

Summary Talking Points for CCSA Meeting: SDMX Developments (Tunis, 11-12 September 2008)

Prepared by the SDMX Sponsors

- Following the last CCSA meeting in February 2008, the 39th **UN Statistical Commission**:
 - **recognised** SDMX as the preferred standard for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata and requested the sponsors to continue their work;
 - **encouraged** further SDMX implementations by national and international statistical organisations ;
 - **emphasised** the need "to further involve national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative by enabling opportunities for collaboration with the sponsoring organisations in order to influence decision-making and its governance to address their needs, especially in the area of developing cross-domain concepts";
 - **underlined** the importance of capacity-building and outreach by organising seminars, workshops, preparing handbooks, manuals and implementation guidance through training and technical assistance.
- An **action plan** involving capacity-building and outreach to foster awareness-building and implementations is taking shape and going forward with the support of all sponsoring organisations , with steps that include:
 - updating the SDMX user guide;
 - encouraging involvement of regional organisations in capacity-building;
 - exploring opportunities for possibly developing self-learning training tools.
- Within the context of ongoing reflections by the SDMX Sponsors, particularly regarding ways to facilitate **further involvement** of national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative, the following ideas are taking shape:
 - **create advisory groups** of selected national and international organisations that will provide feedback to the sponsors on strategic as well as implementation issues.
 - **foster collaboration** through various meetings with sponsoring organisations, especially focusing on cross-domain concepts (i.e., following the five-month public comment period on draft SDMX content-oriented guidelines) and facilitating the building of data/metadata structure definitions (i.e., involving subject-matter domain experts);
- **A global SDMX conference** will take place in January 2009 (hosted by the OECD in Paris) with the aim of enabling the community of SDMX users to share information about their implementations and plans as well as to participate in capacity-building sessions (invitations are on their way via the SDMX sponsoring institutions; details are also available on the SDMX website; and a questionnaire about SDMX is being compiled for review at the conference).

- The **SDMX website** is being strengthened as the SDMX **centrepoin of information and collaboration**, e.g. including:
 - features to foster developments in the area of statistical **subject-matter domains** (to host links to websites involving these activities and to facilitate access to specific data and metadata structure definitions);
 - features to facilitate the collaboration of the growing diversity of organisations involved in implementations or developments;
 - features to support links to **freely available tools** as well as capabilities to compare different functionalities, providing opportunities to identify gaps and foster development of additional tools to benefit statistical systems in interchanges of data and metadata.