

ISSUES RELATED TO WORK OF THE TASK FORCES

Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Environment Statistics
Report prepared by the United Nations Statistical Division

The Statistical Commission, at its twenty-eighth session (27 February - 3 March 1995), considered the report of the Task Force to be a good inventory of current activities; however, the report did not provide strategic guidance on how to improve coordination and to develop targets and priorities in an integrated work programme. The Commission recommended, therefore, that the Task Force undertake efforts to develop a framework for the various activities in environmental statistics, indicators and accounting, indicating their relative priority and links to the policy agenda of national and international environmental agencies, and providing milestones against which progress could be measured. The Commission also recommended that national statistical offices and international organizations should make every effort to influence the decisions of line ministries and governing bodies of international organizations in order to achieve greater compatibility on international strategies and programmes.

In its report to the Statistical Commission, the Task Force pointed out that the different mandates established by the governing bodies of international organizations do not at present permit the development of an integrated programme of work. As a consequence, only an integrated "presentation" of programmes was submitted to the Commission. The Subcommittee may wish, in this context, to (a) advise the Task Force on how an integrative framework can be developed, and (b) comment on the feasibility of influencing the decisions of line ministries and governing bodies of international organizations, as recommended by the Commission.