DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

Global Consultation
Draft *Guidelines on*
Integrated Economic
Statistics

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Comment Form

Draft *Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics*

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

Your name:	Parmod K. SHARMA
Your country/organization:	Hong Kong, China/Census and Statistics Department
Contact (e.g. email address):	pksharma@censtatd.gov.hk

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** _____   **No comment** _____

Comment:

The *Guidelines* provides a concise and comprehensive description on the elements of achieving consistency and reconciliation of statistical systems. The coherence and reconciliation of statistical information would strengthen the framework for monitoring economic development and facilitate data analysis both within and across countries/territories in the global economic arena. It would be useful to highlight more on common difficulties and problematic issues in the process of integration. Also, there are some overlaps in the contents across chapters. The contents may be reorganised for easier reading.

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:

> The difficulties in the integrated collection, compilation and dissemination of different areas of economic statistics are generally covered. Some practical methods in solving the hurdles are also provided.
>
> More elaborations on solutions and compromises to problems in face of difficulties would be useful. For example, on "Business registers and frames" (page 103), it would be useful to discuss how the economic statistics of those small businesses (e.g. freelancers, eBay sellers, labour-only construction workers etc.) that are without business registration (and therefore not in the sampling frames) could be integrated.

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

Yes _____ **No** _____✓_____ **No comment** _____

Comment:

> Various aspects of integration have been covered with some practical examples given. Given the important link between labour statistics and national accounts statistics in producing measures of labour productivity, it is worthwhile to provide further elaboration on the issues relating to the development of the system of labour statistics, such as harmonisation of employment statistics compiled from establishment survey and household survey. In addition, various international guidelines on economic statistics (including employment statistics) have to be harmonised in order to facilitate the compilation of integrated economic statistics. Some practical experiences in resolving the conflicts among the needs of different users in compiling integrated economic statistics should preferably be provided.

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

Yes _____✓_____ **No** _____ **No comment** _____

Comment:

> The case studies are useful in illustrating how the statistics standards are harmonised and how different countries attempt to use various statistical production processes in integrating economic statistics, which provide useful insights for the statistical compilers in reviewing their statistical systems.
>
> More elaborations on the methodology and essential issues behind the integration as well as practical applications of administrative data for compilation of economic statistics would be useful.
>
> UNSD may consider arranging seminars or workshops on the issues so that statisticians can meet and discuss different case studies under the *Guidelines*.

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: Nil

Chapter 2: Nil

Chapter 3: More elaboration and case studies on reconciling sub-annual and annual economic statistics produced at different time points would be useful.

Chapter 4: Nil

Chapter 5: Since *2008 SNA* is chosen as the starting point for integrated economic statistics, it is suggested to align as far as possible the terms used in the *Guidelines* with those in *2008 SNA*. For example, it is not sure whether the term "Quasi-corporate business" currently used in the *Guidelines* is the same as "Quasi-corporations" in *2008 SNA*. Also, more elaboration and examples on how to reconcile business accounting framework and national accounting framework would be useful.

Chapter 6: Nil

Chapter 7: Nil

Annexes: Nil