

**Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities**

**I. Introduction**

1. The eleventh meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in New York, at the United Nations, on 25 February 2008. The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and co-chair of the committee, Mr. Paul Cheung, welcomed the participants. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director of Agriculture and Environment Statistics and Statistical Cooperation of Eurostat and also co-chair of the committee. The list of documents presented and the list of participants are attached as annex II and III respectively.

**II. Work of the CCSA Meeting**

**A. Adoption of the agenda and other issues**

2. The Committee adopted the draft agenda (See Annex I).

**B. Quality assurance frameworks**

3. The Committee took note of the oral report by UNSD, in which Mr. Cheung explained that member states had expressed interest in the development of a coherent framework that would combine both the national and the international perspective. Mr. Cheung further pointed out that satisfying both countries' needs and international requirements with the same framework and guidelines seemed rather difficult and sought the advice and views of the Committee's members.

4. The Committee agreed that the quality guidelines approved by members would be presented to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption. In the meantime, a parallel process for the development of a quality assurance framework for national statistical systems could take place without distracting the international process.

5. The Committee was informed that, similarly to previous years, the CCSA Conference on Quality for International Agencies would be held right before (7-8 July) the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics, which will take place in Rome, from 9-11 July 2008. It was agreed that the group of agencies that had offered to contribute to the preparation of the TORs for the Conference--UNSD, FAO, ECE, ECB, Eurostat, ILO and OECD-- will jointly prepare a draft.

### **C. Task Teams on coordination of statistical capacity building**

6. At its 8<sup>th</sup> Session, in 2006, the Committee had agreed to form four Task Teams to review issues of coordination and provide recommendations for further the work on the following:

**Reporting mechanisms on statistical capacity building activities - Task Team 1**, led by Paris 21 (ECE, Eurostat, World Tourism Organization, World Bank, Paho)

**Capacity building through regional training initiatives for national statisticians (and regional training centers) - Task Team 2**, led by UNSD (ILO, FAO, Paris21)

**Review of modalities for coordination of technical cooperation programmes at the sub-regional level - Task Team 3**, led by the World Bank (UNSD, Eurostat, ESCWA, African Development Bank, World Tourism Organization)

**Assessment of the effectiveness of capacity building activities in Africa - Task Team 4**, led by AfDB (WHO, Paris21, World Bank)

#### Task Team 1

7. The Committee took note of the paper prepared by Paris 21 “*Coordination of capacity building activities. Progress Report of Task Team 1: Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics (PRESS)*” (Document SA/2008/3), presenting a review of the activities carried out and the outputs produced by the team to address the objectives as stated in the team’s TORs. The Committee expressed great appreciation for the work done by the Team.

8. With regard to the classification of statistical areas in the domain of statistical capacity building, the committee agreed that the current classification is appropriate to fulfill the specific need of the team—which is to have a coherent framework to put together the information provided by the agencies. However, members agreed that the issue of a classification of statistical areas might be revisited. The committee therefore agreed to include the issue of classification of statistical areas among the agenda items of the 12<sup>th</sup> session.

#### Task Team 2

9. The Committee took note of the report by UNSD on “*Coordination of capacity building activities: Progress note by Task Team 2 on regional training centers*” (Document SA/2008/4), presenting a listing of regional and sub-regional training institutions and a proposal on the topics to be considered in collecting information on the training institutions. Members were asked to provide assistance to identify national training centers that are open to international/regional participation. It was agreed that the list would also include institutions that provide training on specific statistical fields, such as for instance on health statistics. Members were also asked to provide comments on the proposed framework for the collection of information on the institutions. The deadline for the submission of contributions would be 15 March, to allow UNSD to circulate the questionnaire to the institutions and prepare a final report.

10. The Committee agreed that this topic is important and deserves adequate attention by the agencies. It was therefore decided that, at the next CCSA meeting, a special half-day session would be devoted to reviewing and discussing the findings and recommendations put forward by

the team. A group of agencies volunteered to prepare a programme for this special session, including: UNSD, Eurostat, WHO, Paris21 and AfDB.

### Task Team 3

11. The Committee took note of an oral presentation by the World Bank on the status of the work conducted by the team on the modalities for coordination of technical cooperation programmes at the sub-regional level. The committee was informed that the team is currently working on the development of some guidance and best practice material. It was stated that the World Bank had been mainly collaborating with Eurostat, but would like to engage the regional and sub-regional organizations. A more comprehensive report will be produced by the team for the September session of the committee.

### Task Team 4

12. The outcome of the work by Task Team 4 will be presented by members of the African Statistical Co-ordination Committee to the Committee at the 12<sup>th</sup> session in September.

## **D. Revised terms of reference of CCSA**

13. The Committee discussed the draft of the revised terms of reference of CCSA prepared by the two co-chairs and the secretariat. The discussion focused on the following: that the coordination among agencies cannot cover all areas of work and should only cover a core set of activities that members have in common; that there is a need for a conceptual framework and a governance system agreeable by all members; and that there is an alternative to considering work towards the development of a global statistical system in the form of a more limited concept of work towards building an international statistical community.

14. The Committee agreed that in order to address the fundamental issues raised by members, the TORs would be redrafted and circulated again to the members for their written comments. A discussion and formal endorsement of the new TORs would then take place at the September session.

