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 Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Governing Council

**Twenty-First session**

Chiba, Japan, 1 and 2 December 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Matters arising from the twentieth session of the Governing Council****Matters arising from the twentieth session of the Governing Council****Note by the secretariat**

The present document provides a summary of actions that have been or are being taken by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to implement recommendations made by the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

| <b><u>Matter arising</u></b>  | <b><u>Action taken/current status</u></b>   |
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| <p>The Governing Council (GC) of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) expressed its appreciation for the actions and activities undertaken by the Institute to implement the recommendations made at the nineteenth session.</p> <p>The Governing Council noted the continued increase in both in-person and online training courses.</p> <p>The council reviewed the performance of the Institute and expressed appreciation for its work in developing new training courses.</p> | <p>In 2025, the Institute conducted courses and webinars in both face-to-face and online mode. The mode of the course was decided based on scalability, costs, and complexity of training, among others. Until September 2025, the Institute conducted 27 face-to-face and online courses including workshops and webinars.</p> <p>Up to September 2025, out of the 27 courses developed 16 were new courses.</p>   |
| <p>The Governing Council acknowledged member States that had provided financial and in-kind contributions, including hosting regional, subregional and national courses, translating course materials and providing relevant expertise. The Governing Council expressed its appreciation for the upscaling of activities by the Institute in the Pacific and central Asia.</p>  | <p>Among the courses conducted up to September, the Institute successfully organized 16 face-to-face courses and 11 online courses during the reporting period through the generous in-kind contributions of Member States. Contributions were in the form of joint hosting of regional, subregional, and country courses, as well as translation of course materials and providing technical expertise.</p> <p>The Institute gratefully acknowledges the continued financial support of its Member States and wishes to particularly recognize the</p> |

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|   | <p>Government of Tonga for reinstating its contribution to SIAP.</p> <p>The Institute delivered four face-to-face subregional training courses focusing on Pacific and Central Asian regions.</p>  |
| <p>The Governing Council took note of several suggestions for training courses, including training for managers of national statistical offices and on the topics of productive and agile organizations, climate change and disaster-related statistics, the System of National Accounts 2025, big data, artificial intelligence and new data sources.</p> <p>The Governing Council appreciated the range of courses planned for 2025 and encouraged the continued delivery of in-person and online courses as well as the virtual attendance by Institute staff in international meetings, wherever tenable, to optimize the use of Institute's resources.</p> <p>The Governing Council endorsed the strategic plan for 2025–2029, which had been formulated with input from the Friends of the Chair group. The Governing Council called upon members and associate members, international and regional organizations and other partners to further enhance their collaboration with the Institute in supporting the implementation of the strategic plan for 2025–2029. The Governing Council noted the importance for the implementation of the strategic plan of new courses on the use of new data sources, the use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and the facilitation of regional collaboration, as appropriate.</p> | <p>(i) Aligned with the priorities of SIAP's Strategic Plan, the Institute conducted the following courses in 2025, covering the following domains and topics:</p> <p>(ii) The Institute conducted courses/webinars on environment, climate change, System of National Accounts (SNA) 2025, social statistics, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning.</p> <p>(iii) SIAP organized regional courses on Big Data, Machine Learning, and Data Visualization. A course was conducted in Indonesia in February 2025, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), to strengthen partnerships with the Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science.</p> <p>(iv) Data governance and ethics courses were conducted in India, both as a regional and as a national-level course.</p> <p>(v) All e-learning courses of SIAP, including self-paced courses, were uploaded to the upgraded Learning Management System (LMS) version 4.5.5. These courses are open to all and provided free of charge.</p> <p>(vi) The e-learning courses feature new pedagogical activities, with interactive widgets and integrate the use of AI in videos and live webinars. Course design takes into consideration Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), to the extent possible.</p> <p>(vii) The Institute participated virtually in international fora and conferences, such as the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting; UN Committee of Experts on Big Data; Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Asia and the Pacific; Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the Applications of Big Data and Data Science to Fill Gender Data Gaps; and UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics. The Institute will also virtually participate in the upcoming 3rd International Conference on Data Science and Official Statistics (ICDSOS) 2025.</p> |

