

Statistical Commission
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Programme questions

Background document
Available in English only

Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2012-2013

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

The following is the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2012-2013 for Subprogramme 5, "Statistics" of programme 7, "Economic and social affairs". The Commission is invited to review this document and to provide its comments. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fiftieth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session when it considers the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013.

Subprogramme 5 Statistics

Objective of the Organization: to advance the global statistical system in order to produce high quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened global statistical system, with more active participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators	(a) (i) Increased number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars (ii) Increased number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators
(b) Better and broader use by Governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical guidelines produced by the subprogramme	(b) (i) Increased number of requests satisfied for statistical data (ii) Increased percentage of visits to the Statistics Division website
(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields to produce quality data for policymakers and the public in general	(c) Increased percentage of participants that utilized knowledge obtained at training workshops

Strategy

7.11 The subprogramme is under responsibility of the Statistics Division, which is the centre of the United Nations global statistical system that includes national statistical offices, international organizations and civil society engaging in official statistics, under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The strategy will include:

(a) Expanding the normative role of the subprogramme in the development and enhancement of statistical standards, the collection and dissemination of statistical data by Member States and the coordination of international statistical activities, especially those related to new and emerging policy issues;

(b) Helping countries, through the development of guidelines, to build and manage sustainable national statistical systems with appropriate governance structures and to utilize state-of-the-art data capture, processing and dissemination technologies in order to

enhance the quality of and accessibility to policy-relevant statistical information;

(c) Developing norms and standards, in particular developing statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and methods for the collection, compilation, storage, analysis and dissemination of statistics and indicators for use by statistical authorities at the national level;

(d) Compiling and disseminating global statistical information in the areas of national accounts, international trade, energy, industry, demographic and social concerns and the environment, increasingly using modern information and communication technologies, including the Internet, to facilitate data exchange and to enhance accessibility to comparable national statistics in those fields by policymakers and other users at the national and international levels;

(e) Strengthening of countries' national statistical systems, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, by disseminating methodological information to those countries, conducting training, stimulating their participation in the regional and international exchange of experiences and providing other appropriate forms of technical cooperation, including technical advisory services on request;

(f) Facilitating the coordination of international activities in the area of geographical information management, in order to share experiences and harmonize tools; promoting the use of mapping and geographical information systems for modern surveying at the local, national, regional and global levels as well as promoting the harmonization and standardization of geographical names;

(g) Coordinating international statistical activities by cooperating closely with other international organizations active in statistics to further enhance the coordinated system of international statistical work, including the development of standards and methods, the provision of technical support services and the dissemination of consistent, high-quality data and indicators; in particular using new Internet and information management technologies to enhance the coherence in the statistical data work of the entire United Nations system.