

**Report of the 13th Meeting of the
Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities**

I. Introduction

1. The thirteenth session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in New York on 23 February 2009 on the margin of the 40th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The session was opened by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and co-chair of the Committee, who welcomed the participants and wished them fruitful deliberations. The session was chaired by Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director of Agriculture and Environment Statistics and Statistical Cooperation of Eurostat and co-chair of the Committee. The agenda, documents presented and the list of participants are attached as annex I, II and III respectively.

II. Work of the CCSA Meeting

A. Adoption of the agenda and other issues

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

B. Proposal for the topics and formats of future CCSA special events

3. The Committee took note of the document "*Proposal for the topics and formats of future CCSA special events*" (Document SA/2009/2), prepared by Eurostat, and outlining the way forward for future quality conferences. Eurostat proposed to continue the practice of having back-to-back meetings with European Quality Conferences as this offers synergies of having available international experts participate in both events. The Committee acknowledged the success of previous conferences; however, it recognised that their format could be further improved. Issues discussed included the topics that should be considered by the next quality conference and whether the managerial or technical level staff should be targeted. Also, proposals were made to consider special events dedicated to other topics, e.g. governance of the global statistical system or carrier development and training for international staff. It was agreed that an Organizing Committee for the 2010 Quality Conference will be established in March/April 2009. OECD, Eurostat, PAHO and World Trade Organization volunteered to be its members. The Organizing Committee will prepare and present to the 14th session of the CCSA a concrete proposal for the agenda of the conference.

4. As the issue of governance of the global statistical system was considered of strategic importance, the Committee decided that it needed to be discussed as part of the regular CCSA sessions, with high-level managers in attendance. It was, therefore, decided that a half day special session on the *Governance of the Global Statistical System and the role CCSA could play* will be organized in conjunction with the 14th session of Committee in September 2009.

C. Report of Task Team 1 on Reporting mechanism

5. The Committee took note of the progress report of the Task Team 1, led by PARIS21, on reporting mechanism “*Coordination of capacity building activities: Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS)*” (Document SA/2009/3). The Committee welcomed the PRESS 2008 report and commended the work of PARIS21. It was noted that PRESS is a very important tool for improving the collaboration among development partners, as it provides useful information and key findings on who is doing what in the area of statistics. In some countries, PRESS has been well-received and is serving as a basis for donor dialogue. From the regional perspective, it is seen as a good starting point to discuss issues of regional coordination. Serious concerns, however, were expressed about (i) the low response rate to the PRESS questionnaire and the fact that some CCSA members, including a significant number of UN entities, had not responded; (ii) reliability of data, since some of the most important donors of statistical capacity building have not responded and their data have not been included in the final results; (iii) methodology used, leading potentially to under- or double-counting; and (iv) difficulties faced by UN entities in completing the questionnaire. The Committee also made a number of suggestions on how to improve PRESS. UN entities announced their intention to discuss these issues further at their next meetings and get back to PARIS21.

6. The Committee expressed support for the established reporting mechanism but stressed that some technical issues needed to be further discussed. The Committee requested Task Team 1 to consider the above comments and present to the 14th CCSA session a summary of the challenges and risks faced by PRESS and a roadmap on how PRESS could be improved. All CCSA members were strongly urged to ensure that they contribute to the next round of PRESS, which would be launched in late March 2009.

D. Modalities and data sharing among international organizations

7. The Committee took note of the oral presentation made by the European Central Bank on the status of the work done by the Task Team on modalities of data sharing among international organizations. The Committee was informed that according to the discussions among the Task Team members a short questionnaire exploring existing arrangements and best practices might be necessary. Terms of reference of the Task Team together with a possible short questionnaire will be sent to the CCSA members shortly. The Task Team is planning a meeting in June 2009 in order to prepare its report for the 14th session of the Committee in September 2009.

E. Results of Eurostat's work on development of a directory of the organizations members of the CCSA

8. The Committee took note of the oral presentation by Eurostat on the development of a directory, containing a brief description of the main statistical services of each organization within the CCSA. As agreed during the 12th session of the Committee in September 2008 in Tunis, the template of the directory was revised and sent to CCSA members. Eurostat expressed its appreciation to all CCSA members that provided comments on the template. As of 20 February, the CCSA Secretariat had received templates of 15 CCSA members. The Committee invited CCSA members that have not yet submitted their templates to do so by the end of March 2009.

F. Other business

9. UNSD updated the Committee members on actions taken with respect to the proposal to celebrate the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. In response to a letter sent by UNSD, support and positive replies from more than 100 countries had been received so far. A listing by country and kind of commemorative event with which any national day or month on statistics is currently celebrated is available on the UNSD website. UNSD will work with countries to put forward a resolution to the 41st session of the Statistical Commission to officially endorse this event. UNSD reiterated its appeal to CCSA members to support this initiative.

10. The Committee was informed about the ongoing work on the update of the CCSA website hosted by UNSD. While the new proposal retains the current split between protected and publicly accessible domains, it suggests broadening the scope of publicly accessible information (pages) about the Committee's work. The Committee noted that the new proposal should feature a more attractive layout and requested UNSD to continue working on it. It was agreed that the prototype website will be uploaded for a trial period for review and comments by the CCSA members in April 2009.

