

**Expert Group Meeting on
Setting the Scope of Social Statistics**
United Nations Statistics Division
in collaboration with the Siena Group on Social Statistics
New York, 6-9 May 2003

**Report of the Expert Group Meeting on
Setting the Scope of Social Statistics**

New York, 6-9 May 2003

* This document is being issued without formal editing.

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A. Introduction

Background and objective of the Meeting

1. The United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Setting the Scope of Social Statistics was convened in New York on 6-9 May 2003. The meeting was organized by the Social and Housing Statistics Section of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the Siena Group on Social Statistics. The Expert Group Meeting was planned in response to the Statistical Commission's recognition, at its thirty-third session, of the need for a more systematic development of social statistics.¹
2. The objective of the meeting was to propose a programme of work for furthering the development of social statistics, with a view to presenting it to the thirty-fifth session of Statistical Commission for action (for an elaborated statement of the purpose, see information flyer for the Expert Group Meeting, attached as Annex 1).
3. The meeting brought together national, sub-regional, regional and international experts on social statistics. Participants included experts from 18 countries, six international organizations and seven regional or sub-regional organizations and institutions. The list of participants is given in Annex 2.

Opening session

4. The meeting was opened by Mr. Willem de Vries, Officer-in-Charge, UNSD. In his opening statement, Mr. de Vries reiterated the action taken by the thirty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission² regarding this Expert Group Meeting, urging the group to be focused, to deliver clear outcomes and develop a time frame for achieving the proposed goals, and to review current mechanisms for coordinating activities in social statistics, with particular attention to setting good practices and standards.
5. Ms Mary Chamie, Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, UNSD, welcomed the participants. She introduced the Demographic Yearbook, highlighting its importance to the compilation and dissemination of social statistics, and expressed the need for social statisticians to take action on the future design of social statistics at the international and national levels.
6. Mr. Pieter Everaers, representing the Siena Group on Social Statistics, expressed the Siena Group's support of the expert group meeting, and reminded the group that the aim of the meeting was to design a global work plan with new ideas for social statistics. He noted that the work of the Siena Group has thus far focused mainly on the developed world, and expressed the need to expand the group to include developing countries in its future meetings, work plan and training programmes.

¹ E/CN.3/2002/31 para. 18 (b).

² E/CN.3/2003/34 para. 6 (b).

Organization of the Meeting

7. As laid out in the Organization of Work (Annex 3), the Meeting was structured along the following main topics:

- The current state of social statistics;
- Proposed strategies and approaches;
- Defining a concrete programme of work for social statistics.

A number of papers were presented under each topic (see Annex 3 for the title of the papers and their respective presenters). The presentations were followed by an open discussion. Background papers contributed by participants provided additional information and enriched the discussion. (Note: all papers are available on the UN website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/workshops/socialstat.>)

8. The discussions were structured in a way that progressively led towards the development of the expert group's final recommendations for the development of social statistics. To facilitate the drafting of strategies and recommendations, the expert group divided into three working groups in the afternoon of the second and third days of the meeting in order to focus on their respective tasks (see also para. 37).

9. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Susan Schechter and Messrs. J.K. Banthia, Doug Norris and O. O. Ajayi. The Rapporteur for the meeting was Mr. Charles Kamen.

B. Summary of discussions

10. The salient issues that emerged from the discussions are summarized in the paragraphs that follow. The summary is organized by topic (or issue) rather than by session, and reflects the discussions in the plenary sessions as well as the deliberations of the working groups, inasmuch as they were incorporated in the individual groups' reports to the plenary session.

The need for a conceptual framework

11. The need for a conceptual framework for social statistics was expressed by some experts. There was, however, no agreement on the nature of the framework. The type of framework envisioned ranged from one covering all the components of social statistics that could be used as a map, to something like an umbrella framework, bringing together under it existing frameworks in individual domains of social statistics such as labour and education. Many experts felt that there was no need at this point to develop a general framework, but agreed on the importance of conceptual frameworks within specific domains of social statistics (e.g., labour, education, health, etc.). The experts, however, appreciated the usefulness of existing integrated frameworks like Australia's well-being framework. It was pointed out that it would be useful to bring together in a publication the different frameworks and conceptual models for social statistics.

