

**Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities**

**I. Introduction**

1. The fifteenth session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in New York on 22 February 2010 on the margin of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The session was chaired by the two co-chairs of the Committee - Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director of External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators of Eurostat and Mr. Henri Laurencin, Head, Development Statistics and Information Branch of Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of UNCTAD. The agenda, documents presented and the list of participants of the present session are attached as Annexes I, II and III respectively.

**II. Work of the CCSA Session**

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

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda with a minor change regarding the order in which the items were to be taken up. The revised agenda of the meeting is presented in Annex I.

**B. Proposed Inventory on Global Statistical Standards: Presentation of INEGI, Mexico**

3. A representative from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) made a presentation of a website, containing an inventory of global statistical standards (*Document SA/2010/7*). The inventory, as initially developed by INEGI, aimed at creating a repository of the highly dispersed statistical standards into a single database and using it as a benchmark for measuring the degree of compliance of Mexican statistics with international recommendations and standards. Mexico had decided to offer this system to the international community and suggested that it be loaded on the UNSD website, preferably in several official UN languages.

4. The Committee strongly supported the INEGI's offer to provide the inventory to the internationally community and agreed in principle to work towards its transformation into a global database. While noting that this type of work fully conforms with its mandate, as specified in the current Terms of Reference, the Committee also

acknowledged that further development and maintenance of the inventory would require significant efforts from each and every CCSA member. In the absence of a definition of what constitutes an “international statistical standard”, the Committee decided that it is imperative to look into this issue and come up with a practical proposal regarding the coverage of this global database. Also questions were raised, regarding the inclusion of ‘regional standards’, the translation of the whole database and the need for a classification of statistical domains. The Committee requested a group formed by the World Bank, ILO, ECE, UNSD, and in collaboration with INEGI, to prepare and present to its 16<sup>th</sup> session a concept paper on how to develop the global inventory further, including proposals of how to ensure its future maintenance.

### **C. Progress report on the organization of the World Statistics Day**

5. The Committee took note of the progress report prepared by UNSD on the organization of the World Statistics Day (*Document SA/2010/6*). The Committee was informed that the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Statistical Commission was expected to endorse 20 October 2010 as the date for the first World Statistics Day and that a logo and a designated website had also been designed. Two global statistical events will be used to launch the observance – the IAOS Conference in Chile and the ICP 2011 round User Conference in Washington, D.C. to be organized by the World Bank. Also, at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai DESA will have an allocated space, which could be used by the CCSA and Global Statistical System for raising awareness and promoting the importance of official statistics. Individual CCSA members informed the Committee about the initiatives they have been planning in observance of the World Statistics Day, in particular UNCTAD and UNIDO announced their plans to coordinate initiatives locally in Geneva and Vienna respectively. UNSD strongly encouraged all partners to make a contribution in their respective subject matter area and location. UNSD will assist with the overall coordination of the events worldwide and publicize them on a special website. A full list of events that will mark the celebration will be presented to the Committee at its 16<sup>th</sup> session.

### **D. Global Statistical System and the Role of CCSA: Roadmap for the development of a strategy on how to incorporate major projects in the CCSA work**

6. The Committee took note of the presentation made by the two Co-chairs on the “*Governance of the Global Statistical System: The role of CCSA*”, (*Document SA/2010/2*). The Committee agreed that during the next 16<sup>th</sup> session a discussion on one selected global project - the System of National Accounts 2008, will be held. The agenda for the discussion should focus on the horizontal issues that are common for all CCSA members. The Committee further agreed that inputs will be requested from lead and non-lead agencies of this project in a structured way. The Friends of the Co-Chairs group composed of the World Bank, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD and OECD reconfirmed its commitment to prepare together with the Co-chairs a concept paper on: (i) CCSA role in

implementation of the global projects from the perspective of international organizations; and (ii) how to bring new items in the agenda of the Global Statistical System and present it to the Committee at its 16<sup>th</sup> session. It was decided that the CCSA Secretariat will send out an outline of the structured inputs that will be required from the CCSA members.

**E. Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS): Presentation of case studies how the PRESS is used**

7. The Committee took note of the PARIS21 report on *‘Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS): Issues and Case Studies’* (Document SA/2010/3). The report addressed the concerns raised by the Committee during previous sessions, namely on the low response rate, double counting and reporting of commitments versus disbursements. The experience of EUROSTAT was presented as a case study on the use of PRESS data. Some CCSA members shared their experience with providing information to PRESS and noted that the reporting of funding data for statistical capacity development activities may pose some difficulties for them due to the nature of their budget procedures; others made recommendations for further improving the representation of geographical and statistical areas in PRESS as well as expanding its web version with the inclusion of searchable tools, etc.

