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Report of the 1st Meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, 3 March 2003)

I. Introduction

1. Following the decision¹ taken by the Interagency meeting on the Coordination of Statistical Activities on 19 September 2002, the CCSA held its first meeting in New York on 3 March 2003. The agenda is contained in annex I below, the list of participants in annex II and the list of documents in annex III.

II. Work of the CCSA Meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was chaired by Andrew Flatt, Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). In opening the meeting, Mr. Flatt introduced the agenda and presented the points for discussion.

B. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in annex I.

C. Working mechanism for the CCSA

4. The Committee considered the proposed Terms of Reference as laid out in document SA/2003/2. After a discussion focusing primarily on the participation in the Committee, the working methods, the inter-sessional activities and form of the reporting, the Committee adopted its Terms of Reference as orally amended. The approved final version is contained in annex IV of this report.

D. Agenda of the proposed 2nd CCSA meeting in Geneva (9-11 September 2003)

5. The Committee decided to hold its second meeting in Geneva from 8-10 September 2003 (instead of 9-11 September 2003) and gratefully accepted the offer of the International Labour Organization to host this meeting. The Committee also agreed with the plan of

ILO to conduct a half day technical seminar² on “Aggregation of national data to regional and global estimates” as part of the 2nd CCSA meeting.

6. The Committee requested that for future meetings a clear distinction should be made between agenda items that were for decision, such as the adoption of guidelines or best practices, agenda items that were for discussion and agenda items that primarily serve the purpose of information exchange between agencies. The Committee also decided to give priority in the agenda to issues of a strategic dimension, which are of concern to a critical mass of interested parties among the Committee members. The Committee requested the authors of documents for future meetings to identify clearly whether a document was for decision, discussion or for information, and in the first case to include specific recommendations in the document.
7. Regarding the agenda for the 2nd CCSA meeting the Committee accepted the proposal to add the topics of “Statistics at the subnational level” (lead agency HABITAT) and “Towards a Statistical System” (lead agency ECE) to the list of issues (as contained in SA/2003/3) to be considered. Furthermore, it requested all lead agencies to prepare a brief annotation for each proposed agenda item. The agenda for the 2nd CCSA meeting and its structure will then be finalized under the leadership of the Chair after an electronic round of discussion on the annotated list of topics.

E. Other business

8. The meeting took note of the joint report by UNSD and ECE on the analysis of outputs for 2004/2005 for organizations that are members of the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA) contained in document SA/2003/4. In this context the Committee requested the Secretariat to circulate to Committee members information on earlier “peer reviews” that had been carried out. The Committee also took note of the UNSD announcement of the calendar for the finalization of the 2nd annual progress report of the Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals.

Notes:

¹ See report of the meeting contained in E/CN.3/2003/25

² See document SA/2003/5

Annex I

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Working mechanisms for the CCSA
3. Agenda for the proposed 2. CCSA meeting in Geneva (9-11 September 2003)
4. Other business
 - (i) UN 2004/05 programme budget
 - (ii) 2003 report on Millennium Development Goals

Annex II

List of participants

United Nations entities and programmes

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Statistics Division

Willem F. M. De Vries
Richard Roberts
Stefan Schweinfest (Secretary)
Robert Johnston
Mary Chamie
Eszter Horvath
Ivo Havinga
Grace Bediako
Jeremiah Banda
Francesca Perucci
Gisele Kamanou-Goune
Sabine Warschburger

Population Division

Larry Heligman

Economic Assessment and Prospects Unit

Anatoly Smyshlyaev

Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries

Oumar Diallo

Division for Social Policy and Development

Felice Llamas

Economic Commission for Europe

Heinrich Bruengger

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Andrew Flatt (Chairman)

Economic Commission for Africa

Malik Sy Oumar

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Mariam Al Awadhi

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Hubert Escaith

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Henri Laurencin

United Nations Development Programme

Haishan Fu
Tom Griffin

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Nefise Bazoglu
Eduardo Moreno