12. Experts also pointed out that any developmental work on frameworks should not start from scratch but build on what has already been done, and be flexible enough to accommodate different national needs. It was also pointed out that domain-specific frameworks be approached in a more holistic way, paying attention to intersectoral linkages (i.e., linkages among domains), as well as linkages between the social field and the economic and environmental fields.

13. Recognizing the high profile of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the political commitment to produce their associated indicators, experts felt that the MDGs could be used to provide momentum to advance development work in the field of social statistics. While they view the MDGs as a good candidate to initially focus on, experts were in agreement that this was only a convenient and strategic approach and that the MDGs should not determine the full scope of any social statistics initiative.

The importance of standards and metadata

14. Experts agreed that setting international standards for social statistics is of primary importance and discussed this issue at length. They felt that international standards (i.e., concepts, definitions, classifications, methods, guidelines, principles and best practices) are not adequate for many areas of social statistics. There is an urgent need to evaluate, revise and supplement existing standards, and to develop them in areas where they are non-existent or deficient; for example, in unpaid work and in new dimensions of social statistics initiated by the *new economy* such as time use measurement and the measurement of outcomes of health and education services.

15. It was pointed out that the responsibility for developing and/or improving international statistical standards rests with the agency responsible for the respective subject matter area, while the responsibility for standards for which there is no obvious custodian is assigned by the UN Statistical Commission through existing mechanisms and bodies for coordination of statistical work between international agencies. In developing such standards, each agency interacts with its main national counterpart, which in many cases is a government institution that is different from the NSO.

16. Experts recognized the need to balance national needs with international requirements (e.g., for comparability). In general, it was felt that national standards should be developed with international standards as the guide, recognizing that the development and improvement of international standards has to be based on the development work and experience in countries. When national standards already exist or when national conditions are such that it is not feasible to follow recommended international standards, efforts should be made to link or convert to international standards, even if not at the finest level of detail, to generate statistics that are reasonably comparable with those of other countries.

17. It was emphasized that standards, whether national or international, should be developed according to a process that satisfies specified criteria with respect to consultations, transparency, milestones, timeliness, monitoring mechanisms and use of existing institutional structures.

18. In discussing standards, the IMF representative briefed the expert group on the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) and Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), systems that are already in place to enhance and facilitate communication within the statistical community worldwide by providing metadata and other relevant information on key national statistics, including an array of social statistics. Experts reiterated the importance of providing metadata for all statistics produced and welcomed the intention of the IMF, the World Bank, UNSD, ILO, UNESCO and other interested agencies to collaborate in strengthening the social statistics reporting system in this area of work.

Low political commitment and visibility

19. Another issue that the expert group meeting discussed actively was the lack of visibility of social statistics and a weak or non-existent commitment from some governments, manifested in the low priority given to social statistics. This is particularly glaring when compared to economic statistics, which has solid support of the Central Bank and the ministries of finance, development or planning.

20. Experts proposed several strategies to increase support for social statistics. First, social statistics must be driven by key information needs of policy makers and other users in the broader community. Statistics must focus on social phenomena rather than on data in order to catch the attention of government, the media and the general public. In an evidence-based policy-making environment, national statistics offices (NSOs) are seen as having a pro-active role to play in achieving social policy relevance in their work and providing government with answers to key questions. It was suggested that they present statistics that speak to the social issues and in ways that will effectively reach the aforementioned groups. NSOs need to advocate and promote the importance of sound social statistics for policy, and to work with policy makers in order to build the latter's capacity to appreciate statistics.

