
**Expert Group Meeting on
Setting the Scope of Social Statistics**

United Nations Statistics Division
in collaboration with the Siena Group on Social Statistics
New York, 6-9 May 2003

Organization of Work

Tuesday, 6 May

Registration of participants (9:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Opening

Introductory remarks
Purpose of the meeting

I. The current state of social statistics

Part I sets the stage for the discussions of subsequent sessions by describing the current state of social statistics. The discussion will include the scope or domains of social statistics; the existence (or non-existence) of conceptual frameworks and standards for statistics in these domains; common problems persisting in the area of social statistics; organization of social statistics programmes at national, regional and international levels; coordinating mechanisms among offices responsible for collecting and disseminating various types of social statistics; and the extent of involvement of stakeholders in social statistics.

Papers: No. 5. Current status of social statistics: an overview of issues and concerns
No. 9. Social statistics in Brazil: producer and user strategies
No. 16. Elements of a social statistics program: a Canadian perspective

Discussion

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

II. Proposed strategies and approaches

Part II considers the various strategies and approaches that contribute to the successful implementation of a social statistics programme. Among others, strategies to foster coordination, integration and

statistical capacity building will be discussed. This part is divided into two sections, II.A and II.B. Discussion will take place after each section.

II.A. Integrating different sources of data and linking different fields of social statistics

Papers: No. 6. The Dutch system of social statistics: micro-integration of different sources
No. 7. Use of registers in social statistics in Denmark

Discussion

Wednesday, 7 May

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

II.A. Integrating different sources of data and linking different fields of social statistics (continued)

Discussion (continued)

II.B. Capacity building for social statistics through training

Papers: No. 8. Social statistics in the development agenda: two cases for relevance and sustainability
No. 15. Capacity building for social statistics: The role of professional training

Discussion

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

II. Proposed strategies and approaches (continued)

Proposed strategies and approaches (Group discussions)

Thursday, 8 May

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

III. Defining a programme of work for social statistics

In Part III, experts debate and outline the future direction of social statistics, based on a review of past and current efforts at systematic development of social statistics, as well as the previous day's discussion on strategies and approaches.

III.A. Review of past efforts towards a systematic development of social statistics

Paper: No. 14. Review of past efforts towards a systematic development of social statistics

III.B. Current efforts at systematic development of social statistics

- Papers: No. 10. SSDIS: Global standard for harmonization of social statistics, with special reference to transition and globalization processes
No. 11. Preliminary ideas for a European social statistics action plan
No. 12. Current efforts in the systematic development of social statistics in Australia
No. 13. Strategy and goals—Siena Group on Social Statistics

Discussion

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

III.C. Recommendations for a programme of work for social statistics

Experts meet in separate groups to develop a set of concrete recommendations for an international programme of social statistics. Questions that might be considered are: the feasibility of an overall framework for social statistics or separate frameworks for the different domains (fields); the usefulness of institutional mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge, experience, best practices, etc.; whether it would be useful to develop a set of technical or operational guidelines for countries trying to improve their social statistics programmes; and if so, what these should comprise. The draft recommendations should include concrete goals and immediate and medium-term activities and outputs. For each of these, the group should provide a realistic time frame and specify resource requirements. It should also identify the various actors to be involved, the division of responsibility, the role of UNSD, international, regional and other organizations, as well as that of national statistical offices and other stakeholders.

Group discussion and drafting recommendations

Drafting group 1

Drafting group 2

Drafting group 3

Friday, 9 May

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

III. Defining a programme of work for social statistics (continued)

Presentation and discussion of draft recommendations

Lunch break (1:00–2:30 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:30–3:30 p.m.)

Conclusion

Adoption of final recommendations and action plan