

**Modalities of data sharing among international organisations  
adopted by the CCSA at its 14<sup>th</sup> session**

1. The Principles Governing International Statistical Activities were adopted by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) at its 6<sup>th</sup> session in 2005. Principle 1 states “High quality international statistics, accessible to all, are a fundamental element of global information systems.” It is supported by good practices for implementing Principle 1 such as “compiling and disseminating international statistics based on impartiality; providing equal access to statistics for all users; ensuring free public accessibility of key statistics”.

2. Moreover, the CCSA has adopted the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) as technical standard for the exchange of statistical information at its 9<sup>th</sup> session in 2007. This may facilitate a regular and significant exchange of data and metadata also among the CCSA member organisations.

3. The data and metadata sharing among international organisations is currently taking place in an environment that may be described as follows:

- a) The statistics departments of the international organisations have to comply with the respective administrative rules of their organisations.
- b) Some statistics departments offer their (non-confidential) data and metadata free of charge; other statistics departments sell a significant part of their data and depend on the revenues to finance partly their budgets.
- c) The sharing of data and metadata among international organisations is very heterogeneous: there are small and large volumes, ad hoc and regular exchanges, voluntary exchanges and obligations to report, gentleman’s agreements and legal contracts, etc.
- d) A large majority of the statistics departments perceive the sharing of data and metadata among international organisations as working relatively well.

4. Given the situation as described above, the following general non-binding best practices for the modalities to share (published and non-published) data and metadata among international organisations are being established. The best practices may include the following elements:

- a) The sharing of available data and metadata among international organisations should be free of charge.

- b) The receiving organisation may share the data and metadata with third parties with the explicit consent of the providing organisations.
- c) The original providing organisation must be acknowledged as source when using or further disseminating the data and metadata.
- d) Any transformation of data and metadata by the receiving organisation (e.g. the compilation of growth rates or seasonal adjustments) must be well documented and made transparent when using or further disseminating the data and metadata.
- e) Disclaimers related to data and metadata published by the providing organisation are to be repeated by the receiving organisation when using or further disseminating data and metadata.
- f) The sharing of data and metadata follows the SDMX standard as adopted by the CCSA. The SDMX sponsor organisations are invited to develop within SDMX standard facilities for providing information on sources and disclaimers (see elements c) and e) above), e.g. as part of the SDMX Cross-Domain-Concepts CDCs.