United Nations Children's Fund	Gareth Jones
United Nations Population Fund	Koutoum Nacro
Specialized agencies and related organizations	
International Labour Organization	Sylvester Young
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Haluk Kasnakoglu
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Doug Drew
World Bank	Shaida Badiee
International Monetary Fund	Carol Carson
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Tetsuo Yamada
Other international and non-governmental organizations	
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	Enrico Giovannini
World Tourism Organization	Antonio Massieu
World Trade Organization	Roslyn Jackson
Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States	Mikhail A. Korolev

Annex III

List of documents

<i>Document No.</i>	<i>Agenda item(s)</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
SA/2003/1	1	Provisional agenda
SA/2003/2	2	Terms of Reference for the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
SA/2003/3	3	Proposed agenda for the second meeting of the CCSA, Geneva, 9-11 September 2003
SA/2003/4	4(i)	Analysis of outputs for 2004-2005: Organizations that are members of the EC – ESC – Joint report by UNSD and ECE
SA/2003/5	4(ii)	Technical seminar on methodologies for regional and global estimation – A proposal by ILO

Unnumbered	List of participants
	Proposal for a new agenda tabled by the World Tourism Organization.

Annex IV

Terms of Reference

1. The Inter-agency Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities was established on 19 September 2002 by the Interagency Meeting on Coordination of Statistical Activities. Its objectives, which it takes over from the former ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities ((a), (b) and (c) below, modified by (d) below) are:

(a) to promote coordination, integration and complementarity among the statistical programmes of the international organizations, including the avoidance of duplication and reduction in reporting burdens on Member States and to promote coordination and consistency in statistical practices and development;

(b) to provide coordinated preparations for the treatment of statistical issues in intergovernmental meetings, including the Statistical Commission and coordinated follow-up of decisions of the intergovernmental bodies, thus providing a responsive focus for addressing the needs of Member States.

(c) to achieve through the coordination activity an integrated system in the collection, processing and dissemination of international statistics by promoting the coordination of the international official statistical system including technical cooperation in statistics. It also aims to facilitate the use in Member States of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, recommendations and classifications of different international organizations by coordinating the work on methodological development and promoting harmonization of the methodologies in various fields of statistics.

(d) to foster good practices in the structuring and programming of statistical activities in the international organizations; within the above framework the Committee focuses on emerging issues requiring coordination, takes a proactive approach and follows up on decisions to ensure action is taken

2. The members of the Committee comprise all members and observers of the former ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, namely United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and other divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) the Regional Commissions, the UN Programmes and Funds, the specialized agencies and related organizations, certain non-UN intergovernmental organizations (OECD, EUROSTAT, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, World Tourism Organization and World Trade Organization), regional development banks and the International Statistical Institute. Other organizations can participate by invitation.

3. Representation in the Committee is normally at the level of Director of an organization's statistical service or equivalent. Participation at the highest statistical level is considered indispensable for the effectiveness of the Committee's work.

4. The Committee functions on a task oriented basis using lead agency arrangements. The Committee meets on an ad hoc basis as required by circumstances, usually for two and half days,

but the decision to hold meetings and their length is driven by substance and needs. In principle it is expected that there will be annual meetings, but advantage will be taken of the Statistical Commission session each year to bring the Committee together to take up any issues that need to be considered at that time and to review the proposed agenda and need for the next scheduled Committee session; As formal Committee meetings provide an excellent opportunity for bilateral and multilateral discussions and networking, sufficient time should always be set aside in the meeting schedule for these activities. Coordination of activities between meetings, for instance through electronic discussion groups and follow-up to decisions made at meetings are an important and integral part of the work of the Committee.

5. The Committee elects a Chairman who serves for a two year period and is eligible for re-election for a second two year term. The UNSD is the permanent Secretariat.

6. A decisions-and-actions-only report is prepared for adoption at the end of each meeting. The report should specify the lead agencies which are responsible for any action and follow-up. There should also be a report on ongoing Committee activities which have occurred in the inter-meeting period. An annual report is made available to the United Nations Statistical Commission and if necessary or desirable the report is referred to the High Level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations Chief Executives Board on Coordination (CEB).