11. The Committee thanked Mr. Sylvester Young, ILO, for his active participation in the CCSA and wished him well on his forthcoming retirement.

G. Dates and venue of the 14th session of the Committee

12. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) reconfirmed its offer to host the next CCSA session. The Committee agreed to hold its 14th session at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand from 9 to 11 September 2009. In addition to the formal CCSA session it is foreseen that back-to-back meetings will be organized, taking advantage of the availability of the members of certain groups/committees.

H. Agenda for the 14th session of the Committee

13. The Committee agreed on the following topics to be discussed at the 14th session:
- Round table discussion on major international projects such as the Global International Comparison Programme 2011 (ICP), MDGs, Strategic plan for Agricultural Statistics, 2010 Round of Population Census, implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, etc.;
 - Governance of the Global Statistical System and the role CCSA could play (discussion);
 - Final report of the Task Team on Population estimates (UN Population Division);
 - Follow-up on the report of Task Team 1 on Reporting Mechanism led by PARIS 21;
 - Progress report of the Task Team on Modalities of data sharing among the international organizations (ECB);
 - Use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by the international organizations – follow up to the evaluation of the Quality Conference (World Trade Organization);
 - 2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations. Follow up to the proposal of the Co-Chairs made at the 13th session;
 - Quality Assurance Framework - progress report (Eurostat);
 - Update on the progress with celebration of the World Statistics Day (UNSD);
 - Agenda, time and venue of 2010 sessions of the CCSA
 - Nomination of Co-Chairs for 2010 - 2011

I. Actions to be taken by the Committee

Action	Lead Agency	Participating Agencies	Deadline	Output
Task Team on Population estimates: To present final report to the 14 th session of the Committee in September 2009 focused on the third item of ToR – development of standards for annual population statistics	UN Population Division	World Bank; UIS, UNFPA, UNSD, AfDB, ECE, ECA, WHO and UN Population Division	15 August 2009	Final report of the Task Team
Task Team 1 on Reporting mechanism on statistical capacity building activities: Present a summary of the comments and suggestions made during 13 th session of the Committee and a road map how PRESS could be improved to make it more useful	PARIS21	ECE, Eurostat, World Tourism Organization, World Bank, PAHO	15 August 2009	Progress report including summary of comments and a road map
All CCSA members to ensure that they contribute to the next round of PRESS	PARIS21	ALL	April/May 2009	Input into next round of PRESS
Modalities of data sharing among the international organizations: Task Team to send the terms of reference and a short questionnaire to the CCSA members and prepare a report for the 14 th session of the Committee	European Central Bank	OECD, Eurostat, World Bank, WTO/OMT	15 August 2009	Progress Report
Follow up to the evaluation of the Quality Conference: 1. Establishment of the	Co-chairs	OECD,	March/April	Information

Organizing Committee for the 2010 Quality Conference	and Secretariat	Eurostat, PAHO, World Trade Organization	2009	to be circulated electronically to CCSA members
2. More concrete proposal for the organization of the 2010 Quality Conference	Organizing Committee		September 2009	Update on the progress with organization of the 2010 Quality Conference
Quality Assurance Framework Update on the progress with quality assurance framework	Eurostat		September 2009	Progress report
Follow up to the evaluation of the Quality Conference: World Trade Organization to prepare a note about the use of non-official data when official data are missing in imputations/estimations made by the international organizations	World Trade Organization		15 August 2009	Report to the 14 th CCSA session
CCSA directory All CCSA members to provide required information	CCSA secretariat	All	End March 2009	Complete information for all members
CCSA website UNSD to prepare a new more attractive layout of the CCSA website; CCSA members to review and provide comments	UNSD		April 2009	Updated CCSA website uploaded for a trial period
Celebration of the World Statistics Day UNSD to report to the 14 th CCSA meeting the progress with the organization of the World Statistics Day	UNSD		15 August 2009	14 th CCSA meeting

Annex I

Agenda

Monday, 23 February 2009

Morning session, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

1. Adoption of the agenda (UNSD: *Document SA/2009/1*)
2. Proposal for the topics and formats of future CCSA special events (Eurostat: *Document SA/2009/2*)
3. Coordination of capacity building activities – Report of Task Team 1 on Reporting Mechanism - Final project inventory, incl. proposals on how to meet the “*information sharing objective*” more effectively (PARIS21: *Document SA/2009/3*)
4. Modalities of data sharing among the international organizations – Update on the progress of the Task Team (*ECB: oral presentation*)
5. Results of Eurostat’s work on development of a directory of the organizations members of the CCSA (*Eurostat: oral presentation*)
6. Other business
7. Agenda, time and venue of the 14th session of the CCSA (September 2009)

Annex II

List of Documents

SA/2009/1	Provisional agenda
SA/2009/2	Proposal for the topics and formats of future CCSA special events
SA/2009/3	Coordination of capacity building activities – Report of Task Team 1 on Reporting Mechanism - Final project inventory, incl. proposals on how to meet the “ <i>information sharing objective</i> ” more effectively

Annex III

List of Participants (in alphabetical order of the organization)

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