21. Some experts further argued that NSOs need to go beyond providing raw data and statistics to organizing and analyzing those data and presenting them in a format that would make their results available to broad audiences; in other words, production and research must be combined to produce information, not just statistics, as basis for informed discussions about relevant policies. Others were cautious about the role of analysis, fearing that it would harm the independence and neutrality of NSOs and other statistics generating agencies. It was clarified that analysis in this context referred to the presentation of social statistics objectively by bringing out clearly and simply the social phenomena that the data address by making products more user-friendly; for example, to improve the analysis of statistical data by making figures understandable, explaining the numbers in the tables produced, and making statistics into information products and services addressing specific user needs, e.g., government, media, policy analysis, the public, students, researchers, social partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

22. Another strategy offered was the training and sensitizing of policy makers to the power of statistics for policy formulation and monitoring; and of the media to the power

of statistics to provide a factual base for their stories. It was recognized that the role of the media is an important one that should be put to good use for social statistics. For example, statisticians could improve their relationship with the media by preparing press releases on topics of general interest and providing help to the media in interpreting and analyzing social statistics. In their reporting, mention of the statistical activity and the institution responsible for the activity would mutually benefit the media and the statistical office.

Content of social statistics

23. Some participants initially expressed concern that there was no internationally agreed definition of the content of social statistics, as far as the domains or areas of concern to be included. However, the dominant position was that the basic issues on how to create necessary coordination and coherence for social statistics would be the same even if the precise content of social statistics varied across time, countries and purpose. A paper by UNSD reviewing past efforts towards a systematic development of social statistics, which showed similarities and variations in the content of two frameworks developed twenty years apart (see Annex 4), reinforced this point. In the end, the expert group agreed that any definition of the content of social statistics would necessarily have to take into consideration the fact that policy concerns and national priorities vary across countries and change over time; however, social statistics should be taken to include all areas of statistics relating to people and their living conditions. It was noted that there were overlapping domains of interest between the social, economic and environmental fields of statistics.

Data sources for social statistics

24. The expert group spent a considerable amount of time discussing data, data sources and data quality. There was recognition that three main sources of social statistics are population and housing censuses, sample surveys and administrative records. Experts stressed the need to identify existing sources of social statistics and integrate them so as to provide as complete information as possible to guide policy. The need to integrate various sources recurred throughout the discussions.

25. The discussion on integrating sources highlighted the need to clearly identify the units of enumeration (data collection), be it individuals, households, businesses or some other entity. The use of consistent geographical units in collecting and reporting statistics throughout the various sources was also raised. Participants also discussed the importance of common definitions, classifications and other standards across the different sources of data.

26. The fact that the stage of development of social statistics varied greatly across countries was evident from the discussions, with some countries increasingly relying on administrative registers for their social statistics and others relying primarily on population censuses and a few sample surveys. Presenters from Denmark and the Netherlands elaborated on how to create record linkages and multi-domain micro-databases. This led to a discussion on the importance of dealing with the issue of

confidentiality, the need for a better understanding of people's motivation and sensitivities with regard to providing data to administrative registers, and the need to maintain trust in national statistical institutions.

27. Some experts pointed out that the use of administrative registers for measuring certain social phenomena may at the present moment be appropriate in some countries but not in others. For example, much of the economic activity in many developing countries is informal in nature, and therefore not captured through administrative records. Another obstacle is the poor coverage and quality of administrative records in many countries.

28. The census was mentioned as a "pillar" of social statistics, its obvious advantage being its ability to provide data for small geographic units. Sample surveys were also acknowledged as a key source of data for social phenomena. It was further recognized that large sample surveys (e.g., the American Community Survey) might be used to create a registry of addresses for use as a frame for successive independent surveys.

Coordination

29. There was a general sense that there are many different international agencies involved in social statistics. However, few experts from NSOs had a clear understanding of the role and activities of each organization. Many experts also lacked knowledge as to how an inter-agency coordinating body operated, or whether it existed, and expressed interest in detailed knowledge on how these international agencies operated.

30. In parallel, at the national level there are many producers of social statistics besides the NSO such as the line ministries. A decentralized statistical system often means that there is no strong, independent national statistical entity to coordinate these various statistical activities. International data requests and other statistical activities often do not involve NSOs since some international organizations deal directly with the line ministries.

31. Some countries (United States of America and the Philippines) have a formal body that coordinates the decentralized production of statistics, involving not just producers but often users of statistics as well. Other countries such as Australia and South Africa talked about the existence of other forms of coordination mechanisms involving NSOs and other agencies. Still others have ineffective or no coordination mechanisms at all. It was clear from the discussion that the degree and effectiveness of coordination at the national level varied widely among countries. Experts thought it would be useful for countries to document the status and general operating environment of their national statistical system, covering the NSO, line ministries and other producers of social statistics, and all forms of coordination mechanisms between or among them, to serve as background for improving coordination, building capacity and developing future work programmes.

32. The large number of institutions involved in social statistics, at the national as well as international level, often leads to inefficiencies in setting standards for social statistics. At the national level, deficiencies may occur in statistically decentralized

systems, where various ministries and institutions may generate data with little consultation with each other. At the international level, there are many more agencies involved in social issues, compared to those responsible for economic statistics, resulting in a number of conflicting or overlapping standards for social statistics data collection and dissemination.

33. The issue of harmonization of data collection, compilation and reporting at the international level was also raised. Experts noted the need for increased coordination and harmonization of statistical activities by international organizations. Various international organizations and agencies often implement programmes and statistical activities in countries without proper coordination or sufficient consideration of national capacity and problems of overburdening national statistical offices.

Statistical capacity building

34. Participants voiced the need to increase support for statistics and statistical capacity building. In relation to this, experts stressed the need to ensure the sustainability and coordination of international aid for NSOs in developing countries. Some experts called upon international organizations to assist countries in developing statistical systems in a coordinated manner and in particular called for reconsidering the discontinued United Nations National Household Survey Capability Program (NHSCP). Others were concerned about the sustainability of externally funded programmes and urged for solutions on how to get the commitment of national governments or regional organizations to take ownership of such programmes.

35. A point was made that international organizations do not pay enough attention to the sustainability of survey programmes in developing countries and the development of local staff skills for conducting sample surveys without significant external assistance. Related to this, experts stressed the need for building sustainable institutional capacity in countries with developing statistical systems, in addition to investing on continuous training of personnel, as there is high turnover of staff in most statistical offices in developing countries.

36. Among the areas mentioned where statistical capacity needed to be improved are the use of information technology in all statistical activities; design of censuses and surveys; civil registration, particularly on the more difficult items such as cause of death; development and utilization of administrative records for statistical purposes; conduct of sample surveys; and policy-oriented analysis and dissemination of statistics.

37. The expert group stressed that national statistical offices need to build capacity for their staff not only in generating statistics but also in their presentation to increase the usability of and public interest in social statistics.

The working groups

38. On the basis of the general discussion and concerns raised, three elements were identified as essential to social statistics. The expert group split into three working groups, each group focusing on one of the three elements identified. These were: (a)

frameworks and standards; (b) data; and (c) coordination. The working groups developed recommendations in response to concerns raised apropos their assigned topic. The combined recommendations of the expert group are given in section C below.

C. Recommendations

39. The expert group:

- (a) following its consideration of frameworks and noting the importance of maintaining a flexible system that can meet the needs of various social statistics frameworks, requested the UNSD and other partners including national statistical offices (NSOs) to develop a work programme of activities through 2015 to set the scope of social statistics that would complement future programme activities across censuses, surveys and administrative records. The scope would include aspects of the human life cycle, well-being, and the linkages among social, economic and environment statistics. UNSD will carry this work plan to the thirty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission.

With respect to this and all recommendations that follow, work programmes to be developed should consider whether implementation should occur in stages; and if so, identify these stages and define the content of each. For all recommendations, UNSD and its partners should specify outputs, timelines for implementation, major actors and their specific responsibilities and methods of coordination.

