



United Nations

Medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

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Subprogramme 7 Statistics

Objective

15.35 The objective is to improve the statistical capabilities of the countries/areas of the region for informed decision-making and to promote their use of information technology in the public sector, and to make comparable statistical information on the region widely and promptly available.

Strategy

15.36 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Contribute to the improvement of the capacity of national statistical systems, particularly in priority areas, for the purposes of informed planning, policy formulation, decision-making and monitoring of progress. Special efforts will be made to improve the statistical capability of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the countries with economies in transition, to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize data needed for their economic and social development, thereby strengthening their information and statistical base, including through networking of national, subregional and regional information systems;

(b) Collect and disseminate statistical data on the countries of the region, taking into account user demands. The focus would be on greater use of electronic technology in the acquisition and provision of data and information and on reducing the response burden of countries. Special attention will be paid to improving the accessibility and the international comparability of the data disseminated;

(c) Strengthen the involvement of the countries of the region in the development of international standards, the use of improved methodology for data collection, processing and analysis and the greater utilization of statistics. In line with the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the ESCAP secretariat will initiate and coordinate at the regional level the development, revision, testing and implementation of selected international

statistical standards and, where necessary, their adaptation to meet the conditions and needs of the countries of the region;

(d) Enhance understanding of the role of information technology and promote the applications of that technology, as well as information resource management in the region, especially in the public sector.

Expected accomplishments

15.37 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) increased capacity in the region to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize data needed for national economic and social development; (b) improved coordination, collaboration and sharing of information on statistical development and statistical standards in the region; and (c) more systematic information technology planning and adoption of more coherent policies in this field.

Indicators of achievement

15.38 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) an increase in the number of countries providing statistical data required for inclusion in the statistical publications of the secretariat; (b) an increase in the availability of and access to reliable and comparable national economic and social data for users; (c) increased participation in the development and adoption of statistical standards; (d) the adoption by Governments of policies on key issues affecting national statistical services and information technology planning; and (e) a positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments.

Subprogramme 7
Statistics

General Assembly resolution

54/231 Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the
context of globalization and interdependence

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5 1993 System of National Accounts

1995/7 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution

246 (XLII) Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific