes in the need for housing, health, transport and social care that could occur with larger numbers of older people? Will they be in a good position to measure the participation of older people in the economy and society?

This activity will also consider improvements in data such as linkage of administrative data, Big Data and increased use of longitudinal studies to identify future opportunities for better evidence.

3. Conceptual and analytical framework for comprehensive information on older adults

The focus for this strand is to clearly identify the concepts that need to be measured and ensure consistency of understanding. It will include examining the different needs of countries and considering constraints (such as funding or societal) that affect the quality of the data and definitions used. The main deliverable will be a conceptual framework for ageing related statistics building on existing work and recognising regional variation. It will achieve the following outcomes:

      a. A common language around ageing related statistics
      b. Better insight into the data requirements of ageing related policy issues
      c. Re-thinking ageing to recognise the life course

As part of developing the conceptual framework, we will develop a think piece on measuring the autonomy, participation and contribution of older persons. This will discuss the data needed to address the complex challenges associated with older age, notably the individual capacities as well as the social, economic and cultural environments enabling women and men as they grow older to be autonomous, able to participate and make contributions to their communities and wider societies.

A conceptual framework for ageing statistics will need to have the flexibility to incorporate new and novel developments in data collection beyond surveys e.g. big data and data science, and consider ethical issues related to data linking and use. The development of the conceptual framework will be used to assist Work Strand 1 in the assessment of evidence and to identify gaps.

4. Age-disaggregation and ageing-related statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Framework

This strand responds to the momentum and opportunities to address gaps in ageing statistics and age disaggregated data created by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and the relevance of the SDGs to core areas of policy affecting older people.

In collaboration with Work Strand 1, this strand will deliver an assessment of the available data to monitor the pledge to 'leave no one behind' in relation to older people.

This work strand will interface with the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and provide input on the data needs to monitor the SDG framework for older people. In close collaboration with Work Strand 5, this strand will notably contribute to the IAEG-SDGs on norms and standards for producing ageing-related data and on the harmonization of age cohorts for the disaggregation of SDG indicators. Where relevant, this strand will build on existing efforts and collaborate with other key actors to advance age-disaggregation of SDG indicators and improve the availability of ageing-related SDG data, including (but not limited to) the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys.

In addition, this work strand will endeavour to pilot innovative approaches to overcoming challenges faced by NSOs in relation to producing age disaggregated data, such as sampling issues, and share best practices in relation to the availability and presentation of SDG data in relation to older people.

5. Standardisation and Harmonisation Guidelines
Age-standardisation is important as it will enable country by country comparison and provide meaningful measures of progress towards the SDGs. Harmonisation of ageing-related data and concepts are also important so that countries have consistency of data and can draw suitable comparisons. It also enables countries further to share best practice with others and gain strength in data from other similar countries, particularly where funding may limit the possibility of new data collections. There is a strong link with the 'Assessment of evidence' of Work Strand 1 and 'conceptual and analytical framework' of Work Strand 3.

The main output from this strand will be a published set of guidelines that countries can use to achieve better harmonisation and standardisation of definitions and data sources. It will set out a number of principles to guide the production of ageing-related statistics by NSOs, covering issues such as a definition of what age and ageing should refer to e.g. 45+, 50+, 60+. Guidance could also promote methodological practices such as moving towards adopting a life course approach, or creating more granular data using single years rather, or promoting the incorporation of administrative data.

6. Sharing information on good practices; Development of a platform for sharing information
This strand will develop a platform for sharing information reflecting the value in sharing best practices internationally. This could involve sharing country specific case-studies,

academic work, innovative work using new sources or techniques and other work that is beneficial to improving data on ageing.

Timetable of deliverables

1. **Assessment of Evidence and identifying gaps**	March 18-19 (Yr 1)	March 19-20 (Yr 2)	March 20-21 (Yr 3)	March 21-22 (Yr 4)	March 22-23 (Yr 5)
Scoping document – setting the parameters	X				
Stocktake of data sources (Phase 1)		X			
Stocktake of data sources (Phase 2)		X			
Write country position paper			X		
Assessment checking by identified country representatives			X		
Document identifying gaps in evidence				X	
Report on data relevant to current government policies					X

2. **Horizon Scanning / Future Needs**	March 18-19 (Yr 1)	March 19-20 (Yr 2)	March 20-21 (Yr 3)	March 21-22 (Yr 4)	March 22-23 (Yr 5)
Report on suitability of sources for the future and recommendations to address shortfalls				X	
Actions to take in response to changes in countries outlook / humanitarian crisis situations				X	

3. **Conceptual and analytical framework**	March 18-19 (Yr 1)	March 19-20 (Yr 2)	March 20-21 (Yr 3)	March 21-22 (Yr 4)	March 22-23 (Yr 5)
Define what we mean by ageing (are we focussed on the ageing population or older adults?) and age disaggregation. What are the key constructs that need to be measured?	X				
Case studies: Examples of where evidence on ageing has been improved and or age disaggregation from NSOs/countries.	X				
Examples of conceptual frameworks	X				
Key concepts via think piece	X				
Analytical framework		X			
Knowledge translation; mechanisms for countries to translate knowledge into policies/decisions		X			

4. **Review / analysis of SDGs and collaboration with other groups**	March 18-19	March 19-20	March 20-21	March 21-22	March 22-23

	(Yr 1)	(Yr 2)	(Yr 3)	(Yr 4)	(Yr 5)
Produce list of priority SDG indicators for ageing and age disaggregation and other dimensions. Consider flexibility of country specific requirements.	X?				
Review/consultation on SDG indicators	X?				
Guidelines for IAEG-SDGs on standardised age cohorts (overlap with group C)	X				
Compile stakeholder list for all work strands. How do we want to collaborate/level of involvement?		X	X		

5. **Standardisation and harmonisation guidelines**	March 18-19 (Yr 1)	March 19-20 (Yr 2)	March 20-21 (Yr 3)	March 21-22 (Yr 4)	March 22-23 (Yr 5)
Work with group A on assessment of current data/sources on levels of current harmonisation/standardisation			X		
Draw on lessons from organisations who have already harmonised measures and developed guidelines.		X			
Guidance to countries on standard approaches to enable global comparisons, inequality analysis, projection approaches				X	
Develop library of tools for countries to use in data collection and analysis to facilitate standardisation and harmonisation.				X	

6. **Sharing information on good practice; Development of a platform for sharing information**	March 18-19 (Yr 1)	March 19-20 (Yr 2)	March 20-21 (Yr 3)	March 21-22 (Yr 4)	March 22-23 (Yr 5)
Assessment of suitable platforms (e.g Data Shield and SDMX)		X			
Assessment of legal and ethical barriers for sharing data		X			
Adoption of a data sharing platform for information			X		
Repository of information				X	