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|  | (viii) The Institute contributed resource persons to regional and country courses organized by partner organizations, such as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Pacific Community (SPC). The Institute also collaborated through virtual participation in international workshops such as the North and Central Asia Sub-Regional Training on Data Governance for Digital Transformation in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the High-level roundtable on SNA/BPM Update organized by IMF capacity development center in Almaty, Kazakhstan.   |
| <p>The Governing Council welcomed the report of the subgroup on gender statistics training. It thanked the subgroup for its continued efforts to build capacity in the region on gender statistics and expressed its support for activities planned for 2025.</p>  | <p>In response to country requests and guided by the revised Gender Statistics Training Curriculum (developed through the subgroup), two national courses on gender statistics were conducted, targeting both data users and data producers. In addition, two regional courses were delivered, emphasizing the use of gender statistics for SDG monitoring, and leveraging big data for gender statistics.</p>  |
| <p>The GC encouraged the Institute to continue its collaboration with the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) and facilitate collaboration among national training institutes in the region together to build sustainable statistical capacities worldwide through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training.</p> | <p>The Institute is a member of the Task Team 1 on Learning Culture of GIST and is closely working with GIST. The Institute in collaboration with GIST, conducted a country course on Statistical Training needs Assessment Tool (STAT) developed by the task team 1 in collaboration with the National Statistical Systems Training Academy in India.</p> <p>To facilitate collaboration among national training institutes, the Institute held its first meeting with participants from national training institutes on 9 July 2025. The group discussed measures to strengthen collaboration, including enhancing peer-to-peer learning, sharing best practices and exploring approaches to resource mobilization.</p> |
| <p>The Governing Council reviewed and endorsed the work programme and financial plan of the Institute for 2025. It expressed appreciation to members and associate members for completing the annual training needs survey and noted its importance in guiding the workplan of the Institute.</p>  | <p>The Institute conducted the Training Needs Survey during May-June 2025 and received 25 responses. The results of the survey and courses conducted in 2025 are covered in agenda item 3. The draft workplan and Financial Plan of the Institute for 2026 is reflected in Agenda item 4 of GC. The draft workplan for 2026 is aligned with the broad sectors under the Strategic Plan and the priority areas of ESCAP and member States.</p>   |

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| <p>The GC requested the following regarding the preliminary findings and recommendations in the evaluation report for the 2020-24 period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The full and final evaluation report and the management response be made available with sufficient time for the Governing Council’s consideration, in accordance with rule 3 of its rules of procedure. The recommendations in the evaluations can only be implemented with the explicit endorsement of the Governing Council.</li> <li>2. The final version of the next evaluation report of the Institute be made available to the Governing Council with sufficient time to allow it to inform the strategic plan for 2030–2034.</li> <li>3. The Institute continues to develop the annual work programme and financial plan in alignment with the strategic plan for review and endorsement by the Governing Council and that the Institute does not prepare two-year project documents, since annual plans enable the Institute to better respond to the evolving capacity needs of members and associate members and the requests of the Governing Council. Furthermore, the Governing Council considered it unnecessary for the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to perform any additional peer review.</li> <li>4. GC recommended that the Institute consider reporting on the impact of its work including through case studies and storytelling</li> </ol> | <p>The full and final evaluation report was shared with Member States via the 81st Commission website six weeks prior to the Commission session.</p> <p>At its 9th plenary meeting on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the Secretariat’s response to the recommendations contained in the note by the Secretariat on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/27). The Secretariat’s response to these recommendations include that the Institute continue to develop its annual work programme and financial plan in alignment with the strategic plan for review and endorsement by the Governing Council, without preparing additional two-year project documents or requiring further peer review.</p> <p>The Secretariat has acknowledged the timing anomaly of the 2020-2024 evaluation and has committed to ensuring that the next evaluation will be conducted in a timely manner, so that its recommendations can inform the formulation of the 2030–2034 strategic plan of SIAP.</p> <p>SIAP’s Learning Management System has integrated a feedback mechanism that allows pre- and post-training evaluation of the course. The Institute likewise co-published a paper entitled “From Gender Data Gaps to Gains: A Sustainable Approach to Training and Capacity Building in Asia and the Pacific” which showcases the Lessons of Women Count (a global UN Women Initiative) on statistical capacity building. Updates on the training courses, key statistical events, and other initiatives are disseminated through SIAP’s quarterly newsletter.</p> |