- (b) requested UNSD, in collaboration with international and regional agencies and NSOs, to conduct a disciplined review and assessment of social statistics and identify necessary substantive developmental work on international standards. This review and assessment should cover the current state of social statistics, international standards for social statistics, standards for assessing data quality and mechanisms for monitoring conformity to standards.
- (c) recommended examining the totality of data sources for social statistics, e.g., censuses, surveys and administrative registers, and reviewing common standards, units and classifications necessary across these sources. The expert group also recommended that:
 - the world programme for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses be implemented and that every country conduct a census by 2014;
 - UNSD provide support and guidance to countries preparing/planning to set up, strengthen or use administrative registers and/or administrative files for statistical purposes. Vital statistics should be part of all countries' data systems. With respect to administrative registers, due attention should be given to data quality and the issue of confidentiality;
 - UNSD, the Siena Group and international agencies collaborate with countries to strengthen national capacity to conduct relevant surveys on a sustained and

- integrated basis, drawing on the experience of those NSOs that have a successful system of multiple surveys including multipurpose as well as specialized surveys;
- the Siena Group take the lead in developing, documenting and promoting emerging methodologies for integrating the various data sources.
- (d) Requested that UNSD and the Siena Group raise awareness of the relevance of social statistics to policy and the important role that censuses play. The expert group emphasized the need to make social statistics more visible and to promote the use of statistics for policy formulation, planning and monitoring. Strategies to attain this include training policy makers, researchers, students, media, civil society and NGOs on the use of social statistics; and presenting information that would demonstrate the power of statistics for policy formulation. Noting that UNSD is planning to produce a handbook on dissemination for population and housing censuses, the expert group recommended that in preparing the handbook UNSD incorporate in all relevant chapters the possibilities offered by information and communication technology, for example, on ways of enhancing information products and services on social statistics to fit more appropriately the needs of different users mentioned above.
- (e) recommended that UNSD and the Siena Group promote international partnership in training in official statistics, in particular social statistics, guided by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; and that this be done at both the regional and global levels, stimulating the cooperation among NSOs, national and regional professional training institutions, universities and international and regional statistical agencies.
- (f) called for the systematic adoption by countries of statistical standards and principles, including the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and for the development of social statistics to take place within the Fundamental Principles. Adopting standard systems for documenting and improving social statistics such as the IMF's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) would also help to increase the utility of and public trust in statistics.
- (g) recommended that UNSD, in collaboration with international and relevant regional agencies, prepare a report documenting the roles and statistical activities of international organizations, as well as existing mechanisms and bodies for inter-agency coordination, in particular with respect to social statistics, with a view to (a) increasing the understanding of social statisticians at national, regional and international levels of the roles and activities of the international organizations, and (b) finding ways to make the existing mechanisms for coordination more effective. The expert group further recommended that results of all inter-agency meetings be forwarded to the new group recommended in para. (i) below, in order that this new group may consider the inter-agency meetings' recommended directions in its work plan.
- (h) requested that UNSD and other agencies, in collaboration with NSOs, compile a report describing and analysing coordination mechanisms and activities among

- producers of social statistics at the national level, recognizing different practices and constraints, with a view to documenting good practices for such coordination.
- (i) based on the experience of the Siena Group and this expert group, and to follow up on the recommendations contained in this report, recommended the establishment of a forum for social statistics where experts from national statistics offices, international and regional agencies and professional training institutions can exchange information on a regular basis. Such a forum would promote better coordination and understanding between NSOs and international organizations. In addition, an electronic format was proposed to facilitate communication among social statisticians.
 - (j) in light of the current high priority being given to the MDGs, recommended that UNSD, in consultation with participating agencies, produce a technical report reviewing the standards and quality of underlying national statistics needed for producing the MDG indicators that relate to social conditions, and assessing national capacity to collect and disseminate these statistics, as currently reported to the international statistical community, and that this report be presented to the MDG working group. This work will take into account existing initiatives to assess the quality of underlying national data for MDG indicators.
 - (k) recommended that the expert group meeting to review the Demographic Yearbook in November 2003 consider the recommendations of this meeting with a view to improving the collection, dissemination and integration of demographic and social statistics.
 - (l) invited the Siena Group and other city groups related to social statistics (Washington Group, Rio Group, Delhi Group, etc.) to review at their next meeting their mandate and work plan, taking into account the outcome of this meeting and the recommendation to establish a United Nations forum for social statistics (see para. i).

