



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

**Global Consultation
Draft Guidelines on
Integrated Economic
Statistics**

Comment Form

Draft Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics

Send responses to: sna@un.org
Deadline: 10 January 2011

Your name:	Ian Ewing
Your country/organization:	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Contact (e.g. email address):	Ian.ewing@abs.gov.au

To submit responses please save the completed form and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: sna@un.org by Monday, 10 January 2011. You are encouraged to submit a short response to the questions (yes/no/no comment) even if you have no further comments to offer in the comment boxes. Please focus your comments on substantive issues since a final edit of the Guidelines will be conducted after the February 2011 Statistical Commission meeting.

Relevant documents

The draft publication is available on the global consultation website:
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/ies/>

Questions

1. Do you agree that the *Guidelines* covers well the practical aspects and experiences of the integration of economic statistics?

Yes _____ No x _____ No comment _____

Comment:

The document is a compilation of principles, insights, best practice and experiences. It is an ambitious attempt to cover a very large subject and there is a danger of it being both too detailed yet generic. ABS has worked in this area for many years, and to this extent a lot of the content seems self-evident and/or covered in other documents. It may not appear so to a developing country, however.

2. Do you consider that the *Guidelines* takes due note of the difficulties faced by countries in the integrated collection, compilation and dissemination of economic statistics?

Yes _____ No _____ No comment _____

Comment:

Funding and capability shortfalls sometimes emerge from lack of demand and/or funding for better statistics. The policy development context in some countries does not support improved statistics. Some work on benefits derivable from improved statistical performance might be useful in this context.

3. Were there any aspects of integration which you feel have not been sufficiently well-covered?

Yes _____ No _____ No comment _____

Comment:

There are themes through the document of (a) meeting user demands and (b) consistency with international standards. Sometimes the two are not necessarily compatible. Some discussion of the tensions and competing priorities might be useful. There is an important balance to reach between international comparability and a country's ability to reflect its own story.

4. Do you find the case studies useful and practical?

Yes _____ No _____ No comment _____

Comment:

Although instructive, they do make for a large document and daunting reading.

5. Would you like to make or seek any specific elaborations in Chapter 1 to Chapter 7 or in the Annexes?

Yes _____ No _____ No comment _____

Comment:

Chapter 1: Click here and start typing

Chapter 2: Click here and start typing

Chapter 3: Click here and start typing

Chapter 4: [Click here and start typing](#)

Chapter 5: This chapter would benefit from separation of technical and methodological issues from capability and institutional issues that might belong more in chapter 4.

Chapter 6: [Click here and start typing](#)

Chapter 7: [Click here and start typing](#)

Annexes: Annex 6 and other parts of the document discuss the integrating role of information technology. It is ABS experience that standardised systems and business processes assist integration, but will not achieve integration unless there are strong statistical inputs into and management of particular implementations and deployments of instances of IT.