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Programme planning

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/55/50.
** Completion of report was delayed owing to late submission from some departments.

Section 7A. Economic and social affairs – qualitative assessment of programme performance

Subprogrammes	Objectives	Assessment criteria	Major benefits realized
5. Statistics	To serve as a global centre for the collection, standardization, analysis and dissemination of economic/social data; to support countries in adopting the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA); to promote integrated environmental and economic accounting, sustainable development indicators and integrated sets of social statistics; to coordinate the statistical work of international agencies.	Improved geographical coverage and timeliness of collected statistics. Expansion of SNA to more countries and technical support to them in implementing it. Practical guidance and training on integrated environmental and economic accounting and implementing consistent and integrated social statistics. Effective measures to coordinate and harmonize statistical activities of international organizations and agencies.	Increased the country coverage to 260 new country periods and improved timeliness of the data in the international commodity trade statistics database; revised the concepts and definitions of international trade statistics and promoted their implementation through regional workshops in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean; made accessible the beta version of UNYSIS via the Intranet. Provided direct support to developing countries in more fully implementing the SNA system and facilitated its computerization. Prepared a manual on integrating environmental and economic accounting, supported by training for developing countries. Produced manuals on the conduct of population and housing censuses; and developed regional, self-reliant networks in Central Asia, Africa and the small islands in the Pacific for production and analysis of integrated sets of social statistics. Provided leadership in revitalizing the international classification and fostering its common usage through the use of on-line help and interpretation systems.