Annex 1. Information flyer for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Setting the Scope of Social Statistics

Date: **6-9 May 2003**
Place: **New York**
Host: **United Nations Statistics Division**
Contact: socialstat@un.org
Website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/workshops/socialstat>

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the Siena Group, is organizing an expert group meeting on Setting the Scope of Social Statistics in New York on 6-9 May 2003. The purpose of the meeting and the key issues to be taken up are presented briefly below.

Purpose of the meeting

The 2000 Millennium Summit¹ and International Conferences³ held in the 1990's clearly and explicitly emphasized the importance of social development. Sound statistics and information play a key role in monitoring and evaluating the impact of social policies. The increasing demand for policy-relevant statistics on an ever-growing number of social issues calls for an integrated approach to social statistics that recognizes the links among the various areas of social concern. Despite the demand from national and international fora, however, progress in social statistics has been lagging. Social statistics are often produced in an ad hoc manner, without a clear strategy or programme of work. Coordination among producers of social statistics at both the national and international level is still insufficient, resulting in inconsistent statistics and under-utilisation of data. Furthermore the needs of stakeholders are not always adequately met in terms of timeliness and relevance.

In this context, the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Siena Group, is convening an expert group to address these challenges and develop a concrete strategy on how to move forward. The meeting will review current practices in social statistics and examine possible solutions to improve their effectiveness. The importance of developing mechanisms to better coordinate programmes in social statistics at the national, regional and international level will also be addressed. The expert group will propose a programme of work for furthering the development of social statistics, with a view to presenting it to the Statistical Commission for action.

¹ See <http://www.un.org/millennium/summit.htm>.

³ For example The International Conference on Population and Development 1994, The World Summit for Social Development 1995, The Fourth World Conference on Women, etc. For a list of all conferences see <http://www.un.org/events/conferences.htm>.

Key issues

The expert group will focus on the following key issues:

1. The current state of social statistics

Existing programmes in social statistics reflect great differences in terms of objectives, organisation and coverage.

- What is the scope of social statistics? What areas of social concern are currently being covered in social statistics? What statistics are collected in relation to these areas? How do new or emerging issues fit into the current scope?
- How are social statistics programmes organized at the national, regional and international level?
- What offices are responsible for collecting and disseminating various types of social statistics? How are these different statistical activities coordinated?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure the full participation of stakeholders?

2. Proposed strategies and approaches

The successful implementation of a social statistics programme requires certain operational considerations. For example:

- *Statistical capacity*: What is the minimum statistical capacity necessary for a successful programme in social statistics?
- *Statistical coordination*: What institutional arrangements and division of responsibilities are required? What should the coordination mechanisms be at the local, national, regional and international levels?
- *Producer/user collaboration*: What are the mechanisms for effectively engaging producers and users of social statistics in a dialogue to improve the quality of social statistics?
- *Harmonization of concepts, definitions, methods and standards*: What are the trade-offs between ensuring comparability and maintaining relevance? How can a balance be established?

What strategies and approaches should be adopted in relation to these challenges?

3. Defining a programme of work for social statistics

What actions are required to further the development of social statistics?

- How would the following contribute to the above goal:
 - a world programme for social statistics
 - an overall structure or framework for social statistics
 - a set of technical and/or operational guidelines (if so, on what specifically?)

- Who should be involved? How should responsibilities be divided?
- What commitments are agencies and countries prepared to make?
- What role should UNSD and other international agencies play in this process?
- What is the time frame (overall and intermediate)? What are the desired outputs?
- What resources are needed?

