I. Introduction

1. The 20th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held at the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt from 17 to 19 September 2012. The session was chaired by the two Co-chairs of the Committee - Mr. Werner Bier, Deputy Director General, Statistics of the European Central Bank and Mr. Henri Laurencin, Head, Development Statistics and Information Branch, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of UNCTAD. The agenda, documents presented and the list of participants of the present session are attached as Annexes I, II and III, respectively.

2. The Committee was welcomed by Mr. Aurel Schubert, Director General, Statistics of the ECB and received a presentation on “European statistics provided by the ECB” prepared by Messrs Werner Bier and Per Nymand-Andersen.

II. Work of the CCSA Session

A. Adoption of the agenda and other issues

3. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (see Annex I).

B. Special Session on the future agenda of the CCSA

4. Building on points raised during the 19th Session, this special session was organized with a focus on reviewing the working methods and the future agenda of the Committee. To facilitate such reflections the Co-chairs invited the following member organizations to present their views: IMF/WB (representing the views of larger member organisations), ITU/UNIDO (representing the views of smaller, specialized member organizations) and UNESCWA (presenting the United Nations regional perspective). In addition, the Co-chairs provided their views in a presentation that was supported by a note on the history of the CCSA, its achievements and the way forward.

Conclusions

5. During the discussion, there was general agreement that the CCSA, which was established in 2003 after the ACC Sub-committee on Statistical Activities had been abolished, has accomplished a lot, including a number of tangible outputs. Members agreed that the current terms of reference (as revised in 2008) were adequate to support the functioning of the Committee. It was mentioned that the diverse membership of the Committee was sometimes a
challenge but finally has proven to be one of its strengths and that, in fact, cooperation was very fruitful over the past 19 sessions even in cases where the topics discussed were of immediate concern to only very few organizations.

6. The Committee agreed to strengthen its coordination function among international and supranational organisations in preparation of global meetings. This applies in the first place to the UN Statistical Commission. The Committee decided to work on joint positions on UN Statistical Commission agenda items that are important to CCSA; in each CCSA September meeting the UN Statistical Division will inform the CCSA on the forthcoming UN Statistical Commission agenda for the next year and the plans for the following years, and the CCSA will devote most of its February session to finalizing such joint positions (see also section H below). Depending on whether such positions meet a high degree of support by CCSA members, the Co-chairs may be mandated to speak with a CCSA voice. This would not exclude (neither supporting nor diverging) interventions of other CCSA members.

7. Topics on the CCSA agenda should include and possibly focus on the following: regular updates on other coordination mechanisms (e.g. Inter-Agency Expert Groups), which should be more detailed for CCSA priority topics; recurrent priority topics, such as global projects, data exchange, data hubs, cooperation with countries, human capital; emerging issues, such as geospatial information; innovative new approaches in data collection and data dissemination; and update of the UN Fundamental Principles.

8. To improve its working mechanisms, the Committee considered the following approaches: providing task teams with better guidance and expected timelines, the use of sherpas in addition to task teams, inviting users and competitors for special sessions, and making better use of available advocacy tools, e.g. organizing a side event at the UN Statistical Commission or arranging a session at the ISI World Statistics Congresses.

9. The Committee acknowledged the substantial support that UNSD provides to the CCSA by ensuring secretariat activities. It expressed the wish that this support be reinforced to more effectively follow-up on the inter-session activities caused by the decisions taken during the regular sessions. The Committee also called a renewed commitment by member organizations. On balance, the Committee was of the opinion that its five organisational pillars (i) the Co-chairs, (ii) the Secretariat, (iii) the Task Teams and Sherpas, (iv) the CCSA meetings and (v) the CCSA members provide an appropriate structure.

10. Taking due account of the discussion, the Co-chairs and the Secretariat will propose a draft agenda for the 2013 February and September CCSA meetings for comments by the Committee in a written procedure well before the next meeting. The recurrent priority topics will thereby contribute to a medium-term orientation of the CCSA agendas. Moreover, a short member survey on preferred topics and potential barriers that prevent better participation in Committee sessions will also be launched.
C. Use of different data sources for the production of international statistics

11. UNODC introduced its report SA/2012/8 entitled “Best practices on the use of non-official sources in international statistical series” presenting a consolidation of the Committee’s discussions on this topic during the past two years.

