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Subject: Conference on Data Quality for International Organisations
Rome, Italy, 7–8 July 2008

Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend the third Conference on Data Quality for International Organisations, which will be held on 7 and 8 July 2008 in Rome, Italy, immediately prior to the Q2008 – European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (9-11 July 2008, Rome, for more information refer to <http://q2008.istat.it/>). Eurostat and UNSD as the current co-chairs of the Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) are organising this third conference. It will be hosted by FAO.

The primary purpose of the conference is to provide statistical experts from international or supra-national organisations with a forum to discuss specific data quality issues related to their work and to exchange experiences regarding the various quality mechanisms developed for improving the collection and dissemination of international data. It is expected that the discussions at this year's meeting will build on the extensive work in the field of data quality assessment that has recently been undertaken by the CCSA under Eurostat's leadership, which has led to the preparation of guidelines for the Implementation of Quality Assurance Frameworks for International Organizations Compiling Statistics (refer also to SA/2007/14/Add.4 from the tenth session of the CCSA). This year's conference offers therefore a unique opportunity to discuss how these guidelines, or specific elements thereof, can be applied in international agencies.

A programme committee consisting of Mr. Enrico Giovannini (OECD), Mr. Sylvester Young (ILO), Mr. Heinrich Bruengger (ECE), Mr. David Marshall (FAO), Ms. Caroline Willeke (ECB), Mr. Stefan Schweinfest (UNSD) and Mr. Pieter Everaers (Eurostat) has been set up and has prepared the attached provisional programme consisting of five thematic sessions. We would hope that all participants will actively contribute to the conference. In particular, we invite you to consider preparing a short and concise paper for one of the sessions of the conference. We encourage you to directly contact the respective session organizer with your proposal.

FAO has kindly offered to host our Conference at its headquarters in Rome, for which we express our special gratitude. This will allow prospective participants in our conference to extend their stay and also attend the Q2008 European Conference. More detailed information regarding our conference is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub/CDQIO-2008.htm> where also the conference papers will be posted as soon as they become available.

For general questions regarding the third Conference on Data Quality for International Organisations on 7 and 8 July, and to confirm your participation, please contact Ms. Mary Jane Holupka of UNSD (Email: holupka@un.org; phone: 212-963-4578; fax: 212-963-4569). For specific questions on local arrangements at the Rome conference venue, please contact Ms. Gianna Marciani-Politi of FAO (Email: Gianna.MarcianiPoliti@fao.org; phone: 39-06-5705-5229; fax: 39-06-5705-5615).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Rome.

[Signed]

Paul Cheung, UN Statistics Division

Pieter Everaers, Eurostat

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
Conference on Data Quality for International Organisations
Rome, Italy, 7– 8 July 2008
Meeting venue: Mexico Room (D211), FAO

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday 7 July	Session	Organiser
14.00 – 14.45	Welcome, Introduction, Keynote Address	FAO, Eurostat, UNSD
14.45 – 16:15	Session 1: Quality assessment – use of checklists; user surveys; collection of quality metadata; disseminating quality information; training in quality management; country support	Eurostat
COFFEE		
16:30 – 18:00	Session 2: International cooperation on quality management – principles; harmonization of framework; peer reviews; support of countries	ECB
Tuesday 8 July	Session	Organiser
09.00 – 10.30	Session 3: Dissemination platforms to make data more accessible and interpretable	ECE
COFFEE		
11.00 – 12.30	Session 4: Best practices in imputation and estimation	ILO
LUNCH		
14.30 – 16.00	Session 5: Roundtable: “Making data internationally comparable or respect national, but not comparable sources – implications for data quality?”	OECD
COFFEE		
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of the conference and conclusions	UNSD