Annex 2. List of Participants

Country experts

Mr. O.O. Ajayi
Nigeria
E-mail: ooajayi@infoweb.abs.net

Ms Miriam Babita
Statistics South Africa
E-mail: miriamb@statssa.gov.za

Mr. J.K. Banthia
Office of the Registrar General and Census
Commissioner, India
E-mail: orgindia@vsnl.net

Ms Barbara Dunlop
Australian Bureau of Statistics
E-mail: barbara.dunlop@abs.gov.au

Ms Viviana Egidi
National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)
Italy
E-mail: egidi@istat.it

Ms Bothaina El-Deeb
Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and
Statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt
E-mail: admn@capmas.gov.eg or
capmas_presaffr@hotmail.com

Mr. Pieter Everaers
Statistics Netherlands
E-mail: pevs@cbs.nl

Mr. Charles Kamen
Israel Central Bureau of Statistics
E-mail: charles@cbs.gov.il

Mr. Robert A. Kominski
U.S. Bureau of the Census
E-mail: robert.a.kominski@census.gov

Ms Irena Krizman
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
E-mail: irena.krizman@gov.si

Ms Maria Eugenia Gomez Luna
Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e
Informática (INEGI), México
E-mail: megomez@pres.inegi.gob.mx

Ms Jennifer Madans
National Center for Health Statistics
United States of America
E-mail: jhm4@cdc.gov

Ms Maria Martha Mayer
Fundacao IBGE, Brazil
E-mail: mmayer@ibge.gov.br

Mr. Howard Meltzer
Office for National Statistics
United Kingdom
E-mail: howard.meltzer@ons.gov.uk

Mr. Doug Norris
Statistics Canada
E-mail: doug.norris@statcan.ca

Mr. Jozef Olenski
Warsaw University, Poland
E-mail: jozef.olenski@mail.nbp.pl

Mr. Gabriel Pictet
University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
E-mail: pictet@fasonet.bf

Ms Susan Schechter
Office of Management and Budget
United States of America
E-mail: susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov

Ms Lina Valencia-Castro
National Statistical Coordination Board
Philippines
E-mail: lv.castro@nscb.gov.ph

Ms Kirsten Wismer
Statistics Denmark
E-mail: KWI@dst.dk

Regional and sub-regional organizations and training institutes

Mr. Tomas P. Africa
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
(SIAP)
E-mail: t.africa@unsiap.or.jp

Mr. Prosper Backiny-Yetna
AFRISTAT
E-mail: prosper.backiny@afristat.org

Mr. Heinrich Brungger
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
E-mail: heinrich.bruengger@unece.org

Ms Gabrielle Clotuche
EUROSTAT
E-mail: Gabrielle.Clotuche@cec.eu.int

Mr. Werner Grünewald
EUROSTAT
E-mail: Werner.Grunewald@cec.eu.int

Ms Philomen Harrison
CARICOM
E-mail: harrison@caricom.org

Mr. Gora Mboup
African Population and Health Research Center
E-mail: gmboup@aphrc.org

Mr. Sylvan Roberts
CARICOM
E-mail: sroberts@caricom.org

Mr. Rudolf Teekens
TES Institute
E-mail: rteekens@pi.be

International organizations

Mr. John Curry
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
E-mail: john.curry@fao.org

Ms Claudia Dziobek
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
E-mail: cdziobek@imf.org

Mr. Simon Ellis
UNESCO Institute for Statistics
E-mail: s.ellis@unesco.org

Ms Haishan Fu
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
E-mail: haishan.fu@undp.org

Mr. Eivind Hoffmann
International Labour Office (ILO)
E-mail: hoffmann@ilo.org

Ms Sulekha Patel
The World Bank
E-mail: spatel1@worldbank.org

Annex 3. Organization of Work

Tuesday, 6 May

Registration of participants (9:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Opening

Introductory remarks
Purpose of the meeting

I. The current state of social statistics

Part I sets the stage for the discussions of subsequent sessions by describing the current state of social statistics. The discussion will include the scope or domains of social statistics; the existence (or non-existence) of conceptual frameworks and standards for statistics in these domains; common problems persisting in the area of social statistics; organization of social statistics programmes at national, regional and international levels; coordinating mechanisms among offices responsible for collecting and disseminating various types of social statistics; and the extent of involvement of stakeholders in social statistics.