8. The Committee thanked PARIS21 for taking into consideration the CCSA concerns and for continuously working towards PRESS improvement. The Committee also expressed satisfaction concerning the new more user friendly version of PRESS. CCSA members were encouraged to report to the 2010 round of PRESS, as those who might experience difficulties with reporting of actual commitments/disbursements were advised to provide approximations. The Committee requested PARIS21 to present an information note to its 16<sup>th</sup> session on the progress with PRESS data collection for 2010 round.

**F. 2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations**

9. The Committee took note of the proposed agenda of the back-to-back meeting to the 2010 European Quality Conference to be held in Helsinki, Finland on the afternoon of 6 and all day on 7 May 2010 (Document SA/2010/4). UNSD and Eurostat, on behalf of the organizing committee, asked the individual agencies for making a commitment to attend the Conference and to contribute to its organization by making presentations and chairing a session. The CCSA members reconfirmed their commitment to attend and suggested some modifications in the proposed agenda. The Committee requested UNSD to collect the more concrete proposals for presentations, finalize the agenda and circulate it electronically among CCSA members by end of March 2010.

**G. CCSA Special session on Human Capital**

10. The Committee took note of the proposed agenda of the Special session on Human Capital to be organized in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> CCSA meeting in September 2010 (*Document SA/2010/5*). The Committee requested the organizing team to finalize the agenda during April 2010. Individual members were asked to contact Eurostat or other organizations from the organizing team, namely UNIDO, UNODC, WTO and OECD, regarding their inputs for the special session. The Committee further agreed with a UNIDO and UNODC proposal to contact OHRM representatives for their possible attendance in the session, and requested them to report back the outcomes.

#### **H. Use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by International Organizations**

11. The Committee took note of an oral presentation made by the World Trade Organization on the status of work conducted by the team preparing the paper on the use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by the International Organizations. The Committee was informed that the team had its first round of discussions and currently is working on the second draft of the paper, which will be presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee in September 2010.

#### **I. Establishment of a network of statisticians working in International Organizations**

12. The Committee took note of an oral presentation made by the ESCAP on the progress with the establishment of a network of statisticians working in International Organizations. The Committee was informed that a group of team members had a working breakfast on 22 February to exchange initial ideas and to discuss the future steps of this initiative. During the next two months the team will be working on a concept paper which will be presented for discussion at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of CCSA in September 2010. As a concrete first step, the team proposed to identify 2-3 statisticians as focal points in each CCSA member who are committed to the high professional principles, and who will form the critical mass of the network. They are expected to share their experience and push for more creative ideas and projects. The team will circulate a message on this matter to all CCSA members.

#### **J. Other business**

13. The ITU invited the CCSA members to take part in the upcoming Global Seminar on Information and Communication Technology Statistics which will be jointly organized by the UNSD, ITU, UNCTAD, Statistics Korea and in collaboration with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 19 to 21 July 2010.

**K. Dates and venue of the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee**

14. The Committee reconfirmed that its next 16<sup>th</sup> session will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 1 - 3 September 2010. The meeting will be hosted jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and with the help of International Atomic Energy Agency. Details about the exact venue, hotel accommodation etc. will be provided by the hosts prior to the meeting.

**L. Agenda for the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee**

15. The Committee agreed on the following topics to be discussed at the 16<sup>th</sup> session:
- Special Session on Human Capital
  - Inventory on Global Statistical Standards: Further development and maintenance; follow up to the decision of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission
  - Global Statistical System: A discussion on one selected global project – SNA 2008
  - PRESS: Progress with PRESS data collection for 2010 round
  - Final report on the use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by International Organizations
  - Concept paper on the establishment of a network of statisticians working in International Organizations
  - World Statistics Day - full list of events
  - Evaluation of the 2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations
  - SDMX

