

ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
Thirty-third session
Madrid, 14-16 September 1999
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

SA/1999/11
24 August 1999

**GLOBAL INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF THE WORK OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY**

Report by UNSD

Contents	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1-3	3
II. Status of the development of the Web site for methodological work in statistics	4-14	3
A. Design of the Web site	4-6	3
B. Current content of the Web site database	7-11	4
(a) Information on work in progress	7-8	4
(b) Information on completed work	9-11	4
C. Problems encountered and time required to enter the information in the database	12	5
III. Points for discussion	13	5
 Appendices		
I. Example of a “work in progress” entry		6
II. Example of a “completed work” entry		7
III. ACC Programme Classification – Statistics Part		8
IV. Instructions on viewing, entering and editing information in the database ..		9

I. Introduction

1. At its thirty-second session (New York, 16-18 June 1998), the Subcommittee noted the intention of the Statistics Division to present to the Statistical Commission at its 1999 session the work plans of the international organizations on statistical methodology, based on information to be input by organizations into a Web page system designed by the Division as a result of a pilot study carried out by the Division, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The Subcommittee noted that consultations were continuing between the Division and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) concerning ways of including the information that OECD, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and ECE have already provided in the context of the integrated presentation of work plans for the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) (ACC/1998/14 para. 2(b)).
2. At its thirtieth session (New York, 1-5 March 1999), the Statistical Commission supported this intention and requested the UNSD to proceed with the database and integrated presentation, and requested all organizations to participate in that endeavour. In addition, the Commission requested the UNSD to prepare an annotated list of previously adopted statistical standards as a companion document to the integrated presentation and to report to the Statistical Commission on the implementation of the work at its next session (E/1999/24 para. 130).
3. This present report describes the current stage of development of the global integrated presentation and the information on previously adopted statistical standards.

II. Status of the development of the Web site for methodological work in statistics

A. Design of the Web site

4. The current Web site for statistics-related methodological work is an expanded and refined version of the original pilot effort. It consists of two parts, one which contains information on planned or current work in progress of the international organizations (work in progress part), and the other which contains information on previously adopted statistical standards and published methodological work (completed work part). The information in the work in progress part is in a new format that was endorsed by the Statistical Commission.¹ An example of an entry in the work in progress part is contained in appendix I. An example of an entry in the completed work part is given in appendix II.
5. In both the work in progress part and the completed work part, all entries contained in the database can be viewed in three ways: (i) by an alphabetical listing by title of the project in the work in progress part, or of all publication titles in the completed work part; (ii) by subject of interest, classified in accordance with the revised statistics part of the ACC Programme Classification (see appendix III); and (iii) by lead agency. Existing information can be edited and new entries input into the database from any of these three views. The database is searchable. A search of the work in progress part must be performed independently of a search of the completed work part. See appendix IV for more details on viewing, entering and editing information in the database.

¹ On the recommendation of the ad hoc group established by the Statistical Commission to explore new approaches to its functioning (E/CN.3/1999/24)

6. The information on all organizations' work in progress is to be entered over time as the work advances so that progress towards the final objective can be observed by users. Once the work has been completed and it is indicated in the database in the "status" field that a publication has been issued, the information will no longer be shown under the work in progress part; the relevant information of the original work in progress entry will be automatically transferred to the completed work part. Additional information pertaining to the publication (e.g. a brief description of it, the year it was published, etc.) should then be entered into the database in the completed work part.

B. Current content of the Web site database

(a) Information on work in progress

7. The UNSD is in the process of entering information into the database on its methodological work in progress in economic, social, demographic and environment statistics. The inputting process is largely completed.

8. The UNSD has entered information into the database on the work in progress by ECE, Eurostat and OECD in economic, social, demographic and environment statistics as contained in the CES documents on the integrated presentation of the programmes of international statistical work in the ECE region (see CES/1999/10/Add. 3, 4 and 5).² However, the information required to complete all of the fields specified in the work in progress part is either not contained in the CES documents or not yet available due to the ongoing nature of the work. Therefore, the additional information will need to be added when it is available.