12. The discussion focused on and provided the task team with concrete proposals on how to finalize the document on the recommended best practices.

Conclusions

13. The Committee requested UNODC and the task team to finalize the best practices (preamble and 10 points) within the next 2 months based on the Committee’s discussion. The final draft will be submitted to the Committee for comments, which will be consolidated by the Co-chairs.

14. The Committee attached a high priority to this topic given that it may entail discussions between international and supranational organisations and countries. It was decided to limit the final concise document to the preamble and the best practices. The preamble may thereby be enriched to provide sufficient context. It may also acknowledge the data quality frameworks in place by the international and supranational organisations.

15. The final document will have a normative character establishing best practices to which CCSA members may refer to when discussing specific cases with countries. Given the variety of cases with which the CCSA members are confronted, not all of the best practices can be sufficiently operational to determine concrete cases. One of the most essential elements is a well-organised consultation process with countries before publishing statistics. This introduces in the majority of cases a reconciliation process, eliminates misunderstandings and will lead to higher-quality statistics. In a few cases, reconciliation may not be possible. The forthcoming CCSA best practices may then support an appropriate way forward. It was recalled that many countries follow well-established data quality frameworks and the majority insist that international and supranational organisations follow best practices in order to establish an equal level playing field for high-quality statistics.

16. The final document will be published on the CCSA website.

D. Dissemination of microdata

17. In the absence of a report from the task team on the dissemination of microdata, the World Bank briefed the Committee on its microdata laboratory available online at http://microdata.worldbank.org.

18. During the discussion the Committee expressed its appreciation for the ad hoc briefing by the World Bank.
Conclusions

19. The Committee invited the World Bank to present its microdata laboratory in more detail during the 22nd Session in September 2013.

20. Given the continued interest of many Committee members in the topic, the Committee accepted an offer by the World Bank to prepare a 2-page draft on best practices in the area of disseminating microdata. The members of the task team and other organizations that produce and/or distribute microdata are invited to contribute to this draft.

21. The Committee requested the Secretariat to follow up with UNICEF on their willingness and ability to lead this task team in the future.

E. Follow up to the Special Session on Human Capital

22. Under this agenda item the Committee considered (i) an oral report on the progress of Task Team 1 presented by the World Trade Organization, and (ii) an oral report of Task Team 2 presented by UNSD.

23. During a special session on Human Capital, organized in conjunction with its 16th Session in Vienna in 2010, the Committee had decided to establish two task teams for addressing the current challenges in human resources management in the specific environment of international organizations. Task Team 1, led by the World Trade Organization, had been tasked to explore best possible ways for identifying talent pools and to review the relevant experiences in this field. Task Team 2, led by UNSD, had been tasked to work on training of international statisticians, staff exchange and mobility. Both task teams have presented progress reports at previous Committee sessions.

24. Task Team 1 presented the questionnaire on “HR Job Profiles” it had prepared and which had been sent to CCSA members and distributed in July this year. So far approximately 20 submissions have been received. Two-thirds of the vacancies submitted through the questionnaire were in the area of economic statistics (question 2); as for the main responsibilities demanded, half of the received replies focused on research/analysis, production and dissemination (question 4).

25. UNSD, the leader of Task Team 2 provided an overview of the results of the Task Team’s 2011 survey within CCSA member organizations on current training strategies, the possibility to offer training for international statisticians, their practical experience with staff exchange and mobility; and their suggestions to improve training opportunities for international statisticians. The Task Team suggested a restructuring of the CCSA’s website on training, which had been established in 2005. During the discussion organizations shared their experience with staff exchanges and the various modalities (secondment, leave without pay, etc.) used.
Conclusions

26. The Committee agreed with Task Team 1’s plan to keep the survey open until the end of this year and requested the Secretariat to send another reminder e-mail to all CCSA members. The Committee requested Task Team 1 to submit its final report to its 22nd Session in September 2013.

