



# THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

---

Irena Krizman  
Vice President  
[iren.krizman@gmail.com](mailto:iren.krizman@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 24070  
2490 AB, The Hague  
The Netherlands  
[www.isi-web.org](http://www.isi-web.org)

February 3, 2014

**Invitation to participate at the side event  
organised by the International Statistical Institute (ISI)  
Monday March 3, 2014  
1.15 pm – 2.30 pm  
Conference room 7 (TBC)  
UN Temporary North Law Building, New York**

To: Heads of National and International Statistical Offices and Statistical Agencies

Dear Colleague,

I am writing on behalf of the President and the Executive Committee of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). We would like to invite you to an open meeting entitled **“Developing a Partnership between the Statistical Agencies and the International Statistical Institute: A Discussion.”**

The meeting will be held as a side event at the UNSC on Monday March 3, 2014 from 1:15-2:30 pm. The location is Room (TBC) in the **UN Temporary North Law Building**. The meeting has been announced at [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/SideEvents\\_2013.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/SideEvents_2013.htm).

Our goal for the meeting is to identify ways to develop collaborations between the statistical agencies around the world and the ISI. The enclosed documents provide some information about the ISI. We are an NGO with consultative status at the UN with a long tradition of promoting the statistics profession and the community of statisticians worldwide. National and international statistical agencies have played key roles in these activities and have been important pillars of the ISI. The ISI and its Associations are active in statistical capacity building, training and education, professional ethics, and helping to develop the careers of young statisticians.

We hope to use the open meeting and subsequent communications to determine how the ISI can partner with your organization and contribute to research and development as well as good practices in official statistics.

The meeting will start with a brief presentation by the President of the ISI, Vijay Nair, to provide context. This will be followed by brief comments from the following:

- Marjo Bruun, Director General, Statistics Finland;
- Joseph Tedou, Director General. National Institute of Statistics Cameroon;

- Werner Bier, Deputy Director General, ECB Statistics and Chair of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA);
- Ola Awad, President-Elect of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) and President of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics;
- Danny Pfeffermann, President of the International Association of Survey Statisticians, Head of The Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel, and Professor at University of South Hampton and Hebrew University;
- Irena Krizman, Vice President of ISI, Past president of IAOS and former Director General of the Statistics Slovenia; and
- Ada van Krimpen, ISI Director.

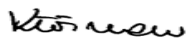
There will be ample time for open discussions from the floor.

I do hope you will accept our invitation to join the meeting and contribute to the discussions.

The ISI's motto is "Statistical Science for a Better World." It will be wonderful if we can partner with you to accomplish the goal of building a better world through Statistics.

For organisational purposes, may I kindly ask you to confirm your participation by sending an e-mail to the ISI Director Ada van Krimpen at [an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl](mailto:an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl)?

With best regards,



**Irena Krizman**  
Vice President, ISI

PS. Please find enclosed two documents that provide more information:

- an open list of possible questions for discussion; and
- a document that summarises ISI's values and benefits



ISI meeting:

## **Developing a Partnership between the Statistical Agencies and the International Statistical Institute (ISI): A Discussion.**

### **Possible questions for discussion**

#### Perspectives from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs):

1. What is your assessment of the current cooperation modes between the NSOs and the ISI– are there some things that are working well and some areas where we need improvement? In particular, what are some good models of cooperation that you can propose for the future? How to improve the communication channels between the ISI and the official statistical community and with other parts of the outside world?
2. Are there particular fields of statistical work like methodology, data collection, data dissemination or ethical issues that you see as fields of common interest? What can the ISI contribute here – in particular to statistical offices from developing countries?
3. Statistical capacity building is an important activity of the ISI and its Associations<sup>1</sup>. Many NSOs are already heavily involved in the statistical capacity building around the world. Do you see synergies in working together? Which cooperation mode will be the most appropriate?
4. In some regions, in particular developing regions, the number of ISI members (both institutional members such as NSOs and individual) is small. On the other hand, there is a lot that ISI can do in terms of statistical capacity building activities. The ISI has been emphasizing this and is working with several groups. The White Paper on [ISI Statistical Capacity Building](http://www.isi-web.org/special-topics/statistical-capacity-building) at <http://www.isi-web.org/special-topics/statistical-capacity-building> gives some background and also discusses some initial ideas. Based on the experience from your own country and also other countries in the region: on what activities SCB should focus in your region? Should it focus first on building the infrastructure as part of the capacity of institutions (e.g. legislation, leadership, management, standards like classifications, national accounts) or building the capacity of staff with training, mentoring and participation in projects?
5. How can we identify potential needs? Can your NSO be actively involved in helping to define their needs and in giving feedback on the success of the SCB?
6. Who are the people or the groups that we need to work with? Are there third parties you would propose to work with?
7. How can the ISI family help to improve the coordination of SCB efforts around the world? How can we improve the communications between the ISI and the statistical community in developing regions such as those in Africa?

#### Perspectives from the other national statistical data producers

1. ISI would like to start to cooperate also with other producers of official statistics at national level. The NSO's can play important role as main producers and coordinators of official statistics.

---

<sup>1</sup> International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS), International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS), International Association of Statistics Education (IASE), International Association of Statistical Computing (IASC), Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability (BS), International Society for Business and Industry Statistics (ISBIS) and the Environmental Econometrics Society (TIES).

