

CO-ORDINATION OF THE STATISTICAL DATA-COLLECTION ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Inventory of statistical data-collection activities

Note by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The present document provides information on the data-collection activities of the United Nations, its regional commissions and other international agencies as reported by statistical services of these organizations to the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSD). All statistical data-collection modes are covered, whether by questionnaire, diskette, magnetic tape or computer. Requests for information included in the inventory cover both general data collection activities and those that serve only a limited purpose. For the most part, however, it does not cover statistical inquiries by the non-statistical parts of these agencies.
2. The document presents a textual description of the inventory itself and information on major changes in international data-collection activities in the past two years. The detailed inventory of individual requests for statistical data sent out by twenty international, regional and other agencies to countries is presented in Annex I of the document arranged by subject matter.
3. The inventory is designed both as a tool to identify duplication and overlap in the requests by international and regional organizations for data from countries and to assist national statistical offices and other national statistical agencies in obtaining an overview of the nature and timing of statistical reports expected by international and regional organizations. The inventory has been prepared on a biennial basis for many years at the request of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination ^{1/} At its Special session, in April 1994, the Statistical Commission requested the Statistical Division to update and improve, on a regular basis, the Inventory of Statistical Data-Collection Activities, which was considered to be a permanent co-ordination tool. It was also requested that the Statistical Division in co-operation with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, prepare an updated version of the Inventory, to be submitted to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its 1995 session, after review by the ACC Subcommittee. ^{2/}
4. The revised 1995 Inventory of statistical data-collection activities was compiled by the Statistical Division from information provided by the international agencies during April and May 1995. The following international agencies responded: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSD); Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO); World Health Organisation (WHO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Telecommunications Union (ITU); World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO); Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); World Tourism Organization (WTO); and World Trade Organization (WTO). No response to the inquiry was received from the World Bank at the time the present Note was written

5. At its twenty-seventh session the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities suggested a number of ways to further improve the present Inventory in order to expand awareness of it at the national level and its use at both the international and national levels ^{3/}. The following suggestions were introduced in the 1995 Inventory: (i) identification code; (ii) title of the international organizations and regional agencies; (iii) title of the data-collection activities; (iv) description of the data-collection activities; (v) publications for which the data-collection activities are used; (vi) mode of the data-collection; (vii) statistical agency or other government department to which the inquiries are sent; (viii) deadline for return and month of dispatch of the inquiries; (ix) countries (regions) to which inquiries are sent; (x) indication of other governmental bodies (e.g. central banks, ministries of agriculture, health, labour, education, etc.) to which the inquiries are sent. The Inventory is designed as a set of cross-referenced databases comprising a master-inventory and sub-inventories. Sub-inventories can be extracted (sorted out) from the master-inventory covering specific features and directions of the data-collection. The master-inventory contains more than 4000 entries. The classification of data-collection activities used was derived from the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) Programme Classification covering statistical activities (Annex II) developed by the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

6. For the 1995 Inventory 312 data collection-activities were reported by the organs, organizations and agencies:

Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat	12
Economic Commission for Europe	63
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	5
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	4
Economic Commission for Africa	3
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	3
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	7
International Labour Organisation	4
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations	42
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	12
International Civil Aviation Organization	13
World Health Organization	2
International Monetary Fund	4
International Telecommunication Union	3

World Intellectual Property Organization	11
Commonwealth of Independent States	1
Statistical office of the European Communities	82
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	34
World Tourism Organization	2
World Trade Organization	5

MAJOR CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL DATA-COLLECTION ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

7. **Twenty eight** questionnaires were discontinued, since the previous inventory was completed in 1993, namely:

1. Maritime Transport Statistics Collection on Magnetic Tape (UNSD);
2. Questionnaire on International Sea Transport (UNSD);
3. General Industrial Statistics Questionnaire (UNSD);
4. Supplementary General Industrial Statistics Questionnaire (UNSD);
5. Supplementary Questionnaire on Industrial Commodity Production Statistics (UNSD);
6. Collection of Demographic and Social Statistics on Diskette (ECLAC);
7. Questionnaire on the Flows of Financial Resources to Developing Countries and Territories (UNCTAD);
8. Annual Questionnaire (UNCTAD);
9. Statistics on Recreational Fishery (FAO);
10. Questionnaire on Agricultural Price Stabilization and Support Policies (FAO);
11. Economic Accounts for Agriculture (FAO);
12. Annual Questionnaire on Area, Production and Utilization of Cereals (excluding Rice) (FAO);
13. Annual Questionnaire on Area, Production and Utilization of Rice (FAO);
14. Textiles and Clothing Statistics (WTO);
15. Condition on the Dwelling Stock (ECE);
16. FAO/ECE Forest Products Questionnaire (ECE);
17. Annex Items - Production and Trade of Special Chemicals (ECE);
18. Questionnaire for the Statistical Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes (ECE);
19. Average Net Calorific Value of Coal Products Processed and Produced in Processing Plants (ECE);
20. Recapitulative Table of Plants Brought into Service or Planned (ECE);
21. Production of Energy by Form (ECE);
22. Overall Energy Balance Sheet (ECE);
23. Conversion Factors Used for the Overall Balance Sheet (ECE);