27. Agreeing that Task Team 2 has accomplished most of its tasks, the Committee abolished this task team and thanked the members of the task team for their work. The Committee requested the Secretariat to implement the suggested changes to the CCSA website (incl. links to member organizations’ websites where vacancies are actually posted). Member organizations agreed to provide for this website further documentation on successful staff exchanges and e-learning opportunities. The Committee further asked the *Network of statisticians working in International Organizations* (see also item G below) to look further into the topic of training and staff exchange.

F. Global Inventory on Statistical Standards

28. Under this agenda item the Committee considered an oral report by UNSD, the leader of this Task Team, on the status of the Global Inventory on Statistical Standards (GISS), which had been soft-launched in February this year. The presentation focused on remaining maintenance issues and provided some recent usage statistics.

Conclusions

29. The Committee agreed to the proposed “hard” public launch of the Global Inventory. UNSD will update the Global Inventory website to clearly label it as a CCSA output and to possibly include a joint statement. UNSD will also work on the remaining issues of GISS including making it compatible with other repositories. The Committee requested UNSD to constitute an editorial board as previously decided and welcomed the proposal by the World Bank to serve on the editorial board alongside with the IMF, UNECE and UNSD as well as four countries. The Committee entrusted the Secretariat with sending annual reminders to member organisations requesting them to update information in the Global Inventory and asked all members concerned to update their entries by end-October 2012.

30. The Committee abolished the task team thanking the members of the task team for their excellent work.

G. Network of statisticians working in International Organizations

31. Under this agenda item the Committee considered a report on “Establishing a Network of International Statisticians (NIS)” (Document SA/2012/12) prepared by the Co-chairs, the Secretariat and the group of animators. The report was introduced by the Co-chairs and Eurostat.
Conclusions

32. The Committee congratulated the group of animators to recent achievements and encouraged the group to continue its efforts. The Network will consider training as a discussion topic (see also section E above) and will also look into lessons learnt from the network of “Young African Statisticians”. The Co-chairs together with the animator group will report back and provide its final recommendations to the Committee at its 22nd Session to be held in September 2013. Member organizations will encourage their reference group members to participate in the network discussion.

H. Preparations for the 44th Session of the UN Statistical Commission

33. UNSD briefed the Committee that the 44th Session of the UN Statistical Commission will take place from 26 February – 1 March 2013. Documents will become available on the UNSC website in mid-December. Highlights include the programme review on developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems, the revision of the preamble of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the review of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

Conclusions

34. The Committee decided to work on joint statements for the following agenda items (see also the provisional agenda for the 21st session below):

- Gender statistics (lead organization: World Bank)
- Coordination of Statistical Activities in the UN-system (lead organizations: UNCTAD, ESCWA)
- Disability/Health statistics (lead organization: UNSD)
- Information items (lead organizations: ECB, World Bank)

I. Items for information

Update on the implementation of the Busan Action Plan

35. PARIS21 briefed the Committee on its work especially on the implementation of the Busan Action Plan. An additional presentation of the World Bank on this topic is available on the CCSA website (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub/ccsa20.htm).

The Virtual Statistical System: Future plans

36. The World Bank briefed the Committee on its work on the Virtual Statistical System (www.virtualstatisticalsystem.org). In light of its growing importance for Committee members, the Committee decided to discuss the Virtual Statistical System further at its 22nd Session in September 2013.
The Fifth CCSA Conference on Quality in International Statistics

37. The Committee received a briefing by the Co-chairs on the Fifth CCSA Conference on Quality in International Statistics. All material is available on the CCSA website on data quality at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/data-quality.htm.

59th ISI World Statistics Congress (Hong Kong, August 2013)

38. Continuing recent practice, the Co-chairs proposed that CCSA organize a session on the role and challenges of international statistics at the 59th ISI World Statistics Congress. The Committee agreed to the proposal and requested the Co-chairs to proceed and to submit a proposal for a slot for a CCSA session. The Co-chairs will draft a concrete proposal, disseminate it among member organizations for comments with the request to indicate their interest/willingness to contribute to the CCSA-organized session.

Wikipedia page

39. The ECB presented the new CCSA entry in Wikipedia, prepared by the Co-chairs and the Secretariat based on the CCSA terms of reference. Members agreed to check and update the links to their organisations and were asked to add links from their respective websites to the CCSA webpage. The possible use of Facebook could also be explored.