## **E. Update on latest developments in the implementation of SDMX**

15. The Committee took note of the paper jointly prepared by the BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNSD and the World Bank, “*Update on latest developments in the implementation of SDMX*” (Document SA/2008/7). Outreaching activities will be organized during next year.

## **F. Other businesses**

16. ESCWA requested to be included in the Task Team on Population estimates, led by the UN Population Division.

17. The IMF reported on the effect the current restructuring is having on its Statistics Division, including a substantial reduction of human resources.

## **G. Dates, venues and agenda of September 2008 session**

18. The African Development Bank reconfirmed that they will host the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the CCSA at their headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, from 11-12 September 2008.

19. The Committee also agreed on the following topics to be covered at the meeting:

- AfDB presentation of their work (information);
- Results of the work by the Task Team on Population Estimates (discussion);
- Reports by the task teams on coordination of statistical capacity building activities (information, except Task Team 2 on training, which will be the subject of a half day session);
- Modalities of data sharing, report by ECE (discussion);
- Classification of statistical activities (information);
- Final consideration of the revised TORs of the CCSA (for agreement);
- Evaluation of the Quality Conference (information).

20. In addition to the topics, proposed and agreed by the Committee, Eurostat proposed to consider an additional item on the “Inventory of groups, task teams and other coordination mechanisms existing within the international statistical system”. The representative of Eurostat explained that they have already done some work and that a full inventory could be posted and maintained by UNSD on its website, with Eurostat assisting in the updating (information).

21. He further proposed to develop a directory containing a brief description of the main characteristics of each organization within the CCSA (information).

22. During the course of the Statistical Commission, the following topics were proposed as items that should be discussed by the CCSA:

- Coordination to improve the quality and coherence of labour statistics at the national and global levels (information);
- Further involvement of national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative (discussion).

A proposal to set up an electronic market place of the supply of statistics training would be included in the special half day session.

## H. Actions to be taken by the committee

Action	Lead agency	Participating agencies	Deadline	Output
Task Team on Population estimates to review issues and make recommendations to the Committee	UN Population Division	World Bank, UIS, UNFPA, UNSD, AfDB, ECE, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA and WHO	25 August 2008	Report by the Task Team
Organize the CCSA Conference on Quality Assurance	UNSD	UNSD, FAO, ECE, ECB, Eurostat, ILO and OECD		TORs to be circulated electronically to members Conference to be held in Rome on 7-8 July
Capacity building - Task Team 1 on reporting mechanisms	Paris 21	ECE, Eurostat, World Tourism Organization, World Bank, Paho	End of July 2008	New report based on the TORs of the Task Team
Capacity building - Task Team 2 on regional training centers	UNSD	ILO, FAO, Paris21	End of July 2008	New report focusing on recommendations to improve effectiveness of training centers. Special session at September meeting Includes comments on the electronic market place on the supply of training.
Capacity building - Task Team 3 on coordination at the sub-regional level	World Bank	WHO, Paris21, World Bank, African Development Bank	End of July 2008	Extensive report
Capacity building - Task Team 4 on effectiveness of capacity building programmes	African Development Bank and ECA	WHO, Paris21, World Bank, UNSD	End of July 2008	New report focusing on quantitative indicators
Redraft TORs of the Committee	Secretariat	Two co-chairs	End of April 2008	New draft of new TORs to be circulated to members for written comments  Revised draft to be endorsed at the September session
Report on the modalities of data sharing	ECE		End of July 2008	

Proposals for further involvement of national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative	SDMX sponsors		End of July 2008	
Proposals for implementing the recommendations of the Statistical Commission programme review of employment statistics	ILO		End of July 2008	
Directory of organizations participating at the CCSA	Secretariat	Co-chairs	End of July 2008	Directory posted on the CCSA website

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda (UNSD: *Document SA/2008/1*)
2. Terms of reference on Quality Assurance (UNSD: *Document SA/2008/2*)
3. Coordination of capacity building activities - Reports of Task Team 1 on Reporting Mechanisms (Paris 21: *Document SA/2008/3*)
4. Coordination of capacity building activities - Reports of Task Team 2 on Regional Training Centers (UNSD: *Document SA/2008/4*)
5. Coordination of capacity building activities - Reports of Task Team 3 on Coordination at Sub-regional level (World Bank: *Document SA/2008/5*)
6. Revised Terms of Reference of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA Secretariat and Co-chairs: *Document SA/2008/6*)
7. Update on latest developments in the implementation of SDMX (BIS: *Document SA/2008/7*)
8. Other business
9. Agenda, time and venue of September 2008 session

## Annex II

### List of Documents

SA/2008/1	Provisional agenda
SA/2008/2	Terms of Reference on Quality Assurance ( <i>document was not issued and was replaced by an oral report</i> )
SA/2008/3	Coordination of capacity building activities- Progress Report of Task Team 1: Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics (PRESS)
SA/2008/4	Coordination of capacity building activities: Report of Task Team 2 on Regional Training Centres
SA/2008/5	Coordination of capacity building activities: Report of Task Team 3 on Co-ordination at Sub-regional Level ( <i>document was not issued and was replaced by an oral report</i> )
SA/2008/6	Revised Terms of Reference of the CCSA
SA/2008/7	Update on the latest developments in the implementation of SDMX

## Annex III

### List of participants

<b>United Nations entities, programmes and funds</b>		
Department of Economic and Social Affairs		
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