## I. Actions to be taken by the Committee

Action	Lead Agency	Participating Agencies	Deadline	Output
<p><b>Global Statistical System and the role of the CCSA:</b>            (1) Preparation of a concept paper on the CCSA role in implementation of the global projects and on how to bring new items in the agenda of the GSS</p>	Co-Chairs	World Bank, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, OECD	10 August 2010	Concept paper to the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA session
<p>(2) Outline of the structured inputs to be sent out by the CCSA Secretariat to all members on the selected global project (SNA 2008) on which the Committee will have a discussion at its 16<sup>th</sup> session</p>	Friends of the Co-Chairs group and the CCSA Secretariat	All CCSA members	April 2010	Inputs from all CCSA members collected and aggregated
<p><b>Inventory of Global Statistical Standards</b>            Preparation of a concept paper on how to develop the inventory further and ensure its maintenance and translation into other languages</p>	UNSD/ECE	World Bank, ILO, ECE, UNSD and INEGI	10 August 2010	Concept paper to the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA session
<p><b>Reporting Mechanism on Statistical Capacity Building Activities: PRESS</b>            Presentation of an information note on the progress with PRESS data collection for 2010 round</p>	PARIS21	PARIS21 Eurostat	10 August 2010	Information note to the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA session
<p><b>2010 Conference on Data Quality for International</b></p>	UNSD and Eurostat	UNSD, Eurostat,	March 2010	Final agenda circulated to

<p><b>Organizations</b> CCSA members to provide the more concrete proposals for presentations to UNSD for finalization of the agenda</p>		AfDB and UNHabitat		CCSA members
<p><b>CCSA Special Session on Human capital</b> Finalization of the agenda for the special session</p>	Eurostat	UNIDO, UNODC, OECD, Eurostat, WTO	April 2010	Final agenda circulated to CCSA members
<p><b>Use of non-official data by International Organizations</b> Preparation of a paper on the use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by IO, incl. examples of good practices and criteria for choice</p>	WTO	FAO, OECD, UNWTO, ILO, UNODC, UNIDO	10 August 2010	Final paper to the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA session
<p><b>Celebration of the World Statistics Day</b> Presentation of the full list of events that will mark the celebration</p>	UNSD	All CCSA members	10 August 2010	Full list of WSD events to be presented at the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA session
<p><b>Network of statisticians</b> (1) Concept paper (strategy) on the establishment of a network of statisticians working in IOs</p>	ESCAP	UNODC, ILO, World Bank, Eurostat	10 August 2010	Concept paper to the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA session
<p>(2) Identification of focal points in each CCSA member</p>	ESCAP	All CCSA members	April 2010	Message circulated to all CCSA members for identification of focal points

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

**Monday, 22 February 2010**

**Morning session 9:30 am – 12:00 pm**

1. Adoption of the agenda (UNSD: *Document SA/2010/1*)
2. Proposed Inventory of Global Statistical Standards: presentation of INEGI, Mexico (UNSD/Mexico: *PPP/Document SA/2010/7*)
3. Progress report on the organization of the World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2010/12), (UNSD: *Document SA/2010/6*)
4. Global Statistical System and the role of the CCSA: Roadmap for the development of a strategy on how to incorporate major projects in the CCSA work (Eurostat and UNCTAD: *Document SA/2010/2*)
5. PRESS: Presentation of case studies how the PRESS is used (Paris21 and Eurostat: *PPP/Document SA/2010/3*)
6. 2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations: Final agenda of the back-to-back meeting to the 2010 European Quality Conference in Helsinki, Finland (Eurostat and UNSD: *Document SA/2010/4*)
7. CCSA Special Sessions: Provisional agenda of the special session on human capital to be organized during the 16<sup>th</sup> CCSA meeting (Eurostat: *Document SA/2010/5*)
8. Progress report on the use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by International Organizations (World Trade Organization: *Oral report*)
9. Progress report on the establishments of a network of statisticians working in International Organizations (UNESCAP: *Oral report*)
10. Agenda, time and venue of 16<sup>th</sup> Session of CCSA (September 2010)
11. Other business

## **Annex II**

### **List of Documents**

SA/2010/1	Provisional agenda
SA/2010/2	Global Statistical System and the role of CCSA: Roadmap for the development of a strategy on how to incorporate major projects in the CCSA work (PowerPoint presentation)
SA/2010/3	Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS): Issues and Case Studies
SA/2010/4	2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations: Proposed agenda of the back-to-back meeting to the 2010 European Quality Conference in Helsinki, Finland
SA/2010/5	CCSA Special Sessions: Provisional agenda of the special session on human capital to be organized during the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCSA meeting
SA/2010/6	Progress report for the organization of the World Statistics Day (SC document E/CN.3/2010/12)
SA/2010/7	Presentation of INEGI, Mexico on the proposed Inventory of the Global Statistical Standards (PowerPoint presentation)

## Annex III

### List of Participants

*(in alphabetical order of the organization)*

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