Papers: No. 5. Current status of social statistics: an overview of issues and concerns (J. Banda)
No. 9. Social statistics in Brazil: producer and user strategies (M. Mayer)
No. 16. Elements of a social statistics program: a Canadian perspective (D. Norris)

Discussion

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

II. Proposed strategies and approaches

Part II considers the various strategies and approaches that contribute to the successful implementation of a social statistics programme. Among others, strategies to foster coordination, integration and statistical capacity building will be discussed. This part is divided into two sections, II.A and II.B. Discussion will take place after each section.

II.A. Integrating different sources of data and linking different fields of social statistics

Papers: No. 6. The Dutch system of social statistics: micro-integration of different sources (P. Everaers)

No. 7. Use of registers in social statistics in Denmark (K. Wismer)

Discussion

Wednesday, 7 May

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

II.B. Capacity building for social statistics through training

Papers: No. 8. Social statistics in the development agenda: two cases for relevance and sustainability (T. Africa)
No. 15. Capacity building for social statistics: the role of professional training (R. Teekens)

Discussion

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

II. Proposed strategies and approaches (continued)

Proposed strategies and approaches (Group discussions)

Thursday, 8 May

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

III. Defining a programme of work for social statistics

In Part III, experts debate and outline the future direction of social statistics, based on a review of past and current efforts at systematic development of social statistics, as well as the previous day's discussion on strategies and approaches.

III.A. Review of past efforts towards a systematic development of social statistics

Paper: No. 14. Review of past efforts towards a systematic development of social statistics (C. Menozzi)

III.B. Current efforts at systematic development of social statistics

Papers: No. 10. SSDIS: Global standard for harmonization of social statistics, with special reference to transition and globalization processes (J. Olenski)

- No. 11. Preliminary ideas for a European social statistics action plan (G. Clotuche)
No. 12. Current efforts in the systematic development of social statistics in Australia (B. Dunlop)
No. 13. Strategy and goals—Siena Group on Social Statistics (P. Everaers)

Discussion

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

III.C. Recommendations for a programme of work for social statistics

Experts meet in separate groups to develop a set of concrete recommendations for an international programme of social statistics. Questions that might be considered are: the feasibility of an overall framework for social statistics or separate frameworks for the different domains (fields); the usefulness of institutional mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge, experience, best practices, etc.; whether it would be useful to develop a set of technical or operational guidelines for countries trying to improve their social statistics programmes; and if so, what these should comprise. The draft recommendations should include concrete goals and immediate and medium-term activities and outputs. For each of these, the group should provide a realistic time frame and specify resource requirements. It should also identify the various actors to be involved, the division of responsibility, the role of UNSD, international, regional and other organizations, as well as that of national statistical offices and other stakeholders.

Group discussion and drafting recommendations

Drafting group 1

Drafting group 2

Drafting group 3

Friday, 9 May

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

III. Defining a programme of work for social statistics (continued)

Presentation and discussion of draft recommendations

Lunch break (1:00–2:30 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:30–3:30 p.m.)

Conclusion

Adoption of final recommendations and action plan

Annex 4. Content of social statistics as defined in selected frameworks

The “International definition and measurement of standards and levels of living” (1954) contained the following twelve components:

1. Health, including demographic conditions
2. Food and nutrition
3. Education, including literacy and skills
4. Conditions of work
5. Employment situation
6. Aggregate consumption and savings
7. Transportation
8. Housing, including household facilities
9. Clothing
10. Recreation and Entertainment
11. Social security
12. Human freedoms

The System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) (ca. 1974) had eleven subsystems, as follows:

1. The size and structure of the population, births, deaths and migration
2. Family formation, families and households
3. Social class stratification and mobility
4. Distribution of income, consumption, accumulation and net worth
5. Housing and the environment
6. Allocation of time and the use of leisure
7. Social security and welfare services
8. Learning activities and educational services
9. Earning activities, employment services and the inactive
10. Health and health services
11. Public order and safety, offenders and their victims

Measuring Wellbeing: Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics: (2001) listed the following areas of social concern:

1. Population
2. Family and community
3. Health
4. Education and training
5. Work
6. Economic resources
7. Housing
8. Crime and justice
9. Culture and leisure