



Dialogue on statistical development: ILO activities

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*Dialogue on statistical development, UNSC,
28th February 2008*



ILO Statistical Development Activities

Three main Areas

- 1) **Standards Setting** in the form of Conventions, Recommendations, Resolutions, and Guidelines
- 2) **Capacity building** through training, technical assistance and provision of manuals.
- 3) **Compilation of Labour Statistics and labour market indicators** from official national sources as well as other repositories, and their **dissemination** to users.

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1. Standards Setting

Objectives

- Provide countries with concepts, definitions and methodologies for producing labour statistics for their development and other policies
- Promote production of internationally comparable statistics



1.1 Framework Standards

- Convention 160 (1985)
 - Basic framework (set of topics, principles covering confidentiality, consultation, dissemination and metadata)
 - Recognition of operational standards
 - International legal instrument
- Recommendation 170 (1985)
 - Supplements C160: periodicity, classification, basic infrastructure for statistical system, importance of operational standards
- Supervisory mechanism to monitor application



1.1a) ILO Convention No. 160 on Labour Statistics - 1985

Basic labour statistics programme

- **Coverage:**
 - economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment,
 - average earnings and hours of work, time rates of wages and normal hours of work, labour cost,
 - consumer price indices, household expenditure and household income,
 - occupational injuries and occupational diseases, and industrial (labour) disputes.

- Requires member States to **regularly collect, compile and publish basic labour statistics**

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1.2 Operational Standards

Resolutions

- Guidance on “best practice” in particular fields
 - Concepts, definitions, scope, coverage, classifications, types of data, reference periods, data sources, data collection methodologies, data dissemination, etc.
 - Consistent with other international standards, e.g. SNA
- Guidelines
 - Rapid advice on specific problems
 - Supplements resolutions
 - <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/standards/index.htm> for current set



1.2a) Adoption Process

- International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) – recently 5-yearly
- 1st (1925)
 - Non-comparability of available data to fulfil provision in ILO Constitution “to collect and distribute information on labour and industrial conditions”
 - Standards on wages & hours of labour, on industrial accidents and on classification of occupied persons by industry and occupation
- 17 more, since then. 18th in 2008.


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1.2b) Status of Resolutions

- Ownership & Technical Level:
 - **Participatory process lead to ownership by member States**
 - **Recommendations decided by the relevant national experts in the topic, so “best practice” & hence highest technical level**
- Backing at Policy Level:
 - **through the follow-up briefings by these statistical experts to their management, leading on to the formal approval at the ILO Governing Body and recognition by the UN Statistical Commission.**
- 43 resolutions (some updates or revised versions of earlier ones), 5 Guidelines, 2 recommendations and 2 conventions

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1.2c) Issues

- Participation and composition:
 - **Cost, distance, insufficient experience in international meetings, busy schedule**
 - **Regional variation at 17th ICLS: Europe 33/44 MS; Africa 20/54 MS, LA 9/34 MS, Asia 18/37 MS**
- Length and frequency: Shorter but more frequent
 - **consequences on costs, time saved and complex organization of the developmental work to ensure continued comprehensive consultation**

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18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 Nov. – 5 Dec. 2008

- Conference of labour statisticians of member States **to establish standards and advise the ILO on its statistical programme**
- Standards on: **Working time statistics and child labour statistics**
- Other technical issues: **Labour underutilization, measurement of decent work, volunteer work**
- Procedural issues: **(a) Improving ILO methods for compiling labour statistics; (b) Functions and organization of ICLS – frequency and delegation of authority**
- Information available on <http://www.ilo.org/stat>

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2. The Employment Statistics – Challenges

- Critical areas for data collection and information:
 - **Volume of employment (employment and unemployment);**
 - **Underemployment, inadequate employment, informal employment;**
 - **Working conditions – earnings, working time, social security;**
 - **Working poor;**
 - **Child labour;**
 - **Migration;**
 - **Social dialogue and Implementation of ILS; and**
 - **HIV/AIDS.**
- Production & Dissemination:
 - **Available, reliable, regular, up-to-date, adequate systematized, analysed, understood. Dissemination guidelines available on website**

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2a) What Should be Done to meet challenges?

- Strengthen national capacities to produce and analyse labour market statistics within properly functioning national statistical systems
- NSDS that incorporate labour statistics
- Conduct regular and frequent Labour Force Surveys & Labour Demand Surveys
- Regular production of statistics on human capital development
- Exploitation of administrative sources, population censuses, industrial surveys and censuses, etc.
- Effective leadership by NSOs of NSSs

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2c) ILO Capacity Building Efforts

- Technical missions and training seminars:
 - **labour force surveys, informal sector surveys, labour statistics programmes, consumer price indices, household budget surveys, labour market information systems; occupational classification; etc.**
- Extensive data warehouse (<http://laborsta.ilo.org>) & e-advice system (<http://www.ilo.org/stat>)
- Minimizing response burden on member States whilst striving to fill in gaps as a matter of priority
- Recent manuals, publications, etc.:
 - **ISCO-08, Informal employment, Disabled workers, Migrant workers, Occupational injuries, CPI, Tourism statistics, etc.**

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2d) ILO Capacity Building Efforts: MDG Indicators & Gender

- New target under MDG1 - ***“Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people”***
 - 4 indicators proposed: working poor, employment-to-population ratio, labour productivity and employment share of own-account and contributing family workers.
- Continuing under MDG3 – ***“Share of women in non-agricultural paid employment”***
- Providing technical advice to member States to produce and analyse these MDG indicators
- Gender statistics:
 - Guidelines for mainstreaming gender in labour statistics
 - Training activities and advisory services

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2e) ILO Capacity Building Efforts

- Child Labour: ILO has developed methodology for child labour surveys that have been implemented in more than 56 countries at the national level, including 10 in the European region.
- International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008 (**ISCO-08**).
 - Adopted in December, 2007 with active participation of countries & development partners
 - Implementation programme for use from 2010 in popn. censuses
- 2010 Round of population censuses
 - Contributed to the P&R
 - Handbook to assist member States apply the P&R on Collecting Economic characteristics



2f) Structure of ILO Technical Assistance

- To support capacity building, the ILO has provided countries with access to statistical expertise both in the region and at Headquarters.
 - **Specialists in labour statistics in some of its Sub-regional Offices,**
 - **Several professional statisticians at its Headquarters in Geneva as well as many focal points in other Sub-regional Offices.**
 - **These provide services through missions, e-consultations and development of tools and databases.**
- Member States are encouraged to make use of this expertise to develop and implement their labour statistics programmes and labour market information systems.



3.1 Compilation: sources

- Yearbook Q. (YBQ) - Annual:
 - economically active population, employment, unemployment, wages, hours of work, labour costs, CPI, occupational injuries, strikes and lock-outs
- October Inquiry Q. (OIQ) - Annual:
 - selected food prices and on wages and hours of work of selected occupations
- Ad hoc Q.:
 - sources & methods; non-regular topics
- Exploitation of official printed & e-publications: national & international



3.2 Compilation: methods

- Paper, excel and online
- Uniform Q. for all
- Data repositories of IOs
- How do we improve?
 - **Topics, SDMX, Treat countries differently, Split YBQ?**



3.3 Estimates, projections, etc.

- Comparable estimates of unemployment
- Estimates & projections of LF
- Regional and global aggregations



3.4 Dissemination

- Statistics & metadata:
<http://laborsta.ilo.org> & CD-ROM
- Key Indicators of the LM (KILM):
ILO TRENDS website
- Regional websites.
- Guidelines on specific technical issues + publications, standards, etc. : <http://www.ilo.org/stat>