

# COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

## SPECIAL SESSION ON QUALITY OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS: STATISTICS TAILORED TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGENDA

**FRIDAY 3 JUNE 2016**

“Círculo de Bellas Artes” in Madrid, Spain

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) organised a special session on “Quality of international statistics: statistics tailored to the international sustainable development goals agenda. The challenges for international statistics at global, national and local levels” at the European Conference on quality in official statistics, which took place in Madrid at the Círculo de Bellas Artes on 31 May - 3 June 2016.

All papers and presentations are published on the Conference website in addition to the CCSA web-site.

The special session was chaired by Mr. Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts, OECD, who warmly welcome the speakers.

Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director, Cooperation in the European Statistical System; International Cooperation, Eurostat, presented the paper on “the Role of International Organisations in defining standards that follow the quality requirements and ensure comparability of data”. Mr. Everaers highlighted that ownership by countries of outcomes for the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) increases their responsibility to deliver quality information independently from policies. With this decision, it seems that the role of the international organisations in the reporting and monitoring – for many of the SDG indicators – will change from preparing the indicators and controlling their quality to the role of advisor on methodology and production methods. As European statistics follow a Quality Assessment Framework, Mr. Everaers proposed several ways of guaranteeing for other regions a contextual quality level comparable to that in the EU.

Ms. Jessica Díaz de León, Data Statistical Manager, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), presented the paper on “ICAO quality system for the aviation data collected under the statistics programme”. In her presentation, Ms. Díaz de León described the Integrated Statistics Database (ISDB), which collect, process, store and disseminate the statistics reported from ICAO’s Member States through the different Air Transport Reporting Forms (ATR). She also highlighted the different quality controls of such system.

The third presentation was introduced by Ambassador Musa Kulaklikaya, Director General, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training (SESRIC) who made a speech before the intervention of Mrs. Zehra Zumrut Selcuk, Director of Statistics and Information Department. Mrs. Zumrut Selcuk presented the topic “Enhancing statistical capacities of OIC member countries to achieve SDGs: the role of SESRIC”. She highlighted the role of SESRIC in contributing to the efforts of its member countries. She finished by demonstrating that inputs

provided by SESRIC in the OIC Ten Year Plan of Action 2025, a high level document prepared in parallel to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, privileges it to play significant roles as a partner and member of the CCSA in facilitating the monitoring and reporting mechanisms of SDGs at the global, regional, national, and thematic levels.

Mr. Stephen Katz, Senior Coordinator (Statistics Governance), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presented the paper "Statistics governance and quality assurance: the experience of FAO". Mr. Katz offered the experience of FAO in developing and progressively implementing its own governance system and quality assurance framework, as well as the associated tools and building blocks, in order to effectively support of the agreed International Development Goals.

Mr. Marko Rissanen, Statistician, World Bank Group, did the last presentation, which was on "Quality assurance procedures for estimating purchasing power parities". Mr. Rissanen underlined that the SDGs rely on purchasing power parities (PPP)-based indicators for their goals on economic growth, poverty, energy and environment. The quality assurance procedures and practices developed during the preceding ICP rounds have significantly improved the PPP estimation processes. The developed reference materials, including the ICP Book and Operation Guidelines, have enhanced the understanding of PPPs and their underlying methodology, quality assurance and data validation procedures, and in doing so increased the transparency of PPP estimation.

The CCSA presentations were followed by "questions and answers" before being closed by Mr Peter van de Ven.