9. Information on some of the work in progress of IMF and the World Bank is available from the original pilot study.

(b) Information on completed work

10. The UNSD has entered information on its completed work in the areas of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics. It covers more than 100 publications issued since 1949. The sources of the information include: an annotated bibliography of methodological publications issued prior to 1985, based on inputs provided by many of the organizations, which was prepared by the UNSD in the late 1980s; the 1993 United Nations Statistical Publications and Documents Catalogue; and descriptions contained in various UNSD documents.

11. The UNSD has entered information on the completed work of ECE, Eurostat and OECD that is available in the above-mentioned documents of the CES. It represents only partial information since the documents do not aim at providing detailed or comprehensive information on publications already issued, and cover recent years only. The annotated bibliography of methodological publications for years prior to 1985 produced by the UNSD did not include information on publications issued by Eurostat or OECD.

² As agreed among the organizations, as ECE, OECD and Eurostat already provide parts of the required information for inclusion in the referenced CES document.

12. The UNSD has entered some of the information on completed work prior to 1985 by FAO, ILO, IMF, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Health Organization (WHO) available in the above-mentioned annotated bibliography of methodological publications.. Information on completed work subsequent to 1985 for these organizations needs to be obtained.

C. Problems encountered and time required to enter the information into the database

13. The main difficulty encountered in proceeding further after the completion of the pilot phase was the lack of readily available information. Once the necessary information is available for entry, however, it can be entered fairly easily into the database. Experience has shown that the maximum time required to make an entry for which a good deal of data is available for most of the information fields and then to view it or print it to check for accuracy, is about ten minutes. However, most entries require about three to five minutes to enter the available information.

III. Points for discussion

14. At the twenty-first session of the Subcommittee there was a general will to participate in this work if a pilot study showed that it could be done with reasonable resource input (ACC/1997/16 para. 2 (c)). This present report describes experience to date, an indication of data availability in published sources, and resources needed to input the data.

15. In the light of the above, the Subcommittee is requested to request members to enter the specified information on their methodological work in statistics into the database and maintain the information up-to-date.

APPENDIX I

EXAMPLE OF A “WORK IN PROGRESS” ENTRY

Global work programmes in statistics:	Subject of Interest: National accounts (3.1)
Methodology	Project: Glossary of terms in the 1993 SNA
	Lead organization: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
	Publication title:
	Status: € Ongoing

Commission’s last decision:

Problem outline:

Priority objective: To publish a comprehensive glossary of technical terms in the 1993 SNA.

Envisaged time-frame: To be published in 1999.

Instruments to achieve the Objective:

Technical cooperation questions:

Support: Work is being done in collaboration with ISWGNA.

Advice:

Coordination:

Rapporteur:

Action by the Commission:

APPENDIX II

EXAMPLE OF A “COMPLETED WORK” ENTRY

Global work programmes in statistics:	Subject of Interest: National accounts (3.1)
Methodology	Project:
	Lead organization: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
	Publication title: System of National Accounts 1993
	Status: € Document has been published

Description of the publication: A completely revised and reorganized presentation of the System of National Accounts (SNA), which sets out the basic methodological principles underlying the System for the systematic and integrated recording of the flows and stocks of an economy in order to provide an accurate overall view of the economy. Explained and illustrated in detail are all the internationally agreed concepts, definitions, conventions, classifications and accounting rules used in the SNA accounts and tables.

Year published: 1994

Other organizations involved: Eurostat, IMF, OECD, World Bank

Additional information: Series F, No. 2, Rev. 4, \$85.00, Sales No. 94.XVII.4
A, C, E, F, R, S

Previous/subsequent versions: A System of National Accounts, Series F, No. 2, Rev. 3, Sales No 69.XVII.3 (also referred to as the 1968 SNA)
A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables, Series F, No. 2, Sales No. 52.XVII.4 (also referred to as the 1952 SNA).