24. Deliveries of Petroleum Products for Inland Consumption (ECE);
25. Production of renewable Forms of Energy (ECE);
26. Final Consumption of Energy in Transport (ECE);
27. Roads - Expenditure on Roads (ECE);
28. Inland Waterways - Craft in Service at End of Year, by Year of Construction (ECE);

8. Since the previous inventory was completed in 1993 **seventeen** new questionnaires were introduced, as follows:

1. Questionnaire for Comparative Economic Indicators of the Fertilizer Sector in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
2. Questionnaire for Review of Developments in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region (ESCAP);
3. ESCAP Regional Survey on Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
4. Survey on Insurance and Reinsurance Operations (UNCTAD);
5. Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Electronic Questionnaire for FAO/OIE/WHO Animal Health Yearbook (FAO);
6. Questionnaire for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the EUFMD member countries (FAO);
7. Questionnaire for the control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Countries Non-member of the EUFMD Commission (FAO);
8. Budgets and Promotional Activities of National Tourism Administration (World Tourism Organization);
9. Questionnaire on Selected Macroeconomic Indicators for the Transition Countries (ECE);
10. Questionnaire on External Trade Statistics for the Transition Countries (ECE);
11. Questionnaire on Industrial Production for the Transition Countries (ECE);
12. Questionnaire on Financial Statistics for the Transition Countries (ECE);
13. Railway Transport - Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment (ECE);
14. Railway Transport - Transport Measurement (ECE);
15. Road Transport - Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment (ECE);
16. Road Transport - Transport Measurement (ECE);
17. Inland Waterway Transport - Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment (ECE)

9. Two previous questionnaires on regional telecommunication indicators and world telecommunication development report were merged into world telecommunication indicators questionnaire (ITU).

10. Other adjustments include the following:
 1. The name of the questionnaire "Data Collection Activities for CIS Monthly Bulletin and Statistical Yearbook" was changed to "Data Collection Activities for CIS Weekly Statistical Bulletin, Yearbook and other publications as well as Computerized Databases" (CIS).
 2. "Instrument to Monitor and Evaluate Progress in the Implementation of the Health for all strategies" was changed to "Guidelines to Monitor and Evaluate Progress in the Implementation of the Health for all Strategies (WHO).
 3. The name of the questionnaire "Railways - Networks" was changed to "Railway Transport - Infrastructure" (ECE).
 4. The name of the questionnaire "Railways - Mobile Equipment" was changed to "Railway Transport - Transport Equipment" (ECE).
 5. The name of the questionnaire "Railways - Passenger and Goods Traffic and Transport" was changed to "Railway Transport - Traffic " (ECE).
 6. The name of the questionnaire "Roads - Length of Roads" was changed to "Road Transport - Infrastructure" (ECE).
 7. The name of the questionnaire "Roads - Mobile Equipment" was changed to "Road Transport - Transport Equipment" (ECE).
 8. The name of the questionnaire "Roads - Total and International Traffic and Transport " was changed to "Road Transport - Traffic" (ECE).
 9. The name of the questionnaire "Inland Waterways - Length of Navigable Inland Waterways" was changed to "Inland Waterway Transport - Infrastructure" (ECE).
 10. The name of the questionnaire "Inland Waterways - Craft in Service" was changed to "Inland Waterway Transport - Transport Equipment" (ECE).
 11. The name of the questionnaire "Inland Waterways - Freight Transport" was changed to "Inland Waterway Transport - Transport Measurement" (ECE).
 12. The name of the questionnaire "Combine Transport - Container Traffic and Transport by Rail in Containers" was changed to "Transport of Goods Road Vehicles, Swap Bodies and Containers by Rail" (ECE).

13. The name of the questionnaire "Combined Transport Involving a Sea Journey" was changed to "Transport of Goods Road Vehicles, Swap Bodies and Containers by Maritime Transport" (ECE).
 14. The name of the questionnaire "Oil Pipeline - Length of Pipelines and Volume of Transport" was changed to "Oil Pipeline Transport" (ECE).
 15. The name of the questionnaire "FAO/ECE Forest Products" was changed to "Timber Bulletin Questionnaire" (ECE).
11. Descriptions of statistical data collection activities, organized by subject-matter, are contained in Annex I. Administrative Committee on Co-ordination Programme Classification for Statistical Activities is contained in Annex II.

NOTES

- 1/ The previous inventory was E/CN.3/AC.1/1993/R.6, dated 7 July 1993.
- 2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement 9 (E/1994/29, paras 39-41).
- 3/ See E/CN.3/1994, para 15.