Post 2015 development agenda

40. UNSD briefed the Committee on the recent development in this area (see also http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml). The chair of the UN Statistical Commission had received a letter from the president of the Economic and Social Council requesting the Commission’s views by the end of this year. The Chair of the Statistical Commission is currently preparing a reply, which will be shared with Commission members and observers.

J. Dates and venues of the 2013 sessions of the Committee

41. The Committee reconfirmed that its next 21st Session will be held in New York, in the morning of 25 February 2013, in conjunction with the 44th Session of the UN Statistical Commission.

42. The Committee was pleased to accept the offer of SESRIC for hosting the 22nd Session of the Committee in Ankara in the first week of September 2013.

K. Provisional agenda for the 21st session of the Committee in New York on 25 February 2013

43. The Committee agreed to prepare joint positions/statements on the following topics to be discussed and finalized at the Committee’s 21st Session:
• Gender statistics (lead organization: World Bank)
• Coordination of Statistical Activities in the UN-system (lead organizations: UNCTAD, ESCWA)
• Disability/Health statistics (lead organization: UNSD)
• Information items (lead organizations: ECB, World Bank)

44. Other agenda items (subject to Section B, para. 9):

• Status of the preparation of the CCSA session on international statistics at the ISI World Statistics Congress in Hong Kong

• Dates and provisional agenda for the 22nd Session

L. Provisional agenda for the 22nd session of the Committee in Ankara in September 2013

45. A draft agenda will be prepared by the Co-chairs and the Secretariat and will be sent to CCSA members by December 2012 for comments.

46. It will include the following agenda items:

• Dissemination of microdata (WB)

• Human resources: Final report by TT1 (WTO)

• Network (Co-chairs, Secretariat and animators)

• The Virtual Statistical System (WB)

• Statistical capacity building

• UNSC preparations
## M. Actions to be taken by the Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Participating Agencies</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Adoption of the agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Special Session on the future agenda of CCSA</td>
<td>Co-chairs</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
<td>Report to the 21(^{st}) Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Best practices in the use of different data sources for the production of international statistics</td>
<td>ODC</td>
<td>Eurostat, UNECE, UNODC, UNESCAP, WTO, IMF, ITU, WB, UNIDO, UN-Habitat</td>
<td>30 Nov 2012</td>
<td>Final draft of best practices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Co-chairs</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>31 Dec 2012</td>
<td>Final version of best practices available on CCSA website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Dissemination of microdata</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td>UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNESCWA, UNECE, FAO, UNHCR</td>
<td>Aug 2013</td>
<td>Report to the 22(^{nd}) Session</td>
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<td>Task</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
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<td><strong>E. Follow up on the Special Session on Human Resources Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Send survey reminder</td>
<td>WTO + Secretariat</td>
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<td>Increased response rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in survey</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>31 Dec 2012</td>
<td>Increased response rate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze survey results</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>4 Feb 2013</td>
<td>Report to the 22(^{nd}) Session</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-organize CCSA website on training resources with member input</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>Improved CCSA website on training resources</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F. Global Inventory of Statistical Standards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>“hard” public launch of GISS incl. joint CCSA statement</td>
<td>UNSD</td>
<td>31 Dec 2012</td>
<td>Improved usage of GISS</td>
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<td>Constitute editorial board</td>
<td>UNSD</td>
<td>31 Dec 2012</td>
<td>Editorial board working</td>
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<td>Annual updates of GISS</td>
<td>UNSD</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>Up-to-date GISS</td>
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<td><strong>G. Network of statisticians working in International Organizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continue work on network and provide final recommendations</td>
<td>Co-chairs</td>
<td>Aug 2013</td>
<td>Report to the 22(^{nd}) Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task</td>
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<td>Duration</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>Members to encourage participation in reference group</td>
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<td>All members</td>
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<td>Increased participation in LinkedIn discussions</td>
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<td><strong>H. Preparations for the 44th Session of the UNSC</strong></td>
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<td>Prepare joint statement for agenda item “gender statistics”</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Feb 2013</td>
<td>Joint statement on “gender statistics”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare joint statement for agenda item “coordination”</td>
<td>UNCTAD, UNESCWA</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Feb 2013</td>
<td>Joint statement on “coordination”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare joint statement for agenda item “Disability/Health Statistics”</td>
<td>UNSD</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Feb 2013</td>
<td>Joint statement on “disability/health statistics”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare joint statement for UNSC information items</td>
<td>ECB, WB</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Feb 2013</td>
<td>Joint statement on UNSC information items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Items for information</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organize a session at the 59th ISI World Congress, in particular, prepare a draft proposal and circulate for comments</td>
<td>Co-chairs</td>
<td>Interested members</td>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
<td>Up to date Wikipedia entry on CCSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members to check their links on new Wikipedia entry on CCSA and to provide links on their website to the Wiki page</td>
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<td>All members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>J. Agenda of next CCSA sessions</strong></td>
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<td>Final agenda of the 21st Session</td>
<td>Co-chairs</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>Agenda reviewed at the 21st Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft agenda of the 22rd Session</td>
<td>Co-chairs</td>
<td>All members</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
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Annex I