Contact person:

Name:

Organization:

E-mail address:

APPENDIX III

ACC PROGRAMMES CLASSIFICATION - STATISTICS PART

- 030 General statistics
- 031 Demographic and social statistics
1. Demographic statistics
 2. Population statistics
 - i. Population censuses
 - ii. Statistics on population groups of special interest
 3. Housing statistics
 - i. Housing Censuses
 - ii. Other housing statistics
 4. Labour statistics
 5. Education and training statistics
 6. Culture statistics including mass communication
 7. Statistics of household income and expenditure
 8. Social security statistics
 9. Health statistics
 10. Gender statistics
 11. Other social, demographic and related statistics
- 032 Economic statistics
1. National accounts
 2. Agriculture statistics
 3. Forestry and fishery statistics
 4. Manufacturing statistics
 5. Mining statistics
 6. Construction statistics
 7. Energy statistics
 8. Distributive trade statistics
 9. International trade statistics
 - i. Trade in goods
 - ii. Trade in services
 10. Transport statistics
 11. Communication statistics
 12. Tourism statistics
 13. Other services statistics
 14. Money, finance and insurance statistics
 15. Fiscal statistics
 16. Balance of payments statistics
 17. Prices statistics
 18. Statistics of science, technology and patents
 19. Other economic statistics
- 033 Natural resources and environment statistics
1. Environment statistics
 2. Environment accounting
 3. Meteorology statistics
- 034 Activities not classified by field
1. Statistical methodologies
 2. Data processing

3. Dissemination and interchange of statistical information
4. Other activities

APPENDIX IV

Instructions on Viewing, Entering and Editing Information in the Database

(Address: <http://domino.un.organization/ProgWork.nsf>)

- New (entry/publication)
- Search (work in progress/publications)
- UN Home
- UNSD Home

METHODOLOGICAL WORK

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Project title

Click box to see work in progress displayed in alphabetical order by project. Click on the new entry button to input information for the first time on a project, or double click on an individual project to view information displayed in a page such as the one in Appendix I. Click on the edit button to revise existing information.

- By ACC Classification

Click box to see subjects of interest listed according to the ACC classification shown in Appendix III. Click on the new entry button to input information for the first time on a project, or click on the triangle next to an individual subject of interest to view work in progress for that subject of interest displayed in alphabetical order. Double click on the displayed record to view information displayed in a page such as the one in Appendix I. Click on the edit button to revise existing information.

- By lead organization

Click box to see lead organizations displayed in alphabetical order. Click on the triangle next to the individual lead organization to view work in progress displayed by project, sorted alphabetically. Double click on the displayed record to view information displayed in a page such as the one in Appendix I. Click on the edit button to revise existing information.

COMPLETED WORK

- Publication title

Click box to see a listing of all publications displayed in alphabetical order by publication title. Click on the "enter

new publication” button to input information for the first time on a publication, or double click on a publication title to view information displayed in a page such as the one in Appendix II. Click on the edit button to revise existing information.

- By ACC Classification

Click box to see a listing of subjects of interest displayed according to the ACC classification shown in Appendix III. Click on the “enter new publication” button to input information for the first time on a publication, or click on the triangle next to a subject of interest to view a listing of the publications corresponding to that subject of interest, in alphabetical order by title. Double click on an individual publication title to view information displayed in a page such as the one in Appendix II. Click on the edit button to revise existing information.

- By lead organization

Click box to see a listing of all lead organizations displayed in alphabetical order. Click on the triangle next to the individual lead organization to view a listing of the publications produced by that agency, displayed in alphabetical order by title. Double click on the publication title to view information displayed in a page such as the one in Appendix II. Click on the edit button to revise existing information.

Note: A password is required to enter new information or to edit existing records.
No password is required to view the information.