

Statistical Commission
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Programme questions

Background document
Available in English only

Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014-2015

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

The following is the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 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 fifty-second session in June 2012. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted in the fall of 2012 to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session when it considers the proposed strategic framework of the entire UN Secretariat for the biennium 2014-2015.

Subprogramme 5

Statistics

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

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
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(a) Strengthened global statistical and geospatial information 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 and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, high-level fora, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars

Performance measures:

2010-2011: 537 participants

Estimate: 2012-2013: 550 participants

Target 2014-2015: 560 participants

(ii) Increased number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators

Performance measures:

2010-2011: 10 collaborative activities

Estimate: 2012-2013: 10 collaborative activities

Target 2014-2015: 11 collaborative activities

(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

Performance measures:

2010-2011: 26.7% increase in requests satisfied

Estimate: 2012-2013: 2% increase in requests satisfied

Target 2014-2015: 2% increase in requests satisfied

(ii) Increased number of visits to the Statistics Division website

Performance measures:

2010-2011: 29.6% per cent increase
Estimate: 2012-2013: 2% per cent increase
Target 2014-2015: 2% per cent increase

(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, including data disaggregated by sex, for policymakers and the public in general

(c) (i) Increased percentage of participants that utilized knowledge obtained at training workshops

Performance measures:

2010-2011: 87% of participants that utilized knowledge

Estimate: 2012-2013: 73% of participants that utilized knowledge

Target 2014-2015: 74% of participants that utilized knowledge

(ii) Increased number of activities for developing countries receiving guidelines in building sustainable national statistical systems through the promotion of technical cooperation.

Performance measures:

Estimate: 2012-2013: 36 activities

Target 2014-2015: 38 activities

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity.

Strategy

The subprogramme is under the 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 and geospatial information 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, including data disaggregated by sex, 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, in particular 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 capacity development support, 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, and promoting the harmonization and standardization of geographical names; facilitating a better integration of statistical and geospatial information;

(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 enhancing the coherence in the statistical data work of the entire United Nations system.