2. ISI would like to invite NSOs to promote the ISI membership within the other producers of official statistics. How the other producers within the national statistical systems could be involved in the ISI?
3. Do you have suggestions for the process and the tools to be the most effective to strengthen the cooperation between your partner organisations in the national statistical systems and ISI and its Associations?

Perspectives from International Organisations

1. What are the fields of common interest? Could they be the promotion of statistics like an international year as a successor to the World of Statistics, ethics, high-level workshops, and other capacity building activities, R&D in methodology and other parts of the statistical production chain? What would you propose as a priority for working together?
2. Which cooperation modes would be the most effective?



# THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

*Statistical Science for a Better World*

[www.isi-web.org](http://www.isi-web.org)

## **Join the International Statistical Institute as an Institutional Member**

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) welcomes national, regional and international statistical agencies (or institutes) in official statistics to become institutional members. Institutional membership in the ISI provides many benefits as described below.

### **ISI: A Brief Profile**

The ISI is a non-governmental organization that has consultative status in the United Nations. It provides a platform for official statisticians at all levels and from across the world to get together and discuss issues of mutual interest in a constructive and supportive environment. These include state-of-the-art practices and innovations as well as issues dealing with professional ethics. Our professional meetings and virtual networks provide an opportunity for free discussion of challenges, problems, and constraints faced by organizations.

In addition to official statistics, the ISI family includes six other international Associations, covering survey statistics, statistical education, business and industrial statistics, environmetrics, statistical computing, statistical theory, and probability. The ISI family has over 5,000 individual members from over 130 countries, and provides international linkages with statistical professional societies nationally and worldwide.

The ISI organizes many different activities for the benefit of its members and to promote the statistics profession worldwide. A sample of these is given below:

### **Conferences:**

- Our flagship event is the biennial ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC), attended by more than 2,000 participants from all over the world. The scientific program is designed to appeal to the general audience. It includes numerous sessions and panel discussions related to official statistics. The last WSC in August 2013, hosted by the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong, was very successful. The next congress will be in July 2015 in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and is being hosted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).
- The ISI and its Associations also organize many other regional and specialized conferences around the world. Examples include the conferences organized by the International Association for Official Statistics (2012 in Kiev and 2014 in Vietnam), and the ISI Regional Statistics Conference in November 2014 (hosted by the Central Bank of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur).

**Statistical Capacity Building:** The ISI has been involved in statistical capacity building in developing regions through various initiatives such as: a) Regional workshops for high-level official statisticians in Senegal, Ethiopia, and South Korea; b) Workshops in applied statistics and environmetrics in Benin, South Africa and India; c) A virtual mentoring program for young statisticians; and d) Securing funding from the World Bank and other sources to support participation of statisticians from developing countries at ISI and Association Conferences.

**Professional Ethics:** In 2010, the ISI Council adopted a 'Declaration of Professional Ethics' aimed at disseminating shared values and practices that can help statisticians in making ethical judgments and

decisions. These have been very helpful to official statisticians as well other practitioners. The ISI also provides support or makes interventions in specific cases of professional ethics as appropriate.

Publications: The ISI and its Associations publish a variety of publications that are available free or at reduced prices to members, including *International Statistical Review* (an expository journal) and the *Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*. On-line proceedings from the WSC and other conferences are also available.

#### **Value and Benefits in becoming an ISI Institutional Member:**

- Enjoy all the benefits of an ISI elected member: The Head of an Organization with ISI institutional membership (such as the President, Director General, Director, or Chief Statistician) or his/her representative is entitled to the benefits of individual membership.
- Get reduced rate (50% discount) for all staff members from your organization joining the ISI as regular members.
- Network with statisticians, statistics organizations and anyone interested in Statistics from across the World.
- Participate in a variety of conferences, workshops and meetings dedicated to Statistics and its applications, and enjoy reduced registration fees; Receive reduced rates for two participants for the WSCs.
- Contribute to, and benefit from, statistical capacity building initiatives for developing regions.
- Collaborate with a community of statisticians who support, advocate, and promote ethical practice in Statistics.
- Get access to ISI family's journals and other publications which disseminate state-of-the-art developments in the field, at reduced subscription rates. Receive a free hard copy of the *International Statistical Review*.
- Enjoy the prestige of belonging to a vibrant, yet traditional Statistical Society and contribute to activities such as the highly-successful International Year of Statistics that was celebrated in 2013.

#### **We hope you will join the ISI and partner with us in promoting the Statistics Profession worldwide.**

Currently, the ISI has 100 institutional members from national statistical offices (also called ex-officio members). These members are an indispensable part of the ISI and play a crucial role in the ISI's mission 'to promote the understanding, development, and good practice of statistics worldwide'. We invite you to join us today!

You can join by filling in the [membership form](#) or you can send an email expressing your interest to Ms. Ada van Krimpen, the Director, at [an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl](mailto:an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl).

We look forward to welcoming you to the ISI family. We will be happy to give your more information by email or in person.

Vijay Nair, ISI President, [isi-president@umich.edu](mailto:isi-president@umich.edu) Telephone: +1 734 763 8018

Irena Krizman, ISI Vice President, [iren.krizman@gmail.com](mailto:iren.krizman@gmail.com) Telephone: + 386 1735083

Ada van Krimpen, ISI Director, [an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl](mailto:an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl) Telephone: + 31 70 3375738.

ISI can be followed [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Linked In](#). More information about the ISI can be found at our website [www.isi-web.org](http://www.isi-web.org).