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New York, 4 February 2004.

Subject: Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations.

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations, which will be held on 27 and 28 May 2004 in Wiesbaden (Germany), immediately following the Q2004 - European Conference on Quality and Methodology in Official Statistics (Mainz, Germany 24-26 May 2004). The Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations will be held under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Statistical Activities (CCSA).

The purpose of the conference is to provide statistical experts from international organizations with a forum to discuss specific data quality issues related to their work and exchange experiences regarding the various quality control mechanisms developed for the collection and dissemination of international data. A programme committee consisting of Ms. Carol Carson (IMF), Ms. Denise Lievesley (UIS-UNESCO), Mr. Enrico Giovannini (OECD), Mr. Sylvester Young (ILO), Mr. Heinrich Bruenger (UN-ECE), Mr. Andrew Flatt (UN-ESCAP), Mr. Werner Grunewald (Eurostat), Mr. Laurent Probst (Eurostat) and Mr. Thomas Koerner (German Statistical Office) has elaborated the attached programme.

The organizers of Q2004 have graciously agreed to extend logistical support to our Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations. Therefore there will be no additional admission fee for our Conference. In particular, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany has offered to host our Conference in its offices in Wiesbaden, for which I wish to express my special gratitude. Due to the immediate vicinity of the cities of Mainz and Wiesbaden, this will allow participants of the Q2004 to simply extend their stay. Detailed logistical information regarding our Conference as well as the Conference papers will soon be included in the webpage of Q2004 at <http://q2004.destatis.de/>. For all general questions regarding the Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations and for the confirmation of your participation you may contact Mr. Stefan Schweinfest (<schweinfest@un.org>) from my office. For specific questions on local arrangements at the conference venue you may contact Mr. Thomas Koerner (<Thomas.Koerner@destatis.de>) from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany.

I would like to strongly encourage you to respond to the attached "Call for Papers" and to actively participate in the discussions at the Conference.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Wiesbaden.
Best regards.



Willem de Vries
Officer-in-Charge
UN Statistics Division

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations
Wiesbaden/Germany, 27-28 May 2004

Programme

Thursday, 27 May 2004

9.30 - 10.00 **Welcome and introduction;**

Andrew Flatt, Chairman of the CCSA, UN-ESCAP.
Representative of programme committee

10.00 - 10.15 Short break

10.15 - 12.15 **Session 1: Quality Frameworks for Assessing and Improving Statistical Activities Carried out by International Organizations: Pros and Cons.**

Chair: Carol Carson (IMF)

12.15 - 13.30 Lunch break

13.30 - 15.30 **Session 2: Coherence of Data Published by various International Organizations on the same subject.**

Chair: Denise Lievesly

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 18.00 **Session 3: ICT tools and policies for collecting, validating and managing data and metadata.**

Chair: Sylvester Young (ILO)

Friday, 28 May 2004

9.00 - 11.00 **Session 4: ICT tools and policies for disseminating data and metadata.**

Chair: Stefan Schweinfest (UNSD)

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 **Panel discussion: Future Directions for International Cooperation to ensure Data Quality;**

Chair: Mr. Andrew Flatt (Chairman CCSA).

Call for Papers

The topics of the four working sessions of the Conference are outlined in the programme. If you wish to present a paper on any of the four topics, please submit an abstract not exceeding 500 words to schweinfest@un.org no later than 29 February 2004.

The abstracts will be reviewed by the session organizers. Final papers not exceeding 10 pages are to be submitted by 30 April 2004. It is suggested that regarding the template for the papers the same format as for the Q2004 papers will be used. All papers will be posted on the Conference website.

It is proposed that each session will be built around three papers, with the following internal structure: 3x 20 minutes presentation of papers, 15 minutes discussant's review, 45 minutes general discussion.

Important deadlines:

- 29 February 2004: Submission of abstracts for proposed papers.
- 15 April 2004: Registration for Conference
- 30 April 2004: Submission of Conference papers