Agenda

Monday, 17 September 2011
Afternoon session 14:00 – 18:00

1. Welcome by the host

Items for discussion and decision:

2. Adoption of agenda (SA/2012/6)

3. Special Session on the future agenda of the CCSA

   Presentation by the Co-chairs and others (SA/2012/7)

Tuesday, 18 September 2012
Morning session 09:00 – 13:00

4. Use of different data sources for the production of international statistics

   Report by UNODC (SA/2012/8)

5. Dissemination of microdata

   Report by UNICEF (SA/2012/9)

Tuesday, 18 September 2012
Afternoon session 14:00 – 16:00

6. Human Resources Management:

   Report by WTO “Defining profile of international statisticians and recruitment policy” (Oral briefing by WTO)

   Report by UNSD “Training of international statisticians; staff exchange and mobility” (SA/2012/10)

7. Global Inventory of Statistical Standards

   Report by UNSD and UNECE (SA/2012/11)

8. Network of statisticians working in International Organizations

   Report by the Co-chairs and the Secretariat (SA/2012/12)
Wednesday, 19 September 2012  
Morning session 09:00 – 13:00

**Items for information:**

9.  **Fifth CCSA Conference on Quality in International Statistics**  
    Report by the Co-chairs (SA/2012/13)

10. **Update on the implementation of the Busan Action Plan**  
    Oral briefing by the World Bank and PARIS21

11. **The Virtual Statistical System: Future plans**  
    Oral briefing by the World Bank)

12. **Preparations on the 44th Session of the UN Statistical Commission**  
    Oral briefing by UNSD

13. **Other business**
Annex II

List of Documents

SA/2012/5 Report of the 19th session, New York, 27 February

SA/2012/6 Provisional agenda

SA/2012/7 A note on the history of CCSA, its achievements and the way forward - Prepared by the CCSA Co-Chairs and Annex, and Powerpoint presentation

SA/2012/7/Add.1 Notes on revamping CCSA - Prepared by UNIDO and ITU, and Powerpoint presentation By ITU and Powerpoint presentation by UNIDO

SA/2012/7/Add.2 Input to the future agenda of CCSA - Prepared by IMF and World Bank

SA/2012/7/Add.3 Coordination of statistical activities from the viewpoint of a regional commission - Prepared by UNESCWA

SA/2012/8 Use of different data sources for the production of international statistics – Prepared by UNODC

SA/2012/9 Dissemination of microdata (Not issued)

SA/2012/10 Training of international statisticians; staff exchange and mobility – Prepared by UNSD

SA/2012/11 Global Inventory of Statistical Standards – Prepared by UNSD

SA/2012/12 The network of statisticians working in international organizations - Prepared by the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat

SA/2012/13 Best practice for ensuring quality in international statistics: making international statistics fit for sound decision-making - Prepared by the Co-Chairs
Annex III

List of Participants
(In alphabetical order of the organization)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Development Bank (AfDB)</td>
<td>Charles LeyekaLufumpa</td>
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<td>European Central Bank (ECB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</td>
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<td>Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT)</td>
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<td>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</td>
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<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)</td>
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